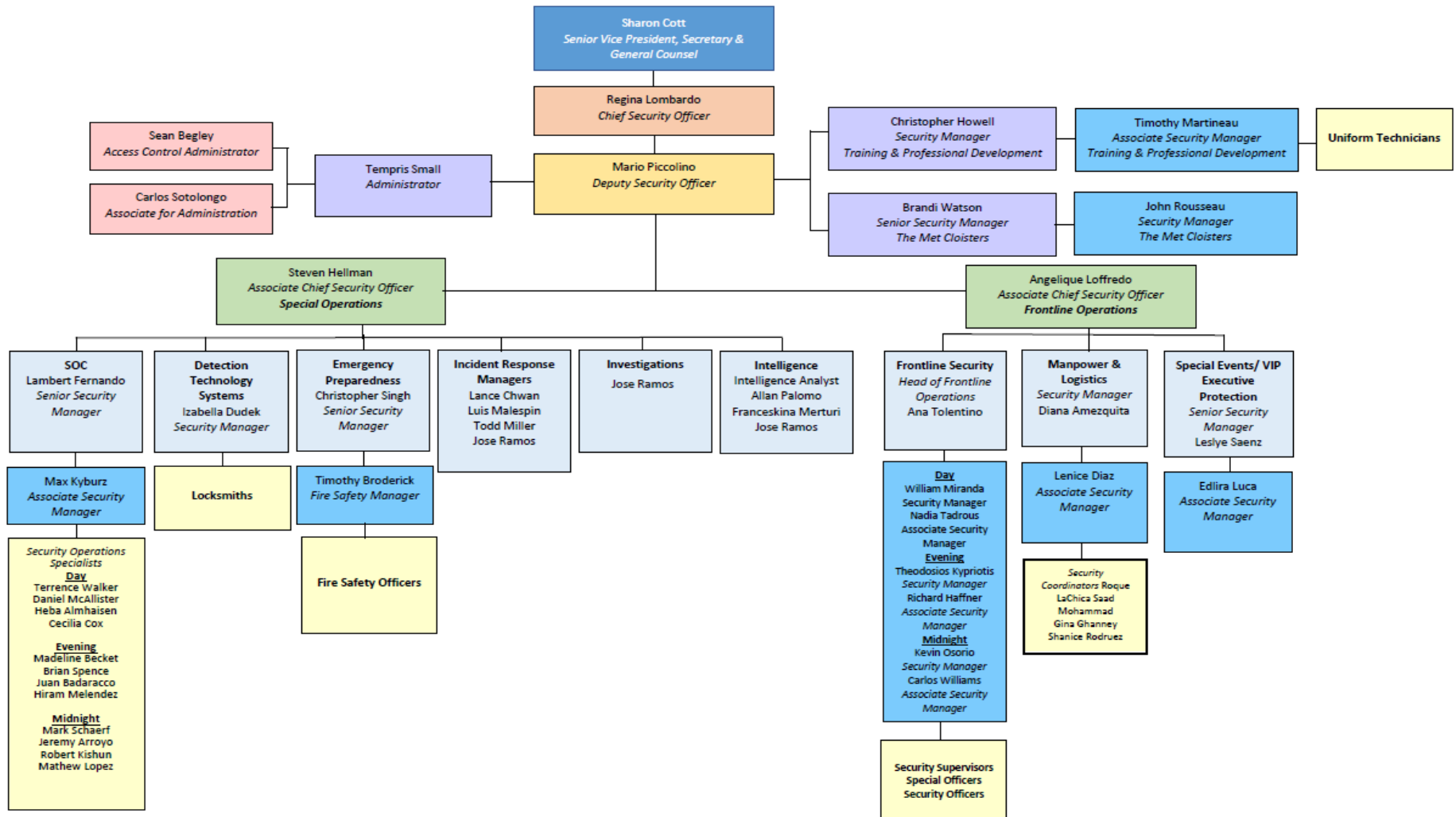


# NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CULTURAL PROPERTY PROTECTION 2024



# The Met Security Department Organizational Chart





# An Unprecedented Challenge: Activism

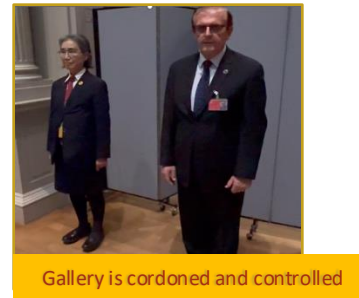
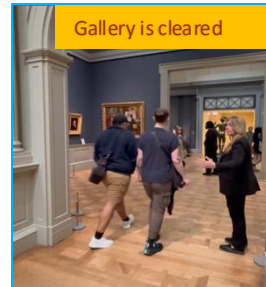
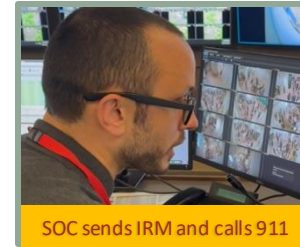
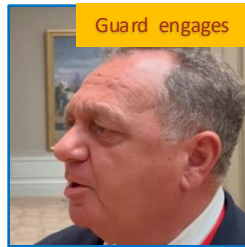


## Two Types of Protests:

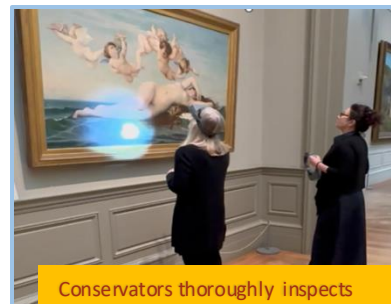
- Aggressive protests are designed to incite chaos, disrupt the public, and potentially cause harm to both the art collection and the property.
- Peaceful protests involve participants who are non-threatening and compliant with museum policies, exercising their right to express opinions. In such scenarios, a careful balance between security and freedom of expression is crucial.







