

# OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

 Smithsonian

## SEMIANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

April 1, 2022 –  
September 30, 2022



Smithsonian Institution Building  
(The Castle)

**Table 1. Semiannual reporting requirements of the *Inspector General Act*, as amended**

Public Law Section	Reporting Requirement	Page
Section 4(a)(2)	Review of legislation and regulations	15
Section 5(a)(1)	Significant problems, abuses, and deficiencies	None
Section 5(a)(2)	Significant recommendations for corrective action	None
Section 5(a)(3)	Reports with corrective action not completed	8
Section 5(a)(4)	Matters referred to prosecutive authorities	13
Section 5(a)(5)	Information or assistance refused	None
Section 5(a)(6)	List of reports issued with dollar value of questioned costs and recommendations that funds be put to better use	None
Section 5(a)(7)	Summaries of significant reports	6
Section 5(a)(8)	Audit, inspection, and evaluation reports—questioned costs	None
Section 5(a)(9)	Audit, inspection, and evaluation reports—funds to be put to better use	None
Section 5(a)(10)(A)	Audit, inspection, and evaluation reports issued before the commencement of the reporting period with no management decision	None
Section 5(a)(10)(B)	Audit, inspection, and evaluation reports issued before the commencement of the reporting period with no management comment within 60 days	None
Section 5(a)(10)(C)	Audit, inspection, and evaluation reports issued before the commencement of the reporting period with unimplemented recommendations	8
Section 5(a)(11)	Significant revised management decisions	None
Section 5(a)(12)	Significant management decisions with which the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) disagreed	None
Section 5(a)(13)	Information described under section 804(b) of the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996	None
Section 5(a)(14–16)	Peer reviews	10, 14
Section 5(a)(17–18)	Investigative tables	13
Section 5(a)(19)	Reports on investigations with substantiated allegations involving senior employees	11
Section 5(a)(20)	Whistleblower retaliation	None
Section 5(a)(21)	Attempts to interfere with OIG independence	None
Section 5(a)(22)(A)	Inspections, evaluations, and audits that were closed and not disclosed to the public	None
Section 5(a)(22)(B)	Investigations involving senior employees that were closed and not disclosed to the public	None

Source: OIG assessment as of September 30, 2022.

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## Abbreviations

Castro	Castro & Company, LLC
CIGIE	Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency
DOJ	Department of Justice
NMAAHC	National Museum of African American History and Culture
OCIO	Office of the Chief Information Officer
OHR	Office of Human Resources
OIG	Office of the Inspector General
OPS	Office of Protection Services
SD	Smithsonian Directive
Smithsonian	Smithsonian Institution

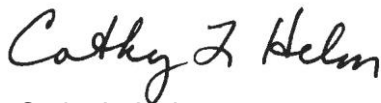
## Message from the Inspector General

On behalf of the Office of the Inspector General (OIG), I am pleased to submit this semiannual report to Congress. This report highlights the accomplishments achieved through our audit and investigative activities for the 6-month period ending September 30, 2022.

During this period, our office issued one audit report and conducted work on six ongoing audits. In the audit report, OIG's contractor evaluated the effectiveness of the Smithsonian Institution's (the Smithsonian) information security program in fiscal year 2021 and determined that it was operating effectively. The report also identified areas of improvement and made nine recommendations to further strengthen the program. OIG closed 2 recommendations during this reporting period, and 16 recommendations were unimplemented, as of September 30, 2022. These unimplemented recommendations are aimed at improving the Smithsonian's programs and operations, such as by ensuring the following: (1) all employees and affiliated individuals who have computer system access have received background investigations; (2) inventory controls over museum collections are improved; (3) a system for hiring trust employees that collects and tracks applicant's race, national origin, sex, and disability status is established; and (4) procedures for hiring trust employees are updated and consistently implemented. For more details on our audit work, see the Audits section of this report.

