

National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



September 17, 2020

Reply to Attn of:

Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Ms. Alison Brown
President and CEO
Science Museum of Minnesota
120 Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102

Dear Ms. Brown:

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (“NASA” or “the Agency”) has completed its civil rights compliance review of the Science Museum of Minnesota (“SMM” or “the Museum”), conducted pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (“Section 504”) and the Agency’s implementing regulations at Title 14 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 1251. The Act and NASA’s regulations prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability in programs receiving financial assistance through NASA or conducted by the Agency. NASA limited this Section 504 review in scope to an analysis of the Museum’s compliance with basic Section 504 procedural requirements, such as the designation of a Section 504 coordinator and the promulgation of Section 504 complaint procedures. The review also assesses the Museum’s efforts to ensure program, architectural and digital accessibility for individuals with disabilities. Please find enclosed a copy of NASA's report of the compliance review and the NASA Section 504 regulations.

Based on the data provided by the Museum, and interviews and observations during NASA’s onsite visit, NASA finds the Museum in noncompliance with several Section 504 procedural requirements as well as architectural and digital accessibility requirements. Regarding compliance with Section 504 procedural requirements, the Museum must provide evidence of the completion of the corrective actions identified above within 90 days of the date of this letter and report. Regarding compliance with architectural and digital accessibility requirements, the Museum must provide a written architectural and digital accessibility plan to rectify outstanding compliance issues identified no later than 180 days from the date of this letter and report. The plan must incorporate timelines for resolution of these issues.

NASA will assess your progress and requires you to submit progress updates every 30 days until the Museum achieves full compliance with both procedural as well as architectural and digital accessibility requirements. NASA may require additional corrective action if it determines that progress is insufficient, and can provide civil rights technical assistance to the Museum, upon request.

Finally, NASA observed a few promising practices of the Museum, which are discussed in the enclosed report.

For additional civil rights technical assistance, the Museum may review the NASA MissionSTEM website at <http://missionstem.nasa.gov/>. The MissionSTEM site is designed to assist NASA grant recipients in meeting their compliance obligations under Equal Opportunity laws and NASA's implementing regulations. The site provides information and resources on compliance requirements as well as promising practices of our grant recipients.

NASA posts completed Section 504 compliance reports on our MissionSTEM website, which is accessible to the public. The report and related records may also be requested through the Freedom of Information Act.

If you have any questions regarding this correspondence, please contact Mr. Richard N. Reback, Director, Complaints and Programs Division, Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity at 202-358-2180, or Richard.N.Reback@nasa.gov.

Sincerely,

Stephen Shih  Digitally signed by
Stephen Shih
Date: 2020.09.16
16:37:54 -04'00'

Stephen T. Shih
Associate Administrator
Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity

Enclosures