# PROTECTING THE MUSEUM FROM ACTIVISTS





## Collaborative Law Enforcement Partnerships





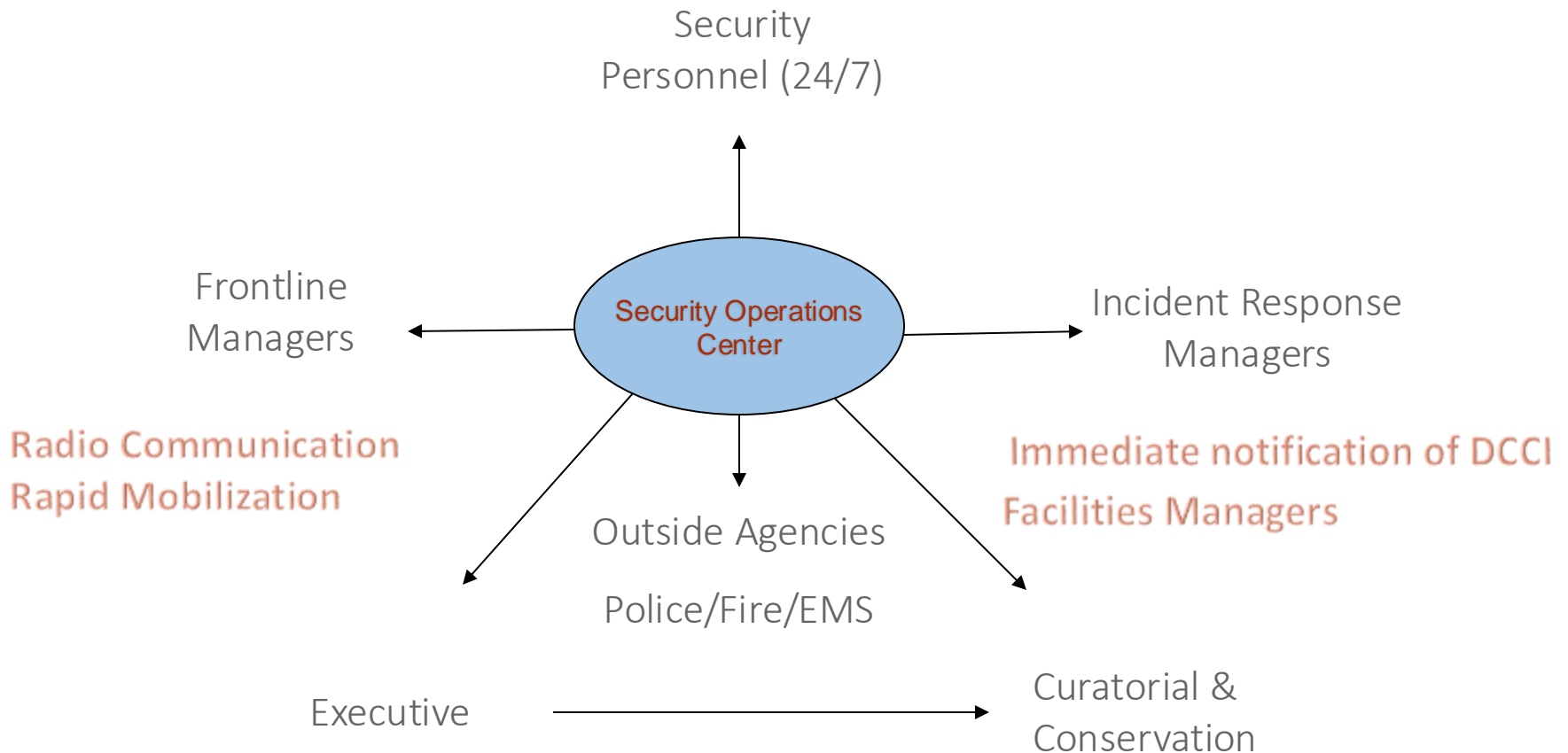
## Security Operations Center

- Constant State of Readiness
- Security Alarms
- CCTV/Advanced Surveillance
- Radio Communications/Mass Notification
- Redesigning and enhancing the SOC
- Rapid Mobilization
- Liaising with Police
- Department Contact for Collections Incidents (DCCI)



# Communication is Critical

Who does the SOC contact?





# Incident Response Managers



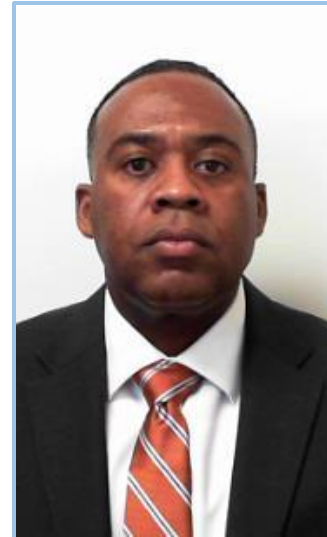
IRM Lance Chwan  
Operational  
Training/  
Tactical Planning

Former USMC  
State Department  
Liaison to foreign  
embassies



IRM Jose Ramos  
Intelligence

Former NYPD Detective  
Intelligence Bureau



IRM Todd Miller

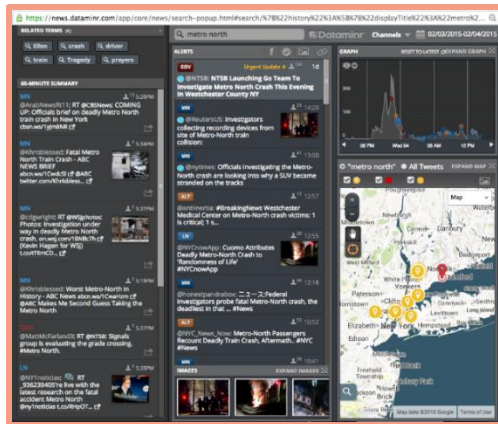
Former State Police



IRM Luis Malespin

Former NYPD

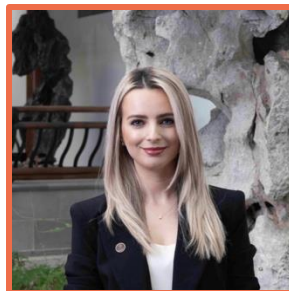
# Intelligence/Information Sharing



- In-house Intel Analysts
- Weekly Intel Briefings
- Social Media
- NYPD Counterterrorism/Intel Bureau
- Federal Agencies
- Other Cultural Institutions



Allan Palomo



Franceskina Merturi



# Deployment Plan



## The Metropolitan Museum of Art INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMORANDUM

July 4, 2023

### Deployment Plan

#### Details:

MET Security Intelligence Division has learned that a protest, "Free Degas Two" is being organized through social media, by a group known as Extinction Rebellion. It is scheduled to take place on July 8, 2023, between approximately 1100 hours and 1230 hours. The intelligence being received stated that the protest is planned to occur inside the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Security Department has prepared the following Deployment Plan in the anticipation of the event, to ensure the safety and security of the Museum's visitors, staff, and valuable artworks.