Our investigative activities continued to focus on and hold accountable those individuals whose actions harm the Smithsonian's programs and operations. During the reporting period, OIG received 78 new complaints, closed 72 complaints, converted 7 complaints to investigations, and completed 5 investigations. As a result of OIG's investigative work, two senior employees were suspended, one resigned, and another received a letter of counseling. OIG also advised management that a contractor had performed an inherently governmental function and improperly compelled Smithsonian employees to provide statements by falsely assuring them of criminal immunity. Finally, OIG recovered a Smithsonian security guard jacket that was listed for sale on an e-commerce website. The misuse of this jacket could compromise the security of Smithsonian facilities. More details can be found in the Investigations section of this report.

Our office will continue to conduct audits and investigations that help the Smithsonian Board of Regents and management meet their stewardship and fiduciary responsibilities, support congressional oversight, and provide information to the public.



Cathy L. Helm  
Inspector General

**Falconer, trainer, and Smithsonian Folklife Festival participant Ayesha Al Mansoori**



In 2022, the Smithsonian Folklife Festival returned to the National Mall after two years of virtual programming. Visitors to Living Landscape | Living Memory programs at the Festival learned about the United Arab Emirates' falconry tradition. Image Credit: Vidhyaa Chandramohan

## Smithsonian Institution Profile

In 1846, Congress created the Smithsonian as a U.S. trust instrumentality to carry out the provisions of the will of James Smithson, an English scientist who left his estate to the United States to found “an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge.”<sup>1</sup>

Today, the Smithsonian consists of 21 museums and galleries; the National Zoological Park, 14 education and research centers, and facilities around the world. The majority of Smithsonian locations are in Washington, D.C., but the Smithsonian works in a wide variety of disciplines in more than 140 countries. In 2020, Congress established two new museums: the National Museum of the American Latino and the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum. The Smithsonian is in the early planning stages for both.

In fiscal year 2021, there were more than 3.2 million in-person visits to the Smithsonian museums and the zoo. In addition, the Smithsonian’s public websites logged 206 million visits. The Smithsonian employs approximately 6,000 staff (including about 3,500 federal employees).

The Smithsonian is the steward of an extensive collection. The total number of objects and specimens in the collections is estimated at 157 million, of which about 148 million are scientific specimens at the National Museum of Natural History.

The collections form the basis of world-renowned research, exhibitions, and public programs in the arts, culture, history, and the sciences. Only a small portion of the Smithsonian’s collections is on display in the museums at any given time.

The Smithsonian made available more than 7.7 million collection images, audio, videos, and blog posts online for personal, non-commercial, and educational use. Through Smithsonian Open Access, more than 4.4 million digital items have been released into the public domain.

A major portion of the Smithsonian’s operations is funded by federal appropriations. In addition to federal appropriations, the Smithsonian receives private gifts and revenue from grants and contracts, and earns income from investments and its various business activities. Business activities include Smithsonian magazines and books; television programs; an online store; licensed products; travel programs; and museum theaters, shops, and food services.

**Banner with motto of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs**



Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture. This image is available for use without restrictions from [Smithsonian Open Access](#).

<sup>1</sup> A trust instrumentality is a government agency or corporation that acts independently to carry out work for the public good.

## Office of the Inspector General Profile

The Office of the Inspector General (OIG) is headed by the Inspector General, who is appointed by, reports to, and is under the general supervision of the Board of Regents. OIG is located in Washington, D.C. As of September 30, OIG consisted of 21 staff: the Inspector General, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, Assistant Inspector General for Operations, Counsel to the Inspector General, 11 auditors, 4 investigators, and an administrative officer.

The OIG's organizational structure is described below.

### Audits

The Office of Audits conducts audits of the Smithsonian's existing and proposed programs and operations to help improve their efficiency and effectiveness. To guide its work, the office develops a risk-based annual audit plan. The Office of Audits also actively monitors the external audits of the Smithsonian's financial statements.

