

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 18, 2013

Reply to Attn of: General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Employees at the Inauguration Reception Sponsored by John Legend, Pharrell Williams, Malin Åkerman and Electronic Arts on January 20, 2013

On January 20, 2013, Electronic Arts, "I am Other" entertainment, entertainers John Legend and Pharrell Williams, and actress Malin Åkerman will host a late evening reception to celebrate the inauguration of President Barack Obama, at the W Hotel, 515 15th Street, NW, Washington, D.C., beginning at 11 pm. None of the sponsors of this event are Federal lobbyists or lobbying organizations. The theme of the reception is "learn, build, create."

Attending the event will be representatives from government, philanthropy, and the entertainment industry interested in STEM education initiatives. As many as 275 people are expected to attend. The estimated value of food and beverages provided at the reception is \$40 per person. I find that the event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g).

I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will further Agency programs or operations. Attendance at the event will allow NASA representatives to discuss NASA's programs and plans, including education-related initiatives, with guests from various communities who are interested in STEM education. Accordingly, NASA employees – including non-career appointees for whom Executive Order 13490 requires signing the ethics pledge – whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the reception for themselves and their invited spouses or guests.

However, NASA employees whose duties affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(1) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam F. Greenstone".

Adam F. Greenstone