

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

CFDA takes steps with new appointments to address Black talent issue

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From left to right: CFDA executive board vice chairwoman Tracy Reese and Bonnie Morrison, new head of CFDA equity programs. Image credit: CFDA

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

The Council of Fashion Designers of America, looking to address systemic racism and racial inequity in fashion, has expanded its programming to create opportunities for Black talent.

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The development came after CFDA's board of directors' meeting in June.

"In June, we outlined specific initiatives with the goal of bringing an end to racial injustice in the fashion industry," said Tom Ford, chairman of the CFDA board of directors, in a statement.

"The organization has put in place a structure to execute this strategy and we are firmly committed to creating systematic change in our industry that will empower the critical voices that need to be heard," he said.

Talent matters

The **CFDA** has created a separate Black advisory board responsible for all CFDA efforts on inclusivity, diversity and equality. CFDA president CaSandra Diggs will lead the effort.

Executive board vice chairwoman Tracy Reese will be board chair as she leads decision-making and vision.

Board members include *Harper's Bazaar* editor in chief Samira Nasr, Netflix chief marketing officer Bozoma Saint John, Fashion Tech Connects cofounder Stacie Henderson and Martin Cooper, CFDA member and cofounder of The Punctilious Mr. P's Place Cards Company.

Bonnie Morrison will join the CFDA in a newly created role to lead the strategy and execution of CFDA equity program initiatives with the goal of building opportunities for Black creatives and professionals in fashion, CFDA said.

Ms. Morrison will help support and execute new initiatives including the newly created CFDA task force and talent placement program created for Black creatives and professionals in the U.S. fashion industry.

Ms. Morrison recently founded the Morrison Strategy Partners consultancy. Previously, she worked at Coach, Cond

Nast, KCD and PR Consulting.

"We are bringing together an impressive group of esteemed industry colleagues to collectively help us build a framework for increased diversity, equity, and inclusion in fashion," Ms. Diggs said.

"These fundamental changes to the organization allow us to bring important perspectives to the fashion industry," CFDA CEO Steven Kolb said in a statement.

"They will play an instrumental role in our efforts to transform the fashion system and make it more diverse, inclusive, and equitable," he said.

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