### Counsel

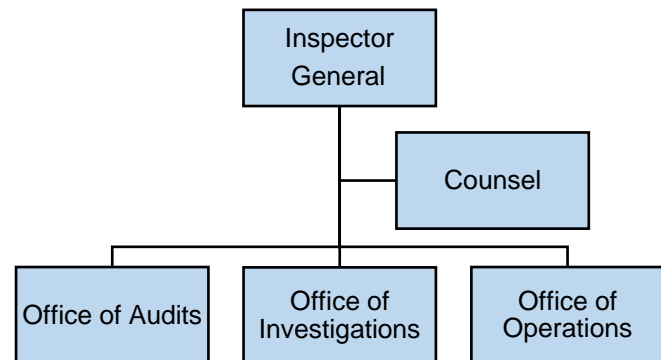
The Counsel to the Inspector General provides independent legal advice to the Inspector General and OIG staff.

### Investigations

The Office of Investigations pursues allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, and gross mismanagement; misconduct by employees, contractors, or others who affect the Smithsonian; and criminal violations of law that have an impact on the Smithsonian's programs and operations. It refers matters to federal, state, and local prosecutors for action whenever the Inspector General has reasonable grounds to believe there has been a violation of criminal law. The Office of Investigations also presents any administrative misconduct to management for possible disciplinary action.

### Operations

The Office of Operations provides technical and administrative support. It is responsible for OIG administrative matters, such as budgeting, procurement, human resources, information technology, and measuring organizational performance.





OIG's vision, mission, authority, and core values are described below.<sup>2</sup>

## Vision

OIG's vision is to provide the highest quality oversight through timely action, independent and objective reporting, and an overall commitment to excellence.

## Mission

OIG's mission is to promote the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the Smithsonian's programs and operations through independent, objective audits and investigations and to keep stakeholders fully and currently informed.

## Authority

The *Inspector General Act of 1978*, as amended in 1988 (P.L. 100-504), established the Smithsonian OIG. The act requires OIG to perform the following functions:

- Conduct audits and investigations relating to the Smithsonian's programs and operations.
- Promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness within the Smithsonian.
- Review and make recommendations regarding existing and proposed programs and operations.
- Prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse in the Smithsonian's programs and operations.
- Report expeditiously to the Attorney General whenever the Inspector General has reasonable grounds to believe there has been a violation of criminal law.
- Keep the Board of Regents and Congress fully and currently informed of serious problems in the Smithsonian's programs and operations.

## Core Values

Consistent with its mission and responsibilities, OIG's efforts are guided by four core values: accountability, excellence, integrity, and teamwork. These core values reflect the most important qualities needed for success and are reflected in all of the work done by OIG.

**Accountability.** A commitment to promoting accountability in the Smithsonian and taking personal accountability for actions and decisions within OIG.

**Excellence.** A commitment to providing timely, relevant, and high-quality products and services.

**Integrity.** A commitment to operating under the highest ethical principles by conducting our work in an honest, objective, and independent manner.

**Teamwork.** A commitment to working together to collectively achieve OIG's mission through respectful and professional interactions among ourselves and others.

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<sup>2</sup> The OIG vision, mission, goal and objectives, and core values are part of the *OIG Strategic Plan for Fiscal Years 2019–2023*, available on the OIG website at <https://oig.si.edu/about/office-inspector-general>

## Audits

Audit work focuses on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Smithsonian's programs and operations. During this semiannual period, OIG issued one report, conducted work on six ongoing audits, and closed two recommendations.

### Summary of Issued Audit Report

Below is the summary of the audit report issued during this reporting period, along with links to the audit report.

[Information Security: Fiscal Year 2021 Independent Evaluation of the Smithsonian Institution's Information Security Program \(OIG-A-22-05, June 24, 2022\)](#)

OIG contracted with Castro & Company, LLC, (Castro) to evaluate the effectiveness of the Smithsonian's information security program in fiscal year 2021. Three major applications were reviewed: Smithsonian network, Digital Asset Management System, and Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute's payroll and compensation system (Evolution).

