

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

## Tom Ford named new chairman of CFDA

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*Tom Ford is taking on a new role next year. Image credit: Tom Ford*

By STAFF REPORTS

U.S. fashion designer Tom Ford will succeed Diane von Furstenberg as the chairman of the nonprofit trade organization the Council of Fashion Designers of America.

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Mr. Ford's appointment was ratified during a CFDA board meeting on March 19. He will start the role effective Jan. 1, 2020.

"Diane has been an incredible partner who helped build CFDA into a world class organization," said Steven Kolb, president and CEO of the CFDA, in a statement. "I'm excited to now work with Tom to further strengthen the organization and support American designers with new creative and business opportunities."

Stepping into new shoes

Mr. Ford has been a member of the CFDA since 2000.

The designer began his fashion career as a design assistant at Cathy Hardwick, and went on to become Gucci Group's creative director, overseeing designs for both Gucci and Yves Saint Laurent.

After leaving Gucci in 2004, Mr. Ford started his own brand in 2005. The label has expanded from offering menswear to include women's wear, beauty, childrenswear, accessories, eyewear and watches.

Over the years, Mr. Ford has been recognized by the CFDA with seven awards, receiving the nod of menswear designer of the year in 2008 and 2015, and being named international designer of the year in 1995.



Tom Ford. Image courtesy of Tom Ford

"I have had the privilege of being a member of the American fashion community for many years and have experienced what the CFDA does for its members and the industry as a whole," Mr. Ford said in a statement. "Having lived and worked in each of the global fashion capitals of the world, I look forward to working with the board of directors to further the voice of American fashion and its designers.

"As the chairman, I look forward to continuing the incredible work Diane has done over the last 13 years," he said. "Diane is a true force and her contribution to the CFDA and to American fashion is immeasurable. We all owe her a great deal."

Ms. von Furstenberg became president of the CFDA in 2006, and took on the chairwoman role in 2015.

"I am so excited that Tom Ford has agreed to come and lead the CFDA," Ms. von Furstenberg said in a statement. "American fashion could not wish for a better visionary to further grow its impact in the global landscape.

"Tom is a role model for all of us, and we are very lucky to have him as the next chairman of the CFDA," she said.