

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

COMMISSIONERS:

Timothy J. Muris, Chairman
Sheila F. Anthony
Mozelle W. Thompson
Orson Swindle
Thomas B. Leary

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In the Matter of)	
)	
AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR)	Docket No. C-4065
CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC)	
AND ARTISTIC WORKS,)	
)	
a corporation.)	
-----)	

DECISION AND ORDER

The Federal Trade Commission (“Commission”) having initiated an investigation of certain acts and practices of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (“AIC”), hereinafter sometimes referred to as “Respondent,” and Respondent having been furnished thereafter with a copy of the draft of Complaint that the Bureau of Competition presented to the Commission for its consideration and which, if issued by the Commission, would charge Respondent with violations of Section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 45; and

Respondent, its attorneys, and counsel for the Commission having thereafter executed an Agreement Containing Consent Order (“Consent Agreement”), containing an admission by Respondent of all the jurisdictional facts set forth in the aforesaid draft of Complaint, a statement that the signing of the Consent Agreement is for settlement purposes only and does not constitute an admission by Respondent that the law has been violated as alleged in such Complaint, or that the facts as alleged in such Complaint, other than jurisdictional facts, are true, and waivers and other provisions as required by the Commission’s Rules; and

The Commission having thereafter considered the matter and having determined that it had reason to believe that Respondent has violated the said Act, and that a Complaint should issue stating its charges in that respect, and having accepted the executed Consent Agreement and placed such Consent Agreement on the public record for a period of thirty (30) days for the receipt and consideration of public comments, and having duly considered the comments received from interested persons pursuant to § 2.34 of its Rules, now in further conformity with the procedure described in Commission Rule 2.34, 16 C.F.R. § 2.34, the Commission hereby makes the following jurisdictional findings and issues the following Decision and Order (“Order”):

1. Respondent American Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the District of Columbia with its principal office and place of business at 1717 K Street, N.W., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20006.
2. The Federal Trade Commission has jurisdiction of the subject matter of this proceeding and of the Respondent, and the proceeding is in the public interest.

ORDER

I

IT IS ORDERED, that for the purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

- A. “Respondent” or “AIC” means the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, its officers, executive board, specialty groups, committees, task forces, representatives, agents, employees, successors and assigns;
- B. “Conservation Professional” means one who manages, cares for, preserves, or treats cultural objects, including artistic, historical, archeological, scientific, and religious objects. The conservation professional may determine the condition, the need for treatment or restoration, and the appropriate method for preservation of such objects, and perform the required work to minimize deterioration or to restore such objects to their original state; and
- C. "Regulating" means (1) adopting, maintaining or enforcing any rule, regulation, interpretation, ethical ruling, policy, commentary, or guideline; (2) taking or threatening to take formal or informal disciplinary action; or (3) conducting formal or informal investigations or inquiries.

II.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent, directly or indirectly, or through any corporate or other device, in or in connection with Respondent's activities as a professional association in or affecting commerce, as "commerce" is defined in Section 4 of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. § 44, do forthwith cease and desist from: Regulating, restricting, impeding, declaring unethical or unprofessional, interfering with or advising against price competition among Conservation Professionals, including, but not limited to, the provision of free or discounted services.

III.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall:

- A. Within ninety (90) days after the date on which this Order becomes final, remove from *AIC's Code of Ethics, Guidelines for Practice of the AIC, and Commentaries to the Guidelines for Practice of the AIC*, and from the AIC constitution and bylaws and any other existing AIC policy statement, commentary or guideline, including, but not limited to, those appearing on the AIC website, any provision, interpretation, policy statement, commentary or guideline which is inconsistent with Paragraph II of this Order and publish in the *AIC News* or in any successor publications, and on AIC's website, the revised versions of such documents. Following entry of the final Order, AIC shall also publish the revised version of such documents as early as feasible in the *AIC Directory*, but in no event later than twelve (12) months after the Order becomes final.
- B. Within one hundred twenty (120) days after the date on which this Order becomes final, publish a copy of this Order and the Complaint in the *AIC News* with such prominence as feature articles that are regularly published in the *AIC News*.
- C. Within sixty (60) days after the date on which this Order becomes final, publish and retain for at least one (1) year a copy of this Order and Complaint on the AIC website. The Order and Complaint, and the revised versions of the documents described in Paragraph III (A) of this Order, should be accessible with a link placed in a prominent position on the website's homepage, which should read "AIC changes its *Commentaries to the AIC Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice*."

IV.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Respondent shall file written reports within sixty (60) days after the date on which this Order became final, every sixty (60) days thereafter until the requirements set forth in this Order have been met, and annually thereafter for four (4) years on the anniversary of the date on which this Order became final, and at such other

times as the Commission may by written notice require, setting forth in detail the manner and form in which it has complied and is complying with the Order. Such reports should include in detail, but not be limited to, any action taken in connection with the activities covered by Paragraph II.

V.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that for a period of five (5) years after the date this Order is entered, Respondent shall maintain and make available to the Commission staff for inspection and copying upon reasonable notice, records adequate to describe in detail any action taken in connection with the activities covered by Paragraph II of this Order.

VI.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, Respondent shall notify the Commission at least thirty (30) days prior to any proposed change in the Respondent, such as dissolution, assignment, sale resulting in the emergence of a successor corporation or association, the creation or dissolution of subsidiaries, or any other change in Respondent that may affect compliance obligations arising out of this Order.

VII.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall terminate on October 30, 2022.

By the Commission.

Donald S. Clark
Secretary

ISSUED: October 30, 2002

SEAL