For fiscal year 2021, Castro found that the Smithsonian's information security program was operating at a managed and measurable level (Level 4) in three of five cybersecurity functions (protect, respond, and recover) and was therefore effective. Castro noted that Smithsonian's information security program was improved by addressing previously identified issues and recommendations, such as (1) the use of its governance, risk, and compliance tool to centralize the administration of security activities and (2) the increased use of dashboards and key performance indicators for monitoring.

Castro also noted areas where improvements in the information security program can continue to be made. For example, the security control manual of the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) does not require three specific controls to be applied to all information systems—separation of duties, least privilege, and audit events. In addition, improvement is needed to ensure that all phases of the assessment and authorization process are being carried out effectively. Castro identified that OCIO's assessment and authorization process for the three major systems reviewed did not identify and remediate several issues, such as the lack of segregation of duty controls in the Evolution payroll system.

For two of the three systems, there was no evidence that system changes were properly tested, analyzed for security impact, and approved before implemented. Castro also found that for the three systems, OCIO did not address failures identified in security scans. Castro determined that security configuration baselines were in use for all three systems reviewed, but OCIO did not document required risk-based decisions or obtain waivers when failures were identified in the compliance scans assessing baseline security controls.

Castro made nine recommendations to strengthen three cybersecurity functions—identify, protect, and detect—such as updating the Security Control Manual, ensuring that

documentation is retained when system changes are tested and approved before implemented, and documenting resolution of failures identified in compliance scans. Management concurred with all nine recommendations.

## Work in Progress

At the end of the period, OIG had six audits in progress, as described below.

### [Purchase Card Program](#)

OIG auditors are assessing to what extent the Smithsonian has effective controls over the purchase card program.

### [Audit of the Smithsonian's Information Security Program, Fiscal Year 2022](#)

An OIG auditor is monitoring Castro & Company, LLC, in conducting an audit to evaluate the Smithsonian's information security program for fiscal year 2022.

### [Assessment of Detection and Response Capabilities for Information Security Incidents](#)

OIG auditors are evaluating the Smithsonian's capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond to information security incidents.

### [Privacy Program](#)

An OIG auditor is monitoring Castro & Company, LLC, in conducting an audit to evaluate the Smithsonian's Privacy Program.

### [Sole Source Purchase Orders](#)

OIG auditors are assessing the extent to which Smithsonian controls over sole-source purchase orders are effective in ensuring compliance with Smithsonian procurement policies and procedures.

### [FY 2022 Financial Statements Audits](#)

An OIG auditor is monitoring KPMG, LLP, in conducting the Smithsonian's annual financial audits, which include the Smithsonian-wide financial statements and the compliance audit of federal awards.

## Other Audit Activities

### Status of Recommendations

Smithsonian management made progress implementing the recommendations from audit reports that we issued in prior semiannual reporting periods. As a result, OIG closed two recommendations during the past six months. Table 2 provides summary statistics for OIG recommendations during this semiannual reporting period, as of September 30, 2022.

**Table 2. Summary of audit recommendation activity during the semiannual reporting period as of September 30, 2022**

Status of Recommendations	Number of Recommendations
Open at the beginning of the period	9
Issued during the period	9
<i>Subtotal</i>	18
Closed during the period	2
Open at the end of the period	16

Source: OIG assessment as of September 30, 2022.

Table 3 below summarizes the audit reports from previous periods that have seven unimplemented recommendations and their target completion, as of September 30, 2022. None of these recommendations involve cost savings.

**Table 3. Reports from previous periods with unimplemented recommendations, as of September 30, 2022**

Report Summary	Unimplemented Recommendations
<p><i>Personnel Security: Actions Needed to Strengthen the Background Investigation Process</i> (OIG-A-18-09, September 20, 2018)</p> <p>The audit objective was to determine to what extent the Smithsonian ensures that required background investigations are conducted promptly on employees and certain affiliated individuals.</p> <p>OIG made nine recommendations to improve the background investigation process, and one remains unimplemented.</p>	<p>The Chief Operating Officer and Under Secretary for Finance and Administration should identify all employees and affiliated individuals who have computer system access but have not received background investigations and ensure that they receive background investigations.</p> <p>Target completion date: January 31, 2023</p>
<p><i>Collections Management: The National Museum of African American History and Culture Needs to Enhance Inventory Controls Over Its Collections</i> (OIG-A-20-05, June 30, 2020)</p> <p>This audit assessed the extent to which the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) had an inventory process and plan and had accurate and complete data in eight selected fields in its collection records.</p>	<p>The National Collections Program Director should revise Smithsonian Directive (SD) 600 to include a timeframe for when new collecting units are required to have an inventory process and plan.</p> <p>Target completion date: January 31, 2023</p>

