In Memoriam
Kenneth W. Rose
This compendium testifies to an extraordinary multi-generational philanthropic undertaking. Contained in these pages are descriptions of seventy-five institutions that were brought to life or significantly sustained by John D. Rockefeller (1839-1937) and his descendants.

These organizations have touched virtually every aspect of American life: religion, science, medicine, education, government, social services, economic development, international relations, environmental conservation, historic preservation, and the arts. Also included here are the principal foundations and grant-making entities that have managed the philanthropy of four generations of Rockefellers. The cumulative impact of this long century of philanthropy – spanning from John D. Rockefeller’s often overlooked acts of personal charity in the 1850s to the present day – is in excess of $150 billion.

Visitors and researchers at the Rockefeller Archive Center are frequently surprised to learn of the international breadth and interdisciplinary scope of the causes that have received Rockefeller support over time. Archive Center documents trace this legacy back to 1855, when John D. Rockefeller first went to work in Cleveland, Ohio. Still a teenager, he almost immediately began to donate part of his earnings, in gifts of nickels, dimes, and quarters, to the Erie Street Baptist Church and other Baptist-sanctioned social causes. This phase of his personal giving was summarized in the alphabetized charity index cards that he meticulously filed to document his gifts. Rockefeller soon entered the oil business. By 1870, he had established the Standard Oil Company, which grew to dominate the oil industry. The company made Rockefeller and his partners wealthy men, capable of conducting philanthropy on a grand scale.

John D. Rockefeller Jr. (1874-1960) joined his father’s office in 1897. Before long, he began to focus his energies on philanthropy. He helped his father develop a number of important medical, educational, and philanthropic institutions, initiating an intensified phase of Rockefeller giving. With his wife Abby (1874-1948), he expanded the family’s philanthropic reach in several new directions, including the arts and historic preservation.

They passed the family tradition on to their children: Abby (1903-1976), John 3rd (1906-1978), Nelson (1908-1979), Laurance (1910-2004), Winthrop (1912-1973), and David (born 1915), known collectively as “the Brothers” generation. Their philanthropic legacy is now being continued by the next tier of descendants, “the Cousins.” Four generations of Rockefellers have thus joined together to advance prominent family foundations – the Rockefeller Foundation (1913), the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (1940), and the Rockefeller Family Fund (1967) – as well as an eclectic array of institutions dedicated to addressing the most pressing issues of their respective eras. Many family members have, in addition, created organizations to advance causes of individual concern.

*Rockefeller Philanthropies: A Selected Guide* offers an overview of this rich and varied legacy, but it is by no means exhaustive. It illustrates the highlights and contours of the
story by including the principal philanthropies founded by members of the Rockefeller family to guide their giving, as well as the main institutions of national and international stature that family members have founded or have been significant partners in sustaining over time.

Beyond the major undertakings enumerated in this guide, countless other organizations have received significant Rockefeller financial support, and some have evolved into institutions now funded by many other donors. The Institute for Government Research, for example, was created in 1916 at the initiative of the Rockefeller Foundation; it was one of the predecessor organizations that merged to form the Brookings Institution in 1928.

At times, governments and international agencies have benefited from Rockefeller largesse. John D. Rockefeller Jr. provided funds to assist the French government in the restoration of Versailles and Rheims Cathedral in the 1920s. The family donated $2 million to build and endow the library of the League of Nations, which opened in Geneva in 1936. In 1946, John D. Rockefeller Jr. guaranteed an option and then made a conditional $8.5 million gift to purchase the site in Manhattan where the United Nations is now located. The family has also been magnanimous in donating homes and properties that are now part of our national heritage. Laurance S. and Mary French Rockefeller donated her ancestral home in Woodstock, Vermont, to the federal government; it is now a historic park operated by the National Park Service. Three sons of John D. Rockefeller Jr. arranged to give the family home, Kykuit, in Pocantico Hills, New York, to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is now open to the public under the auspices of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund.

Many individuals outside the family have helped to shape Rockefeller philanthropy. As his wealth and charity became widely known, Rockefeller Sr. was flooded by requests for support. Unable to manage his giving on his own, he sought help, first from Baptist ministers whose judgment he trusted, then from such national organizations as the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the American Baptist Education Society. In 1891, he hired a philanthropic advisor, the Reverend Frederick T. Gates, who was later joined by John D. Rockefeller Jr., to help usher in a new era of what they termed “scientific philanthropy.” They urged Rockefeller Sr. to use his rapidly growing wealth to establish and endow specialized institutions to direct his giving to particular causes.

Over the next two decades, Rockefeller Sr. created the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research (1901); the General Education Board (1902); the Rockefeller Sanitary Commission for the Eradication of Hookworm (1909-1914); the Rockefeller Foundation (1913), with its two operating programs, the China Medical Board and the International Health Board; and the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial (1918). These entities were reorganized in 1928, creating the modern Rockefeller Foundation. The Rockefeller Institute continued its research, and individual Rockefellers, notably John D. Rockefeller Jr. and later his children, put their own stamp on the institutions and causes associated with the Rockefeller name.

