

TOWER SOCIETY



A legacy and planned giving newsletter | Spring 2021

\$5 MILLION GIFT TO FUND LEHIGH UNIVERSITY ART GALLERIES

The gift from Kenneth R. Woodcock '65 will preserve LUAG's teaching collection and enhance art education.

A \$5 million gift made by arts philanthropist Kenneth R. Woodcock '65 will endow a director's fund for the Lehigh University Art Galleries (LUAG). The Woodcock Director's Fund will ensure the protection and preservation of the university's teaching collection and fulfill the full potential of LUAG as a driver for arts education and engagement for both students and the community.

The fund represents the largest gift ever given to LUAG and will be administered by Director William Crow. Woodcock shares Crow's vision that art can be an interdisciplinary engine for teaching, learning, and research.

"I hope that this gift will be a catalyst for all Lehigh students to develop a love and appreciation of art for the rest of their lives," Woodcock says. "With William Crow leading the effort, I'm confident we can broaden the experience for both students and the community."

Crow said Woodcock's generosity in creating this endowed fund "will provide critical and flexible support that is truly transformative. All museums and cultural institutions wish for the philanthropic leadership that Ken has demonstrated."

"This gift represents an investment in key programs that offer students hands-on, high-impact learning experiences which is a top priority of GO: The Campaign for Lehigh," says President John D. Simon '19P. "We are deeply grateful to Ken for his commitment to enhancing our ability to support the arts at Lehigh, which will no doubt have a deep impact on our students for generations to come."

"The arts play a central role in the intellectual experience of students, staff, and faculty and our engagement with the community. Ken Woodcock's gift will enable the university to make further strides in garnering national and international

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Like the Woodcocks, you too can support your passions at Lehigh University. Contact the Office of Planned Giving at (610) 758-4749 or intower@lehigh.edu to discuss a gift that meets your charitable and personal goals.

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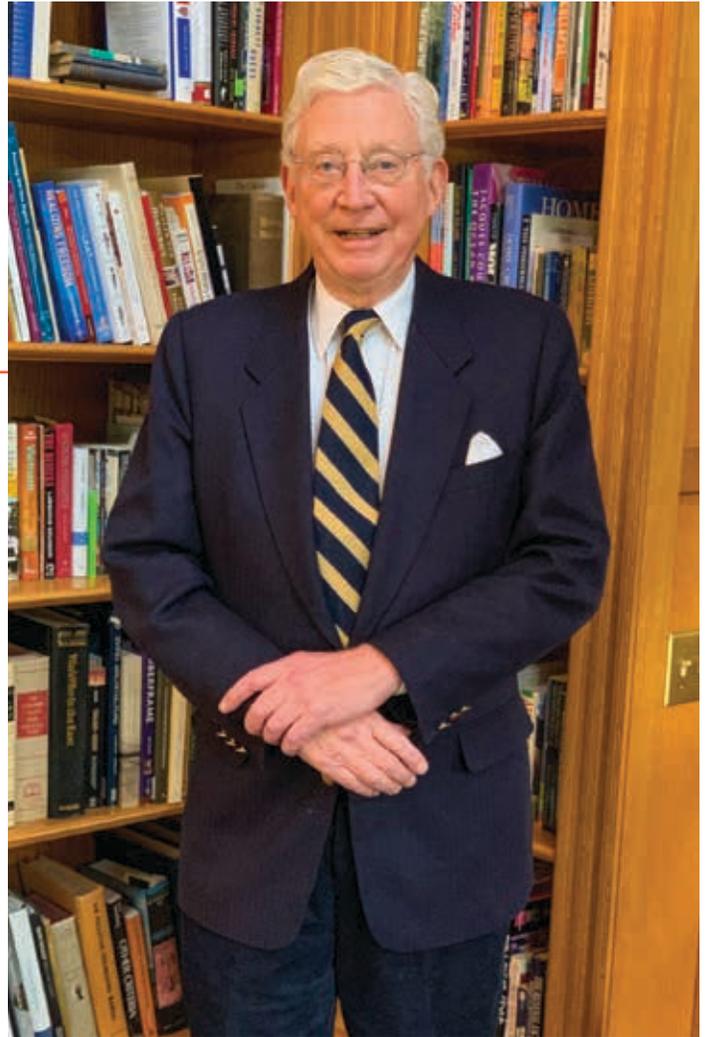
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recognition of Lehigh as a leader in arts education and programming,” says Robert Flowers, Herbert J. and Ann L. Siegel Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