Report Summary	Unimplemented Recommendations
<p>OIG made two recommendations to improve inventory controls at NMAAHC and a third recommendation to establish a timeframe for when new museums should have an inventory plan. Management concurred with all three recommendations, and one remains unimplemented.</p>	
<p><i>Human Resource Management: Smithsonian Needs to Strengthen Its Procedures for Hiring Trust Employees When Not Using the Federal Process</i> (OIG-A-21-01, October 9, 2020).</p> <p>This audit examined to what extent the Office of Human Resources (OHR) and the units comply with Smithsonian policies and procedures for hiring employees funded by the Smithsonian Trust, not federal appropriations.</p> <p>To help ensure a fair and consistent process for hiring Trust employees when not using the federal process, OIG made three recommendations: Management concurred with all three recommendations, and all three remain unimplemented.</p>	<p>The Acting Director of OHR should do the following: (1) update Trust hiring policies and procedures; (2) establish a system that collects and tracks applicant’s race, national origin, sex, and disability status; and (3) develop and implement procedures to monitor OHR and the units’ compliance with policies and procedures.</p> <p>Target completion date: January 31, 2024</p>
<p><i>Collections Management: Oversight and Monitoring Needed to Ensure That Collecting Units Have an Effective Inventory Process</i> (OIG-A-22-03, February 25, 2022)</p> <p>This audit assessed the extent to which 19 collecting units had developed and implemented cyclical inventory plans in accordance with Smithsonian requirements.</p> <p>OIG made two recommendations to establish and implement ongoing monitoring activities and procedures for annual reports on compliance with cyclical inventory plan requirements. Management concurred with both recommendations and they remain unimplemented..</p>	<p>The Deputy Secretary should do the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish and implement ongoing monitoring activities and separate evaluations (such as periodic compliance reviews) that provide senior management with reasonable assurance that each collecting unit is complying with SD 600 and the SD 600 <i>Implementation Manual</i> requirements for developing and implementing an inventory plan, including the following:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The National Collection Program Director periodically advises senior management on the effectiveness and implementation of inventory plans, ensuring that each collecting unit has an inventory plan that includes all required information and is being periodically reviewed.</li> <li>b. Directors approve their unit’s inventory plan and ensure that it is appropriate to                 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) the nature, characteristic, and size of the collections under the unit’s control;</li> <li>(2) staff resources; and</li> <li>(3) unit requirements.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>

Report Summary	Unimplemented Recommendations
	<p>c. Directors receive reports on the results of inventories, as required, and necessary to monitor the plan’s implementation.</p> <p>2. Develop and implement detailed procedures for annual reports on compliance with SD 600, including the required content of these reports (such as the inventory plan’s approval and review date and the extent to which the inventory schedule was implemented) and to whom the reports should be submitted.</p> <p>Target completion date: October 1, 2023</p>

Source: OIG assessment as of September 30, 2022.

[Audit Peer Review](#)

*Government Auditing Standards* require audit organizations to (1) establish and maintain a system of quality control designed to provide the audit organization with reasonable assurance that the organization and its personnel comply with professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements, and (2) undergo external peer reviews by independent reviewers every 3 years. On September 22, 2020, the Federal Housing Finance Agency OIG completed the most recent peer review, which is posted on our website. Smithsonian OIG received the highest peer review rating of “pass.” As a result, our office has reasonable assurance that our audits complied with professional standards in all material respects. We remain committed to maintaining an effective system of quality controls and improving our operations.