Rockefeller philanthropy continues to grow in new directions. This evolution is evidenced, for example, by Marion Rockefeller Weber’s innovative Flow Funding Circle to support social entrepreneurs (1991), and by Justin Rockefeller’s youth-engagement initiative, GenerationEngage, which launched in 2004 and merged in 2010 with Mobilize.org.
Although Rockefeller philanthropy has been diverse in its aims and methods, it is possible to pinpoint some overarching themes. Early on, Rockefeller Sr. established certain principles and practices that have guided Rockefeller philanthropy across the generations. First, much as he did in business, he relied a great deal on the wisdom of others when conceptualizing philanthropic undertakings. The frequent use of specialized “commissions” is born of the scientific notion of convening the best minds to study an issue before taking action. This philanthropic mind-set has carried over to successive generations of Rockefellers. Second, Rockefeller gifts were designed to “share in the work,” as Rockefeller Sr. often wrote; he never wanted to carry the full burden of support and sought to encourage and entice others to give along with him. From this followed the practice of conditional gifts and matching gifts – a practice that has gained wide currency across the philanthropic landscape. Third, and perhaps most important, Rockefeller Sr. and his descendants embodied the thoroughly American ideal of responsible stewardship – that with great wealth comes the duty to serve the public good and improve the conditions of humankind.

This publication originated as Forty-seven Rockefeller Philanthropies, edited by Joseph W. Ernst, former Rockefeller family archivist and director emeritus of the Rockefeller Archive Center. It was substantially expanded and revised in 2004 under a new title, Select Rockefeller Philanthropies, edited by Kenneth W. Rose, then assistant director of the Archive Center. The current version builds on those efforts. It includes new philanthropic entities created by members of the Rockefeller family in recent years, and it acknowledges changes in scope and mission among the highlighted organizations. Updated web addresses are included to direct readers to more current information about the organizations. This guide also incorporates photographs drawn from the Archive Center’s extensive holdings.

Tragically, Kenneth W. Rose passed away just prior to the publication of this revised volume, which owes so much to his vast knowledge. Ken worked assiduously on this version, just as he had worked on the previous one. We dedicate this edition to the memory of our valued friend and colleague.

For further information about the Rockefeller family or the family’s philanthropy, readers should consult the Bibliography of the Rockefeller Family and Their Philanthropies and A Bibliography of Scholarship at the Rockefeller Archive Center. These publications, along with an expanding body of information and research, are available through the Archive Center’s website, rockarch.org. Our knowledge of Rockefeller philanthropy continues to expand through the work of the many scholars who conduct research at the Archive Center in Sleepy Hollow, New York.

This summary of one family’s philanthropic legacy is intended not only as a research tool and guide to the Rockefeller Archive Center’s collections, but as a source of inspiration for the philanthropists of today and tomorrow.

Sleepy Hollow, 2011
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General-Purpose Philanthropies

John D. Rockefeller Sr. in 1884.
Established in 1989 by David Rockefeller and his late wife, Peggy, the fund is a family foundation that works in the areas of the arts, with a focus on access and engagement; criminal justice, with support for programs that promote a more humane and just criminal-justice system; and the environment, with an emphasis on climate change and local sustainability. In addition, its Community Grants Program provides support for charitable and public organizations in communities where David Rockefeller lives outside of New York City, including Mount Desert Island, Maine; the Tarrytown area of Westchester County, New York; and the Livingston area of Columbia County, New York. The fund also underwrites a number of programs designed to encourage individual Rockefeller family members’ philanthropic engagement.

John D. Rockefeller Jr. established the Davison Fund in 1930 to systematize his personal giving. The instrument creating the fund contained neither instruction as to beneficiaries nor limitations as to field. The program developed from two motivations: an interest in the social, cultural, educational, and health needs of New York City and its environs; and the recognition of the importance of “certain problems which cut across national and international boundaries and which invite the cooperation and support of thoughtful men everywhere.” The fund’s dominant interests included child welfare, medicine and health, relief of the unemployed and others in need during the Great Depression, and the improvement of social conditions. It also attempted to improve standards in indigent-aid services. Religion and “projects soundly conceived for the benefit of the Negro either in the field of direct social service or through those media which seek to improve relationships between the races” were continuing fields of interest.

The fund was established in 1991 to provide support to charitable and public organizations with programs reflecting the charitable interests of Laurance S. Rockefeller. It has supported a broad range of organizations, including Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, Historic Hudson Valley, the World Wildlife Fund, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the Educational Broadcasting Corporation.

The fund was established by the five Rockefeller brothers – John 3rd, Nelson, Winthrop, Laurance, and David – later joined by their sister, Abby, to support projects of interest to them. Through the fund they were able to share research and coordinate their philanthropic activities. Their father, John D. Rockefeller Jr., made a substantial gift to the fund in 1951, and in 1960 the fund received a major bequest from his estate. Its first decades of grant-making included money for the construction of Lincoln Center and restoration work at Colonial Williamsburg; support for racial justice and equality through the Southern Regional Council and the National Urban League; and grants to many traditional social-welfare agencies, church groups, and hospitals. From 1956 to 1960, its Special Studies Project, directed by then-Harvard professor Henry Kissinger, sought to “clarify national purposes and objectives” for the U.S. and to develop principles to form a basis for national policy. Its reports appeared in 1961 as Prospect for America: The Rockefeller Panel Reports. Today, the RBF grant-making program is organized around three broad themes: democratic practice, sustainable development, and peace and security. Geographically, its current focus is on
In 1946, John D. Rockefeller 3rd (center, with overcoat over his arm) visits the Chapingo agricultural experiment station of the Mexican National College of Agriculture. At the right is J. G. Harrar (in the light jacket), who headed the agricultural field operations of the Rockefeller Foundation and subsequently served as the foundation’s president.
three critical areas: New York City, the western Balkans, and southern China. In 1999, RBF completed a merger with the Charles E. Culpeper Foundation, significantly expanding the fund’s assets and its funding for arts and cultural organizations. To date, more than three dozen family members, representing three Rockefeller generations, have served as trustees.