The intelligence received determined that the primary objective of this protest is to draw attention to the Federal indictments of Climate Control Activists who were recently arrested for damaging art at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Additionally, the protesters aim to raise awareness about the tragic death of Venezuelan Environmental activist Manuel Esteban Paez Teran, who was killed in a gunfight with police in Atlanta. These issues have prompted Extinction Rebellion to take action and bring their concerns to the public's attention.

It is important to note that this group has previously conducted a protest inside Museum on Saturday, June 24, 2023. During that demonstration, approximately twenty participants entered the premises. They had paint-like substances on their hands, tape covering their mouths, and formed a circle around Edgar Degas' statue, "The Little Fourteen-Year-Old Dancer." Fortunately, the protest concluded

1

## FREE THE DEGAS TWO

### Action Manual

#### Background

On Saturday, June 24th, a group of 20 climate activists staged a powerful [#FreeTheDegasTwo](#) action at The Metropolitan Museum of Art ("The Met"). Their mission: to awaken the public to the grossly [disproportionate charges](#) pressed against Joanna Smith and Tim Martin for their peaceful and symbolic action at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC on April 27th. These charges serve as a distressing example of the systemic repression endured by the climate movement, for simply highlighting the urgent need for our leaders to act on the climate and ecological emergency. It is crucial for everyone to condemn such unjust charges.

We invite you to [join us for an even more impactful action at the Met on Saturday, July 8th](#). Our aim is for all members of the public to turn out, not just a secret, select club. Just like Joanna and Tim, we want to make museum-goers pause and deeply reflect on the contradiction of admiring art museums as symbols of culture and civilization while our planet is engulfed in flames. The survival and preservation of the natural world are fundamental to sustaining human creativity, expression, and cultural development.

#### Action Overview

Choose an artwork based on its relevance to social justice issues, your personal connection, or simply its popularity (we want maximum engagement with the public). Sit down in front of the artwork with a sign, remaining silent throughout. **Silence holds power.**

Security will inevitably ask you to leave since [Met policies](#) prohibit "unauthorized theater performances" and "picketing." It is debatable whether the action falls under these or other prohibited categories. Stay as long as you feel comfortable.

#### Action Agreements

By [signing up](#) to participate in this action, **you agree not to:**

- Touch or damage any artwork or its enclosure
- Touch any member of the public or security





# Follow-up Investigation



- Collection and examination of evidence
- Interviews with witnesses
- Video Surveillance
- Collaboration with internal departments and external agencies (Police and FBI)



# Protecting Our Cultural Heritage





The background image shows a museum courtyard at dusk. A large, blue, abstract sculpture is the central focus. A crowd of people is gathered around it. In the foreground, there is a structure made of dark, intersecting poles. The sky is dark with some clouds, and the city lights are visible in the distance.

**National**  
Gallery of Art

# Office of Protection Services Climate Activism

The Aftermath, Response and Recovery

Smithsonian National Conference on Cultural  
Property Protection - September 24, 2024



Demonstrations and protest are part of the history of our Country.

The right to assemble is protected in the U. S. Constitution.

Climate Activist have the right to demonstrate and protest  
for their cause.

They do not have a right to vandalize or destroy property  
in support of their activism.



Protection Services is responsible for safeguarding the museum's invaluable collections and ensuring the safety of both visitors and staff.

Our role is crucial in preserving the integrity and security of the museum's exhibits and creating a safe environment for everyone involved.



# **Incidents of Protest and Vandalism at the National Gallery of Art**

# “American Silence” Photographs of Robert Adams

*October 1, 2022*



# Little Dancer Aged Fourteen

*Thursday, April 27, 2023*



# The Shaw Memorial

*List of names of the soldiers of the  
Massachusetts 54<sup>th</sup> Regiment*

*Tuesday November 14, 2023*





Our success can be largely attributed to our vigilant observation of unfolding events in museums in Europe.

By closely monitoring developments and trends across the continent, we were able to anticipate shifts and adapt our strategies accordingly.