## Investigations

At the start of the reporting period, OIG had 11 open complaints and 19 ongoing investigations. During the reporting period, OIG received 78 new complaints, closed 72 complaints, converted 7 complaints to investigations, and completed 5 investigations and 1 management advisory report. At the end of the reporting period, there were 10 open complaints and 21 ongoing investigations.

### Highlights of Investigative Actions

#### [Alleged Misuse of Position by Senior Employee](#)

OIG received various allegations about a senior employee and investigated whether the employee misused their Smithsonian position by accepting a gift of artwork from a Smithsonian donor and using an official trip as a pretext to visit a relative overseas.<sup>3</sup> OIG did not substantiate wrongdoing with respect to the artwork, but the artwork was returned to the donor. OIG found that the Smithsonian's reimbursement of travel expenses may have tax implications because the trip did not meet the Internal Revenue Service's criteria to be considered entirely for business. Smithsonian consequently corrected the wage and tax documentation to address the portion of the senior employee's travel cost attributable to nonbusiness activities.

#### [Improper Use of Kalkines Warnings By Contractor](#)

During an investigation, OIG found that a contractor performed an inherently governmental function and improperly compelled Smithsonian employees to provide statements by falsely assuring them of criminal immunity.

The contractor gave multiple Kalkines warnings to Smithsonian employees while conducting internal investigations without the authority to do so. The Kalkines warning is an advisement of rights to employees and contractors that can be administered only by federal agents during some internal investigations. It compels them to make statements or face disciplinary action, but it also provides them with criminal immunity for their statements. Federal agents must obtain consent from the Department of Justice (DOJ) before giving a Kalkines warning. The contractor was not a federal agent and did not receive consent from DOJ before the issuance of the Kalkines warnings.

OIG issued a Management Advisory to Smithsonian management regarding the contractor's improper use of Kalkines warnings. Management directed the contractor in writing to stop administering Kalkines warnings and is currently assessing the impact of the warnings already given. Additionally, the Smithsonian has updated its training materials for relevant contractors to address the proper use of Kalkines warnings.

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<sup>3</sup> A senior employee is an employee who occupies a position classified at or above GS-15 of the General Schedule and the trust-level equivalent.

### [Recovery of Smithsonian Property from E-commerce Site](#)

The Office of Protection Services (OPS) reported to OIG that an OPS uniform jacket, listed for sale on an e-commerce website, was a controlled item that must be returned to the Smithsonian. OPS said that misuse of this uniform jacket could compromise the security of Smithsonian facilities.

OIG contacted the seller and requested the return of the jacket. OIG advised them that the jacket belongs to the Smithsonian, is for official use only, and it would violate criminal law to keep or sell it. The seller mailed the jacket to OIG, and OIG returned it to OPS.

### [Violation of Smithsonian Standards of Conduct and Fleet Management Policy by Senior Employee](#)

OIG determined that a senior employee violated Smithsonian Directive (SD) 103, *Smithsonian Institution Standards of Conduct*, and SD 421, *Mobile Asset Fleet Management*, when they used Smithsonian employees to drive them in a Smithsonian vehicle to and from their home for their personal business and convenience and without an approved home-to-work exception.

Moreover, the senior employee violated SD 103 Appendix 1, *Fourteen Principles of Ethical Conduct for Smithsonian Employees*, when they used subordinate employees to drive them to and from various locations in Washington, D.C., including their home, Smithsonian buildings, and other sites in the city. The senior employee served a 10-day suspension without pay.

### [Violation of Smithsonian Standards of Conduct by Senior Employee](#)

OIG determined that a senior employee violated Smithsonian Directive (SD) 103, *Smithsonian Institution Standards of Conduct*, by (1) emailing and talking to a prospective contractor about suggested corrections to the scope and pricing data in the company's pending proposal, which gave the appearance of preferential treatment; and (2) accepting a gift from a prohibited source while in a position of influence. The senior-level employee also violated SD 212, *Federal Personnel Handbook*, Chapter 630, by taking 8 hours of sick leave to attend a vendor-sponsored event. The Smithsonian suspended the senior employee for 7 days.