Established to span the philanthropic interests of the third and fourth generations of the John D. Rockefeller family – the “Brothers” and “Cousins” – the RFF was organized around five program areas in 1971: Arts, with a focus on Public Aesthetics; Education; Equal Opportunity, with a focus on Women; Conservation; and Institutional Responsiveness. Today, RFF’s environmental program emphasizes public education and civic participation on the problems of global warming, resource conservation, and environmental impact on public health. Its programs on economic justice for women support projects to improve employment opportunities and women’s work lives. In pursuing a program of institutional responsiveness, RFF supports organizations that participate in policy processes. The fund also works to encourage civic participation and to support organizations that aim to hold government more accountable to its citizens. More than fifty members of three Rockefeller generations have served on the fund’s board.

John D. Rockefeller Sr. established the foundation “to promote the well-being of mankind throughout the world.” From its earliest years, the foundation has been both a grant-making and a direct operating institution. Major programs have included the China Medical Board (1913–1929), and the International Health Board (1913–1951), as well as funding programs in the medical sciences, medical education, nursing, the natural sciences, the arts and humanities, and the social sciences. The foundation helped three hundred and three scholars escape Nazi persecution between the years 1933 and 1945. In the 1950s and ’60s, it provided major support for agricultural development, promoting the “Green Revolution”
in Latin America and Asia. The foundation’s mission today is “to support work that helps people tap into globalization’s benefits and strengthen resilience to risks.” Its programs address problems of urbanization, climate change, economic security, and global health. Among its many initiatives, the foundation is helping cities adapt to climate change, working to assess infrastructure needs, helping to improve health delivery systems, and linking disease-surveillance mechanisms. It has worked collaboratively with many other organizations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The foundation is based in New York, where its NY Opportunities Fund intervenes to help the city, but its work continues to be global.

Beginning in 1891, the Rockefeller family hired staff members to advise and manage giving by members of the family. This grew into the Rockefeller Family Office, from which Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors ultimately evolved in 2002 as a public charity whose mission is to help donors create thoughtful, effective philanthropy throughout the world. RPA provides donors with strategic planning, research, grant-making services, and fiscal sponsorship. RPA serves more than one hundred and sixty donors across and outside the U.S., and advises on or facilitates more than $200 million in annual giving to dozens of countries. RPA also convenes meetings, publishes, and communicates about key issues in philanthropy.

Established by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and merged with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in 1973, the fund had broad philanthropic aims. It supported institutions and programs in which its founder took a personal interest, including theological education, interchurch relations, Sleepy Hollow Restorations, and public health and welfare in the greater New York area.

Beginning in 1956, Winthrop Rockefeller administered his philanthropy in Arkansas, where he served as governor (1967–1971), through the Rockwin Fund. That fund was renamed in 1974 as the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation and reorganized to administer an endowment from the Winthrop Rockefeller estate. Today, the foundation is dedicated to furthering education, economic development, and racial and social justice. The foundation has made gifts totaling more than $90 million to hundreds of nonprofits and educational institutions in Arkansas.

Laurance S. and Mary French Rockefeller founded the Woodstock Foundation in 1968 for the “physical, cultural, and spiritual benefit” of people in the Town of Woodstock, Vermont, and the areas comprising the watershed of the Ottauquechee Valley. The foundation has supported local charities and contributed to health, cultural, and recreational programs. Its mission, as now articulated, is the promotion of “conservation, sustainable land use, and heritage as values that are essential to culture, community, and the human spirit” in Vermont and nationally. The foundation has striven to protect open space, preserve the Billings Family Farm and history, promote outdoor recreational opportunities, promote the best management of natural resources, and create educational programs related to its mission. Since 1983, it has operated the Billings Farm and Museum. It has endowed the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, which opened in 1992. In 2007, the foundation took ownership of the Woodstock Inn, proceeds from which help to underwrite the foundation’s programs.
Groundbreaking ceremonies, May 14, 1959, for Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The Lincoln Center project, which had raised $125 million by 1966, was chaired by John D. Rockefeller 3rd. It received significant support from individual family members, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. (PHOTOGRAPH BY BOB SERATING)
Abby Aldrich Rockefeller was a pioneer collector of American folk art, beginning in 1929. A 1932 exhibition of her collection at the Museum of Modern Art and six other institutions helped folk art gain credibility among art historians and critics. In 1935, she loaned her collection to Colonial Williamsburg, donating it to the organization in 1939. During the 1950s, John D. Rockefeller Jr. financed the construction of a museum to house the collection, which opened in 1957 in Williamsburg. It has since moved to a new and larger building.

Founded in 1881 and financed, for the most part, by Americans, the school received support from John D. Rockefeller Sr. as early as 1902. Under the school’s auspices, extensive archaeological excavations began in 1931 on the site of the Agora, the marketplace of ancient Athens. John D. Rockefeller Jr. provided significant support to the project between 1927 and 1958, totaling nearly $2.8 million.