This proactive approach enabled us to stay ahead of emerging challenges and seize new opportunities, ultimately contributing to our achievements and growth.

# How We Prepared- Response

- ❖ **Discussion with Gallery Leadership**
- ❖ Roll call training
  - ✓ Share videos of incidents
  - ✓ Situational Awareness Training
- ❖ Scenario Based Training (gallery)
- ❖ Internal Communication
  - ✓ Action Plans
  - ✓ Gallery Message (campus connect)

# Situational Awareness

1. **Positioning**- Maintain self awareness as to your location in a space as well as around people.
2. **Posturing**- Being aware of your facial expressions, stances, gestures, etc. Stay Professional and Courteous!
3. **Observing**- Actively looking for things or persons that are out of place, not quite right. Watch peoples body language.
4. **Listening**- Actively listen when someone is reporting something to you. Even the most trivial thing could be very important.

Having good **Situational Awareness** will help officers best use the appropriate tactics in any environment.

# Our Security Team

- ❖ Unarmed Officers
- ❖ Armed Officers
- ❖ Supervisors

## **Scenario-based Training**

- ❖ Each position has a different role and responsibility
- ❖ Each position received training specific to their role as well as collective training



# Recovery

## After the Incident

- ❖ Initiate the formal internal response/recovery process
- ❖ If you do not have one - Develop a formal internal response/recovery process
- ❖ Conduct an after-action review
- ❖ Work with Law Enforcement Partners
- ❖ Message to your organization

# Develop a Formal Recovery Process



# Our Emergency Operations Response

Modeled following:

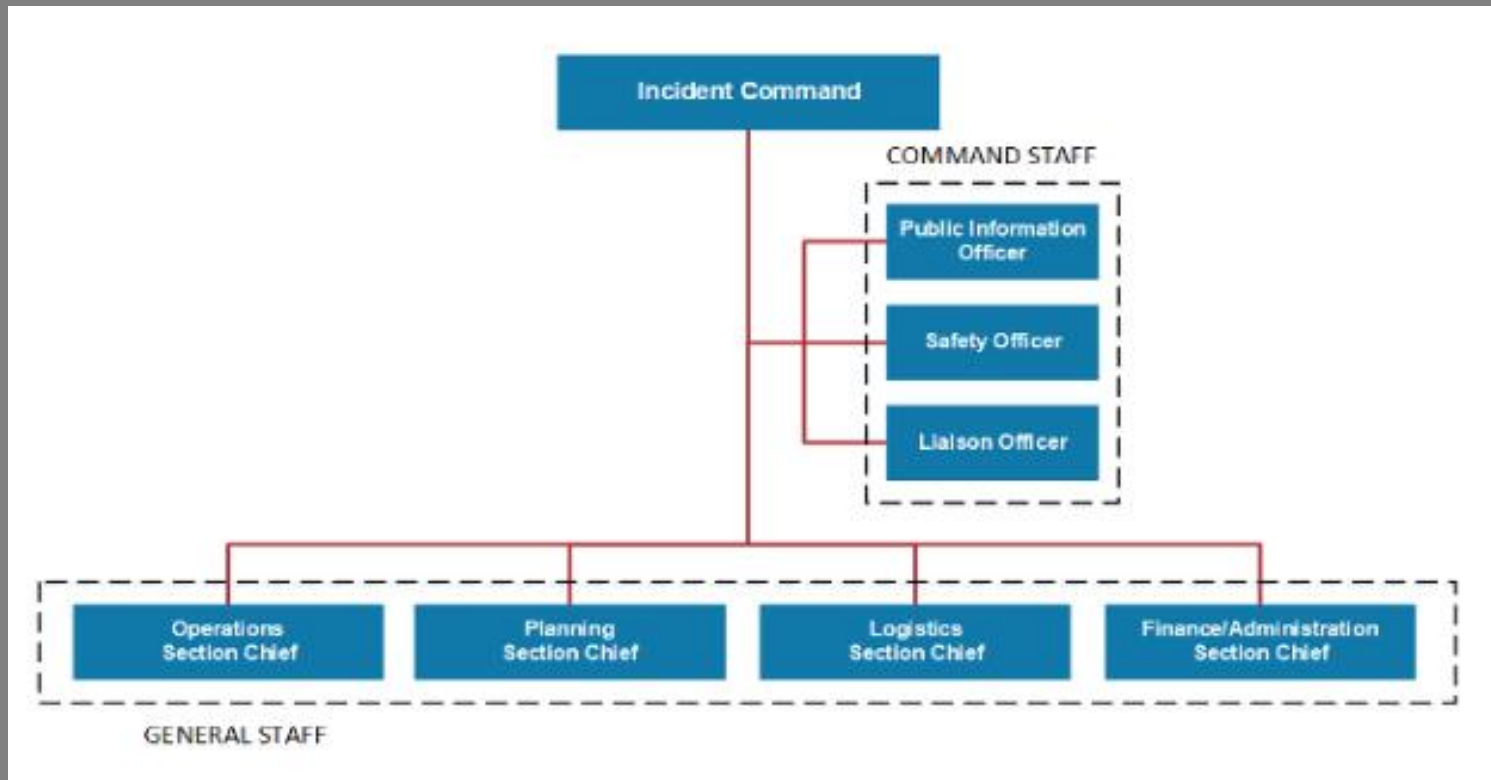
**National Incident Management System (NIMS)**- a comprehensive systematic framework for managing incidents.