### [Violation of Smithsonian Standards of Conduct by Senior Employee](#)

OIG determined that a senior employee violated SD 103, *Smithsonian Institution Standards of Conduct*, by (1) accepting concert tickets after providing a private tour of a Smithsonian facility, which created the appearance that the gift was offered based on their Smithsonian position; (2) failing to consult with an ethics counselor before accepting the concert tickets, as required; and (3) failing to disclose the financial benefit of the free concert tickets on the annual confidential financial disclosure report, as required. The Smithsonian counseled the senior employee.



Table 4 contains a statistical summary of OIG’s investigative results during the semiannual reporting period.

**Table 4. Statistical summary of the Office of the Inspector General’s investigative results during the semiannual reporting period ending September 30, 2022**

Investigative Activity or Result	Number or Amount
<b>Caseload</b>	
Investigations pending at beginning of reporting period	19
Investigations opened during the reporting period	7
<i>Subtotal</i>	26
Investigations closed during the reporting period	5
Investigative reports issued	4
Investigations carried forward	21
<b>Referrals for prosecution</b>	
Referrals to the Department of Justice	1
Referrals to state and local prosecuting authorities	0
Indictments and criminal information from current period referrals	0
Indictments and criminal information from prior period referrals	0
<b>Successful prosecutions</b>	
Convictions	0
Fines	0
Probation	0
Confinement	0
Monetary restitutions	0
Forfeiture of assets and seized evidence	0
<b>Administrative actions</b>	
Terminations	0
Resignations	1
Reprimands or admonishments	0
Suspensions	2
Monetary loss prevented	0
Value of items recovered	0

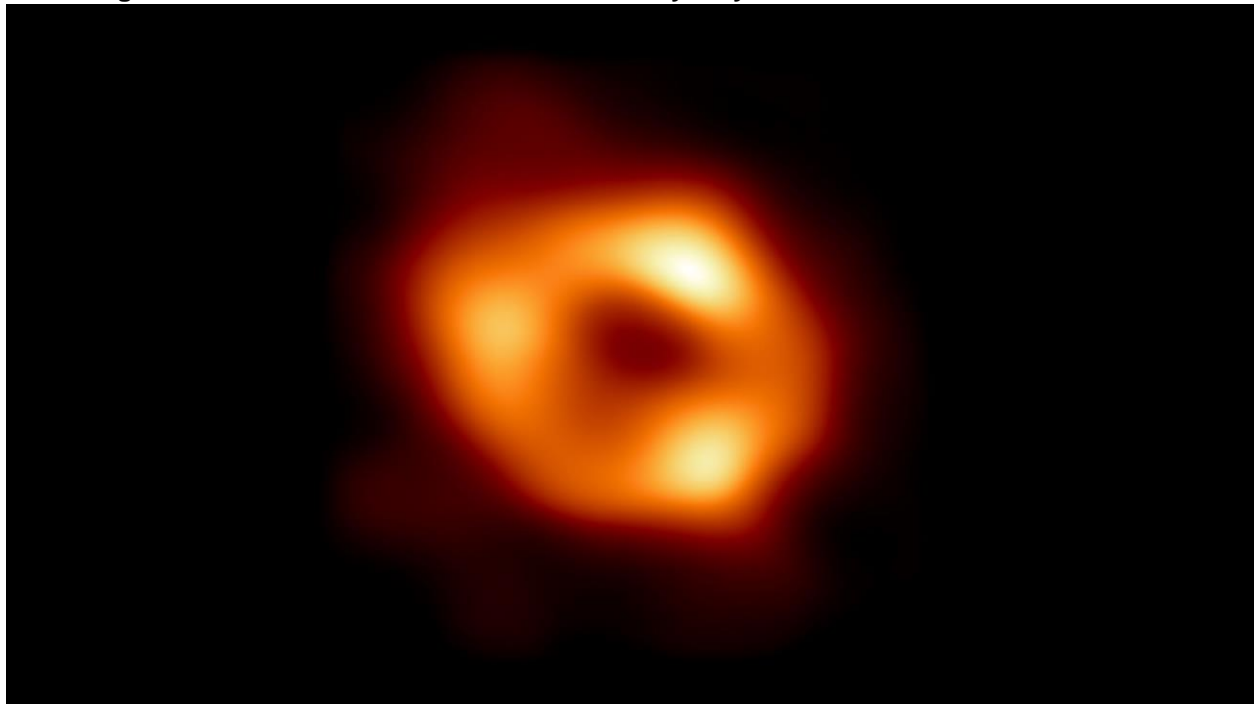
Source: OIG investigative activity statistics as of September 30, 2022.