The Arkansas Arts Center, in Little Rock, is symbolic of the changes that Winthrop Rockefeller wrought in his adopted state. Although it traces its roots back to the 1914 founding of the Fine Arts Club of Arkansas, the modern center began to take shape in 1959, when Winthrop Rockefeller and his wife Jeannette spearheaded a statewide fund-raising campaign for an organization devoted to the arts and arts education throughout the state. Established in 1960, the Arkansas Arts Center established a permanent art collection, operated an “artmobile” to take the arts into small towns and rural areas, and offered classes in the visual and performing arts. The center includes a museum, a children’s theater, and a school, among other facilities.

The organization started as a project of the American Council for the Arts in Education as the Arts, Education, and Americans Panel. Led by David Rockefeller Jr. and consisting of leaders in government, arts, business, and education, the panel conducted research on arts education and developed proposals to integrate the arts into school curricula.

Its final report, Coming to Our Senses, was issued in May 1977. That month, the panel was incorporated as an independent organization.

In 1926, John D. Rockefeller Jr. began the restoration of the capital of colonial Virginia. One of America’s first planned cities, Williamsburg had faded by the 1920s. Work initiated by JDR Jr., along with an evolving interpretive program, turned it into a major tourist attraction and a milestone in the field of restoration and historic preservation. More than seven hundred buildings had been restored by the 1970s, largely with Rockefeller assistance, and eighty-three acres of gardens and greens were cleared and replanted. Since 1957, Colonial Williamsburg has been home to the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum.

John D. Rockefeller Jr. established Historic Hudson Valley in 1951 as Sleepy Hollow Restorations – so named after the area near the Rockefeller estate. At the time, the organization combined the administration of two historic sites that JDR Jr. owned: Philipse Castle, in Sleepy Hollow, New York (acquired in 1940 and donated to the Tarrytown Historical Society); and Washington Irving’s home, Sunnyside (acquired in 1945). JDR Jr. bought Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson, New York, in 1953, donating it to Sleepy Hollow Restorations in 1959. In all, he invested more than $12 million in the properties that formed the core of the organization. In 1986, Sleepy Hollow Restorations acquired Montgomery Place in Dutchess County and adopted its current name.

The Rockefeller Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, and the Rockefeller family, especially John D. Rockefeller 3rd, were principal contributors to Lincoln Center, beginning with funds for its planning in 1955. Over the next decade, Lincoln Square in New York City was redeveloped from an urban slum into the first major cultural complex in the U.S., housing theaters, concert halls, and classrooms. Today, the resident organizations include the Chamber Music Society of
Lincoln Center, the Film Society of Lincoln Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Juilliard School, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Lincoln Center Theater, the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Ballet, New York City Opera, New York Philharmonic, the New York Public Library for the Performing Arts, and School of American Ballet. JDR 3rd served as the first president of Lincoln Center (1955–61) and, after resigning as president in 1961, was elected chairman of the Lincoln Center board of trustees (1961–70). In addition to contributing his own funds, he is credited with having raised more than half of the $184.5 million in private funds needed to build the complex.

The second wife of John D. Rockefeller Jr., Martha Baird Rockefeller (1895–1971), a concert pianist, established this fund in 1957 to respond to needs in the field of music, making annual contributions of $600,000. The fund provided grants to young solo musicians to address problems at the early stages of a career. It also made contributions to organizations that offered training and employment. Upon her death, Mrs. Rockefeller’s will provided an additional unrestricted bequest of $5 million, allowing the trustees to continue the program until reserves were depleted. The fund was dissolved in 1982.

Michael Clark Rockefeller, son of Nelson A. Rockefeller, disappeared on an archaeological expedition in 1961, at age twenty-three, while collecting art and artifacts from the Asmat people of Papua New Guinea. The wing of the Met that bears his name was an $18 million undertaking, completed in 1982, that represented the museum’s renewed interest in the indigenous arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. The majority of the museum’s related holdings had been relocated in 1913–14 to the American Museum of Natural History. The newly acquired collection was largely the result of a donation of the contents of the former Museum of Primitive Art by Nelson A. Rockefeller. The collaboration between Rockefeller and the Met ensured the development of a new Primitive Art Department and the proposed wing in memory of Rockefeller’s lost son. The crowning tribute to Michael C. Rockefeller was the display of Asmat materials he had collected on his journey.

The first institution in this country devoted to contemporary art, MoMA was established in 1929 by seven founders, among them Abby Aldrich Rockefeller, wife of John D. Rockefeller Jr., “to help people study, understand, and use the visual arts of our time.” MoMA has enjoyed the support and interest of both the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and the Rockefeller family, whose members have contributed substantial collections, funds, and leadership. Nelson A. Rockefeller was a lifelong trustee (1932–79) and president twice (1939–41, 1946–53). Blanchette Rockefeller was also a longtime trustee (1953–92).
and two-time president (1959–62, 1972–85). David Rock-efeller became a trustee in 1948 and was active in MoMA’s leadership from 1962 to 1972 and again from 1987 to 1993. David Rockefeller Jr. and Sharon Percy Rockefeller have also served as museum trustees.