**Incident Command System (ICS)** - A standardized, All-Hazards command, control, and coordination framework enabling a coordinated response among various jurisdictions and agencies

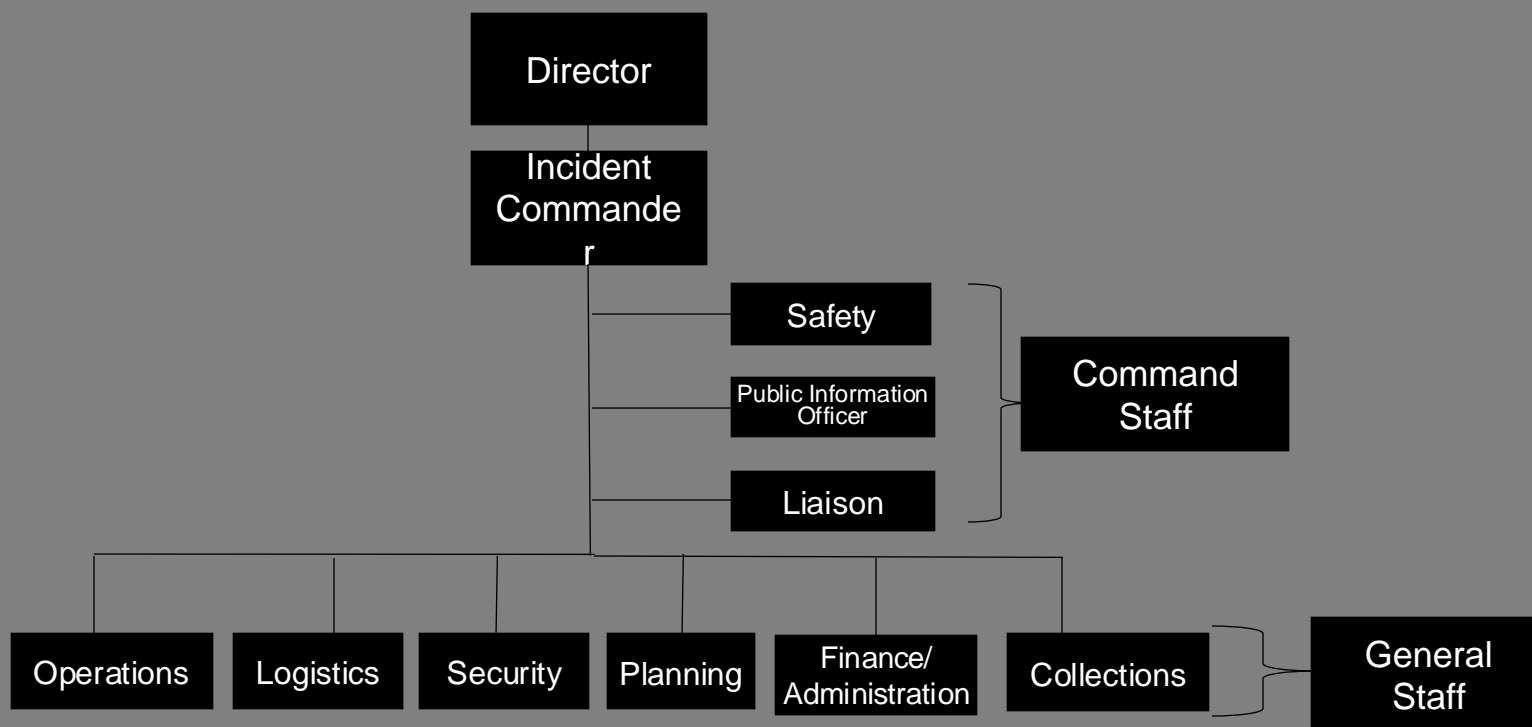
# Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Committee Purpose

