§ 2105.1

Purpose and scope.

This part contains the regulations of the Commission of Fine Arts implementing 5 U.S.C. 552. The regulations of this part provide information concerning the procedures by which records may be obtained from the Commission. Members and employees of the Commission may continue to furnish to the public, informally and without neglecting the rights of requesters described herein, information and records which prior to enactment of 5 U.S.C. 552 were furnished customarily in the regular performance of their duties. Persons seeking information or records of the Commission may find it useful to consult with the Secretary before invoking the formal procedures set out below.

§ 2105.2 Requests for identifiable records and copies.

(a) Formal public requests for information from the records of the Commission of Fine Arts shall be made in writing with the letter clearly marked "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST." All such requests should be addressed to the Secretary, Commission of Fine Arts, 708 Jackson Place, NW., Washington, DC 20006.

(b) Records must be reasonably described. A request for all records falling within a reasonably specific category shall be regarded as conforming to the requirement that records be reasonably described if it enables the records requested to be identified by any process that is not unreasonably burdensome or disruptive of Commission operations.

§ 2105.3 Action on initial requests.

(a) The Secretary will make a determination as to whether or not to release requested information. Generally, determination will be made to release the requested information if: (1) It is not exempt from disclosure or (2) It is exempt from disclosure but its withholding is neither required by statute, nor supported by sound grounds.

(b) Determination will be dispatched within ten days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays, after initial receipt of the request.

(c) In unusual circumstances, the time for initial determination on requests may be delayed up to a total of ten additional days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays and notice of such delay shall be dispatched within the first ten days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays following the initial receipt of the request.

(d) Letters denying access to information will:

(1) Provide the requester with the reason for the denial.

(2) Inform the requester of his right to appeal the denial within 30 days.

(3) Give the name and title of the official to whom the appeal may be sent.

(4) Give the name and title of the official responsible for the denial.

§ 2105.4 Appeals.

(a) The Chairman of the Commission is the appellate authority for all denials.

(b) The Chairman will act upon the appeal within twenty days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays.

(c) In unusual circumstances, the time for action on an appeal may be extended by an additional ten days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays minus any extension granted at the initial request level under §2105.3(c).

(d) In the event that the appeal upholds the denial, the requester will be advised that there are provisions for judicial review of such decisions under the Freedom of Information Act.

§ 2105.5 Fees.

(a) Fees shall be charged according to the schedule in paragraph (b) of this section for services rendered in responding to requests for Commission of Fine Arts records under this part unless determination is made that such