Nelson A. Rockefeller’s collection of indigenous arts began with the acquisition of a Sumatra knife on his honeymoon, in 1930, and soon grew to merit an entire museum. Origi-nally named the Museum of Indigenous Art and housed in a brownstone on West Fifty-fourth Street in Manhattan, the Museum of Primitive Art was opened in 1957 to showcase, in the words of the opening exhibition publication, “the artistic achievements of the indigenous civilizations of the Americas, Africa, and Oceania, and the early phases of the civilizations of Asia and Europe.” In 1969, the museum lent some pieces to the Metropolitan Museum, and as a result, Nelson A. Rockefeller undertook negotiations for the development of indigenous-arts collections at the Met. In 1978, Rockefeller donated his collection to the Met. The Met agreed to establish a new Department of Primitive Art and to construct a new wing to house the collection, named in memory of Michael C. Rockefeller.

Formerly the Palestine Archaeological Museum, the museum, the construction of which was handled by the British, opened to the public in January 1938, funded with an initial $2 million contribution from John D. Rockefeller Jr. The museum was a personal passion of JDR Jr. and he supported it until his death. With artifacts dating from between 1 million years ago and the year 1700, the museum’s exhibits focus on the cultural history of the Middle East, including artifacts from the three major religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) that have shaped the course of history in the region.

Founded in 1981 by Steven C. Rockefeller in Southwest Har-bor, Maine, as the Wendell Gilley Museum of Bird Carving, the collection displays the major works of Wendell Gilley, a pioneer of the vernacular American art form of bird carving. The museum also hosts workshops and demonstrations of wildlife art, and endeavors to “inspire the appreciation of the visual arts, engagement in artistic creativity, and respect and care for the natural world.”
David Rockefeller, chairman of the Downtown-Lower Manhattan Association, shows New York City Mayor Robert Wagner Jr. the DLMA's recommended improvements for Lower Manhattan during a meeting in November 1963. (Photography by Morris Werman)
Founded by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in 1953 as the Council on Economic and Cultural Affairs, Inc., the council continued under its new name after 1963, its purposes unchanged: pursuing “charitable, scientific, and educational” activities “designed to stimulate and support economic and related activities important to human welfare.” The council, from its beginning, committed major resources to training and research in the social sciences. Its key aim was to solve problems of agricultural and rural development in Asia. In 1985, it merged with the Winrock International Livestock Research and Training Center and the Rockefeller Foundation’s International Agricultural Development Service to create the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development.

The AIA was established by Nelson A. Rockefeller to promote “self-development and better standards of living, together with understanding and cooperation” in Latin America. It worked on rural development and education, forming partnerships with more than two hundred and thirty organizations and governmental departments in thirty countries, and enrolling more than one hundred and sixty thousand members in rural youth clubs. When it ceased operations, in 1968, the AIA left behind self-sufficient vocational-education programs in Venezuela and Chile, and agricultural-development programs in Venezuela and Brazil.

David Rockefeller was instrumental in creating this organization, formed by the merger of Downtown Manhattan Association (est. 1957) and the Committee on Lower Manhattan (est. 1957). The organization promotes the redevelopment of Lower Manhattan below Canal Street, and it was significantly responsible for the area’s transformation into a global financial hub. The DLMA proposed the development of the World Trade Center, and it has promoted numerous other projects to revitalize Lower Manhattan. Since 2001, it has worked closely with community and government leaders to champion the Fulton Transit Center and to advance Lower Manhattan as a vibrant business and residential community. Its operating arm is now called the Downtown Alliance.

Although not a philanthropy, IBEC, founded in 1947 by Nelson A. Rockefeller, promoted economic modernization in developing countries. Its premise was that a private business corporation focused on “basic economies” in developing countries could turn a profit and encourage others to form competitive businesses. Between 1947 and 1955, IBEC established a Venezuela subsidiary active in the fishing, grocery, and dairy industries. It established five agricultural companies in Brazil and invested in manufacturing and banking. From 1956 to 1971, IBEC expanded into mutual funds, housing, coffee, and poultry, working in thirty-three countries worldwide. In 1972, the subsidiaries were folded into five operating groups. After a series of divestitures, the company merged with Booker McConnell Limited, with primary activities in agriculture. Its name was changed in 1985 to Arbor Acres Farm, Inc.

David Rockefeller proposed the idea that American business executives help businesses in developing regions. President Lyndon Johnson announced the establishment of an organization devoted to this purpose in June 1964. Through the IESC, volunteer businesspeople with managerial skills help businesses in developing countries become competitive by introducing them to new markets, skills, and opportunities. The IESC has since grown to become the largest not-for-profit organization of its kind in the world.

Created by David Rockefeller in 1979 as the New York City Partnership, the organization is a coalition of leaders from the city’s prominent corporations and nonprofit and educational institutions that works in partnership with government agencies on issues of economic development, education, and housing. Among its achievements are a summer-employment program for low-income youth, the development of housing for middle-income families during the 1980s, and an innovative investment fund to incubate new businesses beginning in the 1990s.
Dr. Norman Borlaug and Dr. Charles Krull giving instruction to farmers in Mexico on field procedures relating to wheat in 1964. The Mexican Agriculture Program of the Rockefeller Foundation began in 1943 and marked the beginning of the “Green Revolution.”

(PHOTOGRAPH BY NEIL MACLELLAN)
Founded in 1986 by Peggy Dulany, daughter of David Rockefeller, the Synergos Institute is “an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to developing effective, sustainable, and locally based solutions to global poverty, particularly in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.” It connects needs with expertise in a manner that is culturally sensitive and cognizant of local context, casting off the assumption that experts from the developed world have ready-made answers for poorer nations.

