Statement on the Passing of David Rockefeller

With the deepest sadness, the Trustees and staff of the David Rockefeller Fund note the passing of our co-founder, David Rockefeller, on March 20, 2017 at 101 years of age. For 28 years, Mr. Rockefeller served as the Fund’s generous inspiration, mentor and the loving head of his family of trustees.

Our Board Chair, Michael Quattrone, said of his grandfather:

“My cousins and I mourn the passing of our kind and loving grandfather, David Rockefeller, who served as model and inspiration to us, and the wider Rockefeller family. He embodied the values of reverence for the Earth, stewardship of the arts, and service to humanity. He taught us to leave the world a better place than we found it through hard work, strong and diverse relationships, and generosity.

“In his later years, Grandpa delighted in becoming a great-grandfather, and was devoted to his ten great-grandchildren. He said often, ‘Love is the most important thing.’ We are grateful for his vision of the David Rockefeller Fund as a way to engage his descendants in meaningful work across generations. His generosity and wisdom have made possible a new generation of family members committed to a more just, creative, and flourishing world.”

Statement of the Executive Director, Lukas Haynes:

“David Rockefeller was a model of humility, as well as generosity, to the DR Fund staff and we are left with gratitude for every moment we had with him, including, remarkably, at our most recent board meeting in December,” said Lukas Haynes, DR Fund Executive Director.

“David Rockefeller leaves an enormous legacy as part of the Rockefeller philanthropic tradition. In addition to his generous philanthropy, he inspired us to involve ourselves actively in the affairs of our community and the nation. This was ‘the doctrine of stewardship’ he said he learned as a young man from his father and that he leaves with future generations of trustees and grant-makers.”

The family asks that the DR Fund community respect its need for privacy in the days and weeks ahead. Expressions of sympathy may be conveyed via our office address below.

Vision and Mission

The David Rockefeller Fund is a family foundation inspired by the vision and generosity of its founders, David and Peggy Rockefeller, to foster and embody a more just, creative, and flourishing world. The Fund’s mission is to invest in catalytic ideas,
people, efforts, and institutions working strategically toward ecological regeneration, justice system reform, and art for social impact.

**About the David Rockefeller Fund**

The Fund was established in 1989 by David Rockefeller and his wife Peggy to carry out their annual charitable giving in communities where they had homes outside New York City. In 2001, David Rockefeller expanded the Fund and invited his family to take a more active role in the Fund with the idea of transferring to them the Rockefeller’s philanthropic tradition. Today, the Fund’s work is guided by a Board of Trustees comprised largely of David and Peggy Rockefeller’s children, grandchildren, and their spouses, and provides a high-impact learning environment where family members are able to engage in dialogue and grant-making in three priority program areas: Arts, Environment, and Criminal Justice reform.