## Investigative Activities

### Investigative Peer Review

The Office of Investigations complies with guidelines established by the U.S. Attorney General. On February 27, 2015, the Government Publishing Office OIG completed a peer review of the Smithsonian OIG investigative program based on the *Quality Assessment Review Guidelines for Investigative Operations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*. The Smithsonian received the highest peer review rating. Our next investigative peer review is scheduled for fall 2023.

### First image of the black hole at the center of the Milky Way



This is the first image of Sagittarius A\*, the supermassive black hole at the center of the galaxy. It is the first direct visual evidence of the presence of this black hole. The image was produced by a global research team called the Event Horizon Telescope — which includes scientists from the Center for Astrophysics | Harvard & Smithsonian— using observations from a worldwide network of radio telescopes. Credit: EHT Collaboration

## Other OIG Activities

### Legislative and Regulatory Review

In accordance with the *Inspector General Act of 1978*, as amended, OIG monitored and reviewed legislative and regulatory proposals for their impact on the Smithsonian's programs and operations. Additionally, the Counsel to the Inspector General monitored congressional bills and issues relating to the inspector general community. OIG also reviewed draft Smithsonian policies for their impact on OIG operations.

### Other Activities

OIG remained actively involved with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), a statutory council of federal inspectors general that promotes collaboration on issues of integrity, economy, and efficiency that transcend individual agencies. The Inspector General serves as the Vice-Chair of the CIGIE Audit Committee and as the Chair of the Small/Unique OIG Group, a group of inspectors general that meets quarterly to exchange ideas and practices. In addition, the Inspector General is a member of three other CIGIE committees (Budget, Investigations, and Legislation) and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Working Group. The OIG Counsel co-leads the Smaller OIG Counsel Working Group. OIG staff also serve on the Council of Counsels to Inspectors General, the Federal Audit Executive Council, the Federal Audit Executive Council Financial Statement Audit Committee, the steering committee for the OIG Freedom of Information Act Working Group, the CIGIE Technology Committee, and the Shared Services Working Group.

In addition, the Inspector General is a member of the Comptroller General's Advisory Council on Government Auditing Standards. OIG staff also participated in the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, the Federal Bar Association, the Institute of Internal Auditors, and ISACA.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> ISACA is an international professional association focused on IT governance.

# OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



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## OIG's Mission

Our mission is to promote the efficiency, effectiveness, and integrity of the Smithsonian Institution's programs and operations through independent and objective audits and investigations and to keep stakeholders fully and currently informed.

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## Reporting Fraud, Waste, and Abuse to OIG Hotline

OIG investigates allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, gross mismanagement, employee and contractor misconduct, and criminal and civil violations of law that have an impact on Smithsonian Institution programs and operations.

If requested, anonymity is assured to the extent permitted by law. Although you may remain anonymous, we encourage you to provide us with your contact information. The ability to gather additional information from you may be the key to effectively pursuing your allegation.

To report fraud and other serious problems, abuses, and deficiencies, you can do one of the following:

Send an email to: [oighotline@oig.si.edu](mailto:oighotline@oig.si.edu).

Visit OIG's website: <https://oig.si.edu>.

Write to:

Office of the Inspector General

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