Winthrop Rockefeller challenged the trustees of his future estate to be “venturesome and innovative” in using his bequest to help people help themselves. In 1975, two years after his death, the trustees established the Winrock International Livestock Research and Training Center. In 1985, it merged with John D. Rockefeller 3rd’s Agricultural Development Council and the Rockefeller Foundation’s International Agricultural Development Service to create the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development. Today, under a shorter name, the organization describes its mission as working “with people in the U.S. and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources.”
The General Education Board supported the construction of schools for African-Americans throughout the South. N. C. Newbold, the state agent of Negro rural schools for North Carolina, photographed the commencement celebrations at Greenville, North Carolina, where twenty-five hundred people paraded on graduation day. (Photograph by N. C. Newbold)
Established in 1914 as a division of the Rockefeller Foundation, the CMB was incorporated as an independent foundation in 1928. In 1915, the foundation bought a missionary medical college that had been in operation since 1906. It became the Peking Union Medical College, an institution funded and operated by the CMB. In 1921 PUMC’s newly constructed campus was dedicated, with JDR Jr. and a large American delegation in attendance. In 1928 the land and buildings of the college were donated to the CMB along with an endowment of $12 million. During the Japanese occupation, the CMB helped graduates study elsewhere, and it maintained a nursing school in Chengdu. After the war, the college resumed operation, but it was nationalized in 1951. Unable to continue activities on the mainland, the board undertook a broader program of assistance to medical education in the Far East and, to a lesser extent, in the U.S. The foundation has since restarted its work in mainland China, focusing on scientific research on the major health challenges of the twenty-first century.

The GEB was established by John D. Rockefeller Sr. and chartered by an act of Congress to aid education in the U.S. “without distinction of race, sex, or creed.” Rockefeller’s gifts to the GEB began with a $1 million gift in 1902, followed by $10 million in 1905, $32 million in 1907, and $10 million in 1909. His gifts eventually totaled $129 million, providing the board with $324.6 million in income before it ceased operations in 1964. It offered grants for endowments, general operating expenses, special programs, scholarships, and fellowships at all educational levels across the U.S. The main emphasis, however, was on the South and the education of African-Americans. GEB offices were established in Richmond, Virginia, and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to put officers in close proximity to southern communities. After 1940, the board focused exclusively on southern education.

Founded by John D. Rockefeller Jr. in 1923 for “the promotion and advancement of education throughout the world,” the IEB granted fellowships to hundreds of individuals and made grants to institutions in thirty-nine countries. Its main fields of interest were science and agriculture, with some appropriations made in the humanities and social sciences. The main period of activity was from 1923 to 1928. The IEB concluded its work in 1938.

This semi-autonomous adjunct of the University of Chicago grew out of John D. Rockefeller Jr.’s interest in the work of Near East scholar Dr. James H. Breasted. JDR Jr. founded the institute in 1919 and provided support for its new headquarters, opened in 1931, which contained laboratories, galleries, libraries, and offices. Overseeing a wide-ranging program of excavations, research, and publications, the Oriental Institute became a leading center for the study of ancient history and languages.

The Rockefeller Archive Center was established in 1974 as a repository for the papers of members of the Rockefeller family, along with the records of the organizations they have helped to create. Joining family members as founding partners were The Rockefeller University, the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. Family archivist Joseph W. Ernst served as the center’s founding director, with Rockefeller Foundation archivist William Hess as associate director. Located in Hillcrest, a home built in Sleepy Hollow, New York, for Martha Baird Rockefeller (the widow of John D. Rockefeller Jr.), the Archive Center serves academic researchers, donor organizations, and other practitioners in philanthropy. The center also hosts workshops and conferences to foster research and to disseminate the findings of its resident and visiting scholars. Collections of papers from scientists, family associates, and program officers have increased the center’s holdings since its inception. In the mid-1980s, the center received the records of the Russell Sage Foundation and the Commonwealth Fund, and it is continuing to add the records of other foundations to its holdings. The center serves more than 300 on-site researchers and handles thousands of online inquiries each year.
A public school class in Cleveland, Ohio, uses the radio for a music lesson in 1939. It was involved in a study to assess the instructional value of radio in the classroom. The project was funded by the General Education Board and conducted by Ohio State University and the Progressive Education Association. (PHOTOGRAPH FROM THE GEB NY OFFICE)
The Rockefellers did not establish Spelman College, but the school’s history is inextricably intertwined with Rockefeller philanthropy. It was founded in 1881 as the Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary to offer practical training for African-American girls and women. In 1884, John D. Rockefeller Sr. and his wife, Laura Spelman Rockefeller, gave the school financial support, allowing it to remain dedicated to women’s education. The school was renamed to honor the Spelman family, and over the next century, Rockefellers and their philanthropies provided significant support. Their gifts built the school’s administration building, as well as several others on campus. Family members served as trustees into the 1990s, making Spelman the institution with which the Rockefeller family has had the longest continuing relationship.

In 1943, Dr. Frederick P. Patterson, president of Tuskegee University, proposed the idea of a joint fund-raising operation to build financial support for African-American colleges. Organized in 1944, the UNCF grew to embrace more than three dozen fully accredited private historically black colleges, all but one of them in the South. The General Education Board and John D. Rockefeller Jr. were early supporters. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund and other family members have also provided support.

