

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

CFDA to name new chairperson this fall

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Tom Ford's term as CFDA chairman is coming to an end. Image credit: CFDA

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

U.S. fashion designer Tom Ford is set to conclude his term as chairman of the nonprofit trade organization the [Council of Fashion Designers of America](#) this month.

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Mr. Ford took the helm as CFDA chair in June 2019, succeeding designer Diane von Furstenberg in the role ([see story](#)), and guided the organization during the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic. A new chairperson will be named in the fall, while CFDA CEO Steven Kolb will assume the responsibilities of interim chair through 2022.

"When I began my role as Chairman in June of 2019, my goal was to help the American fashion industry become more globally recognized for its talent and importance," Mr. Ford said in a statement.

"I could not have imagined the extraordinary circumstances that both the industry and the world would have to navigate that a pandemic would shut the world down and change the course of our lives and of our businesses forever," he said. "The pandemic challenged all of us to think about our businesses in new ways from the design process and production, to how we reach and speak to our customers."

Tenure in review

Mr. Ford will end his three-year term on May 31. He was initially meant to serve two years as chairman and then extended for an additional year.

His term is the shortest since Carolyne Roehm from 1989 to 1991, as designers Stan Herman and Ms. von Furstenberg each served more than a decade as CFDA presidents and later chairpersons.

In the interim role, Mr. Kolb will remain accountable to the board with oversight. Board officers vice-chair Tracy Reese, secretary Vera Wang and treasurer Mr. Herman will remain in place the rest of the year.



CFDA has helped the U.S. fashion industry bounce back from COVID-19. Image credit: CFDA

The board also unanimously elected three new members, effective June 1: American designers Tory Burch and Thom Browne and Canadian designer Aurora James.

In step with the CFDA's fiscal calendar, the board will vote this fall on a new chairperson who will begin their term in January.

During his tenure, Mr. Ford focused on innovation, diversifying membership and bolstering New York Fashion Week, in addition to various pandemic relief efforts.

Highlights included condensing NYFW in a bid to make it more prestigious ([see story](#)), expanding its programming to create opportunities for Black talent ([see story](#)) and launching a fashion programming network ([see story](#)).

"The CFDA and its Board of Directors thank Tom Ford for his leadership working on behalf of the American fashion industry during an unprecedented time," Mr. Kolb said in a statement. "Tom initiated several key initiatives, which the CFDA remains firmly committed to."

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