- ❖ **Operational Planning:** Review and provide recommendations for the National Gallery Emergency Response policies, procedures, and training
- ❖ **Crisis Operations:** Create the strategic and tactical plans (Incident Action Plan) for response and recovery operations
- ❖ Create the objectives for response and recovery operations
- ❖ Goal is to resume normal operations as soon as practical

# Standard Federal ICS Structure



# National Gallery of Art ICS Structure





# After-Action Review

# After Action Review

- ❖ Conduct an after-action review
  - ✓ Security Team (officers, supervisors, emergency manager, training officer)
  - ✓ Museum stakeholders (Register, Communications Office, Conservation, Facilities)

# Law Enforcement Partners

# After the Incident Recovery

## ❖ Work with Law Enforcement Partners

- ✓ FBI Art Crimes Unit
- ✓ Local Police Department
- ✓ Campus Police/Security
- ✓ State, County, City Attorney
- ✓ Your Museum/Institution Attorney



# **Communication and Training is the key to success**



# Climate Activism

Smithsonian National Conference on Cultural  
Property Protection - September 24, 2024

# Intelligence Gathering

Work with your Local, State, and Federal Law Enforcement partners, along with our Cultural Property Community to:

- Monitor Activists Activity and Trends
- Identify credible threats
- Review First Amendment Applications
- Establish Joint Operations Command Centers









# Climate Activists Goals & Modalities

## Goals

- Gain Attention – Cross-Media Platforms
- Provoke Law Enforcement Response
- Disrupt Significant Events
- Real-Time Streaming

## Modalities

- Notify Media Outlets in Advance
- Communicate with Affiliates in Real-Time
- Enter as Normal Visitation
- Use of Legal to Possess and Non-Prohibited Items
- Usually Demonstrate Within the First Few Hours of Opening

# Risks To Your Cultural Property

A qualified restoration team will, more likely than not, restore impacted artifacts, however the indirect costs of environmental demonstrations are often greater than the direct costs:

- Transferred Risk
- Reputational Risk
- Goodwill
- Civil Responsibility



# Mitigation Strategies

## Detect:

- Situational Awareness
- Screening & Bag Check
- Presence of “Media”
- Educate to Modalities
- Visible presence

## Deter:

- Quick Identification
- Immediate Intervention
- Clear Directions

## Deny:

- Clear the Impacted Galleries
- Block public footage
- Deny the Activists the Attention they are Seeking

# Communicating Risks to Staff & Collections



While Art has been the most recent target, we recognize that activism activities are not limited to Art museums.

- Training all Museum Staff, Volunteers, and Officers, Regardless of Location.
- See Something – Say Something
- Focus on Roles and Modalities



# Activism Incident Timeline

- October 14, 2022 London's National Gallery
- October 23, 2022 Potsdam's Barberini Museum
- April 27, 2023 National Gallery of Art
- June 02, 2023 British Museum Separation from BP
- June 15, 2023 Stockholm's National Museum
- June 24, 2023 Metropolitan Museum of Art NYC
- July 8, 2023 Metropolitan Museum of Art NYC
- July 15, 2023 Parrish Museum
- August 24, 2023 Smithsonian - National Museum of Natural History



# First 5 Senior Leadership Actions

- Your Communications Control the Narrative
- Erect a standing body to manage the incident.
- Reinforce the Commitment to Protect the Core values and Neutrality.
- Mobilize Collections Recovery Response.
- Evaluate the Impact to Loaned and Owned Assets.