John D. Rockefeller Sr. founded the university in 1890, working through the American Baptist Education Society. His support for the institution in its formative years – totaling $35 million between 1889 and 1910 – advanced the ambitious vision of the university’s first president, William Rainey Harper. Various Rockefeller philanthropies have funded projects at the university over the past century.
A gathering at the home of Baron and Baroness Fujita in Osaka, Japan. Members of the family toured Asia in 1921 on their way to Beijing for the opening of the Peking Union Medical College.
David Rockefeller’s interest in Latin America began shortly after World War II, initially through the Chase National Bank and his brother Nelson’s organizations IBEC and AIA. In 1965, alarmed by the statist emphasis of the Alliance for Progress, he joined with other prominent businessmen to create the Council on Latin America to promote free-market ideas and to lobby the U.S. government for their implementation. At about the same time, Rockefeller led the effort to establish the Center for Inter-American Relations in New York City. With financial assistance from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the center opened in 1969; its mission was to promote public awareness of the richness and diversity of Latin American culture and art, and to provide a venue at which to entertain visiting Latin American public- and private-sector leaders. The two organizations were reorganized and integrated in the early 1980s under the names the Americas Society and the Council of the Americas. The council played a prominent role in the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement in 1993, and it continues to advocate for free trade throughout the hemisphere. The society has developed renowned arts and literature programs and serves as a meeting place for hemispheric leaders.

Founded by John D. Rockefeller 3rd in 1956, the society is dedicated to helping Americans grasp the values, achievements, and points of view of the majority of the human race that lives in Asia. The society publishes books, reports, and catalogs spanning a range of topics in contemporary affairs, education, and the visual arts. Its broad program includes several area and country councils and a center in Washington, D.C.; seminars and meetings on cultural, economic, and political issues; and a lively schedule of art exhibitions at its museum space in the society’s New York City headquarters.

The year 1963 saw the creation of the Asian Cultural Program of the JDR 3rd Fund. Following the death of John D. Rockefeller 3rd, it was incorporated in 1980 as a publicly supported operating foundation. The ACC’s sole mission is to support cultural exchange between the U.S. and Asia, mostly in the
visual and performing arts and in the form of individual fellowships. The ACC and the predecessor program of the JDR 3rd Fund have provided assistance to more than six thousand Asian and American grantees in the arts and humanities since 1963. Some grants are awarded for projects of particular significance to Asian-American cultural relations, and for regional exchanges within Asia. The council’s funding derives from endowment income and individual contributions, as well as support from foundations, government agencies, and corporations.

The idea for the institution originated from a story John D. Rockefeller Jr. heard in the early 1920s about a Chinese student at Columbia University whose reply to a casual greeting was unusually effusive. It turned out that he had been in the U.S. for three weeks and had not been greeted by anyone. JDR Jr.’s response was to establish International House as a means to overcome the loneliness of foreign students in New York City and as a venue for cross-cultural exchange. By 1924, International House had its own building on Riverside Drive, constructed expressly to house students of all races and nations. Each year, it welcomes seven hundred members from a hundred countries.

Founded in 1907 to help interested New Yorkers meet and learn about the Japanese, the society began to grow into a significant bi-national institution in 1952. John D. Rockefeller 3rd played a major role in its revitalization. The society conducts more than a hundred seminars and conferences at its New York City headquarters annually; hosts exhibitions of Japanese art; publishes information on Japan and produces translations of Japanese literature; circulates film, TV, and radio programs; provides orientation for American business people engaged with Japan; promotes intellectual and artistic exchanges; and maintains a specialized library and information service. These activities further the society’s overarching goal: “the cultivation of a constructive, resonant, and dynamic relationship between the people of the U.S. and Japan.”

When Philippines president Ramon Magsaysay was killed in an airplane crash in 1957, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund established the Ramon Magsaysay awards program, with a $500,000 gift. Starting in 1958, the awards have served as a “living memorial” to Magsaysay by acknowledging individuals and organizations that exemplified his “greatness of spirit, integrity, and devotion to freedom.” The awards, widely seen as the “Nobel Prize of Asia,” are given annually for achievement in government service, public service, community leadership, peace and international understanding, journalism, and emergent leadership. Since 1958, more than two hundred and sixty individuals and sixteen organizations have been honored.

An anonymous donor established the trust in 1984 as a private grant-making organization dedicated to improved communication, closer cooperation, and greater respect between the people of the U.S., the Soviet Union, and other countries.
of eastern and central Europe. It continues to make grants to nonprofit organizations that conduct international cultural and environmental exchanges in partnership with institutions and individuals in Russia and eastern Europe.