After graduating from Lehigh University in 1965 with a degree in mechanical engineering and earning an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh in 1966, Woodcock began his career with DuPont. He then served as a Commissioned Officer with the U.S. Public Health Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Energy Administration, and the Department of Energy. He was the environmental advisor to the energy czars during the Arab oil embargo of 1974.

In 1981, he was involved in the founding of the AES Corporation, a global electric company, rising to senior vice president in 1987 and retiring in 2004.

Woodcock’s arts philanthropy includes serving as a National Trustee of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA) in Philadelphia. He is an active art collector with a focus on 19th and 20th century American art of the family of the Rev. Edward Everett Hale, and has established a private Center for the Study of Hale Family Art for his collection.



Previous philanthropic support in the arts includes a \$2 million gift to endow a curatorship at PAFA.

“My interest in collecting art began when I traveled to Europe after my experience with the Public Health Service. With AES, I traveled to 50 countries and would always find an art gallery wherever I visited,” Woodcock says.

Woodcock is a longtime Lehigh benefactor, with a history that includes over 30 years of support for the

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A CONVERGENCE OF CRITICAL THINKING AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Arts and innovation are part of Lehigh's ADNA, and the Lehigh University Art Galleries (LUAG) exemplify that. LUAG's collection is one of the most expansive in the region and includes everything from ancient Chinese ceramics, to 19th century French post-impressionist paintings, to contemporary Latin American photographs.

LUAG Director William Crow came to Lehigh from The Metropolitan Museum of Art because of the opportunities he saw to elevate the galleries and lead change. He understands how the rigorous interdisciplinary climate of Lehigh, combined with this impressive art collection, provides infinite creative possibilities.

"Artists and makers at Lehigh are thinking deeply about how to address the challenges that we face locally and globally in the 21st century," Crow says. "I can't think of a better place to be the director of a

museum-surrounded by diverse thinkers and problem-solvers. LUAG is a place where we can investigate how makers and artists from diverse time periods and cultures address challenges. After all, great works of art are the physical manifestations of creative problem-solving."

Crow firmly believes that museums are not just about what they contain, but what they make possible. "Today's museums are critical spaces that bring together different voices—places where we can interrogate history and hypothesize about the future," he says. "Museums are interdisciplinary engines for critical thinking, cultural understanding, and well-being in our community."



*LUAG Director
William Crow*

LUAG BY THE NUMBERS

17,232
works in the
collection

56 outdoor
sculptures

2,450
works
accessible
online

7
gallery
spaces

2 art study
centers

625 works on view in Lehigh
academic/office buildings

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—Ken Woodcock '65

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Lehigh Fund. “It’s a chance to give back because of the benefits I received from my Lehigh education,” he says.

This gift is unique in that it is a structured gift—part outright and part bequest. “The advantage of structured gifts is that the donor can immediately see their philanthropy in action with the outright gift, and also plan for continued impact as a legacy gift,” says Joe Buck, vice president for development and alumni relations. “It is emblematic of how many of our Tower Society members provide immediate support and also make provisions through their estate plans for Lehigh’s future.”

Woodcock’s support of the university’s commitment to its history and the liberal and classical arts includes the creation of a music recording studio at Zoellner Arts Center and his generous support for the renovations to Linderman Library, where the iconic rotunda is named in his honor.

Woodcock and his wife, Dorothy, have been actively involved with many nonprofit organizations where they reside in Washington, D.C., and Matunuck, Rhode Island. Some of the organizations they support include the Washington National Cathedral, Washington National Opera, Choral Arts Society of Washington, Washington Concert Opera, Preserve Rhode Island, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

“Art has allowed me to learn more about world history,” Woodcock says. “Through our service and philanthropy, we hope to help others learn, too. We want to make the world a better place.”

Story by Cynthia Tintorri



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