David Rockefeller established the Trilateral Commission largely to “invite the Japanese into the international community,” as he explained in his Memoirs (2002). The “non-governmental, policy-oriented discussion group” was designed to bring together business and policy-making leaders from “the three centers of democratic capitalism” – North America, Europe, and Japan – “to bridge national differences,” promote understanding, and reflect the changing dynamics of world affairs. Zbigniew Brzezinski helped organize the group and served as its first director. Over the years, the membership and the number of countries represented in the regional groups of North America, Europe, and Pacific Asia have expanded, but the commission’s major work continues to be the work of task forces, teams of authors who study particular issues and report their findings at regional and annual meetings before their publication.
The Rockefeller Sanitary Commission for the Eradication of Hookworm Disease worked in the southern U.S. from 1909 to 1914. This photo shows a dispensary in Lincoln County, North Carolina.
One of the most important cancer treatment and research centers in the world, MSKCC is located on land in New York City that John D. Rockefeller Jr. donated to the hospital’s precursor institution in the 1930s. John D. Rockefeller Jr. supported cancer research at Memorial Hospital, and beginning in the 1920s, Rockefeller money and leadership became instrumental in the growth of the institution. Between 1927 and 1936, John D. Rockefeller Jr. contributed $60,000 a year for research and established six clinical fellowships. The General Education Board provided $3 million in 1936 to construct a new facility, with additional funds for research and teaching. Laurance S. Rockefeller was elected to the board of managers of Memorial Hospital in 1947, and as president, beginning in 1950, he played an important role in coordinating its work with that of the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, whose board he joined in 1949. This effort led, in 1960, to the creation of Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center as the parent body to govern and support the two institutions’ programs. As chairman of the center (1960–1982), Laurance Rockefeller worked closely with Alfred P. Sloan and Eugene Kettering to undertake the construction program that, when completed in 1976, gave MSKCC the world’s most modern facilities for cancer research, treatment, and personnel training. He helped launch a new capital campaign in 1985 and subsequently endowed a chair in integrative medicine. The Rockefeller family remains active on the center’s board into the twenty-first century.

John D. Rockefeller established the commission in 1909 “to bring about a cooperative movement for the medical profession, public health officials, boards of trade, churches, schools, the press, and other agencies for the cure and prevention of hookworm disease.” From its Washington, D.C., offices, the commission furnished the initial impetus for the public-health campaign against hookworm. It provided states with information about the disease, its treatment, and its prevention, and it sponsored public-education programs and treatment. Its property and records were transferred after its closure, in 1914, to the Rockefeller Foundation, where the International Health Board succeeded the commission and expanded its efforts abroad.

Originally opened in 1901 as The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, it grew out of concerns on the part of philanthropic advisor Frederick T. Gates and John D. Rockefeller Sr. about the inadequacy of scientific research into the cause and cure of diseases. Medicine, a report at the time argued, “can hardly hope to become a science until it can be endowed and qualified men enabled to give themselves to uninterrupted study and investigation, on ample salary, entirely independent of practice.” The Rockefeller Institute’s multifarious projects were combined in 1906, on a unified campus at York Avenue between Sixty-fourth and Sixty-eighth streets in Manhattan. John D. Rockefeller Jr. and David Rockefeller took a special interest in the institute. The latter joined its board of trustees in 1940 and, as chairman, oversaw the transformation into The Rockefeller University. Awarding its first Ph.D. degrees in 1959, the university has since counted twenty-three Nobel laureates among its faculty of scientists.
The post office and Moose Store at Menor’s Ferry near Jackson Hole, Wyoming, circa 1947. The Chapel of the Transfiguration is in the background. (PHOTOGRAPH BY CRANDALL STUDIOS)
Created in 1916 out of land on Mount Desert Island, Maine, and a part of the adjacent mainland, Acadia was the first eastern national park, and the first to be created solely from gifts of land by private citizens to the government. John D. Rockefeller Jr. was closely associated with its formation, and he participated actively in its development. He donated thousands of acres and provided funds for roads, bridges, buildings, restoration, and landscaping.

Established in 1958 by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., the ACA was designed to carry on educational, research, and citizen-action activities beyond the preserve’s capabilities. The ACA has supplied financing and leadership support for initiatives to protect the park, refuge, forest, and recreation resources of the U.S. Its efforts to educate the public and build support have been seminal to the establishment of important environmental and conservation organizations.

Peggy McGrath Rockefeller was instrumental in creating this organization, in 1980, “to stop the loss of productive farmland and to promote farming practices that lead to a healthy environment.” The trust helped pioneer the use of conservation easements to protect localities throughout the U.S. from inappropriate residential and commercial development.

A vest-pocket park was opened in 1971 in midtown Manhattan, at Fifty-first Street between Second and Third avenues, by Mrs. Jean Mauzé, the founder of the Greenacre Foundation, for the benefit of the people of New York City, in the “hope that they will find moments of serenity in this busy world.” Mrs. Mauzé, the former Abby Rockefeller, dedicated the park to her brother Laurance and to his longtime associate, Allston Boyer, in recognition of their assistance to its creation.

The original purposes of JHPI were to restore, protect, and preserve primitive grandeur and natural beauty for the benefit of the public; to provide for the protection, feeding, and propagation of wild game; and to maintain the historic and scientific features of picturesque areas. Since its founding in 1940 by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his son Laurance, JHPI has given more than 33,000 acres of land for national parks in the Grand Tetons, Wyoming; the Virgin Islands; and New York State. It has built visitor facilities in these areas and contributed to their maintenance. In 1958, it established the American Conservation Association to carry on activities that were beyond its own capabilities.
Conservation and the environment have been enduring concerns for members of the Rockefeller family for decades. In 1927 John D. Rockefeller Jr. began acquiring land in the Jackson Hole region that he later transferred to the national park system.
The Laurance S. Rockefeller Preserve, an 1,100-acre parcel on the shores of Phelps Lake, Wyoming, opened in June 2008 as an expansion of Grand Teton National Park. The property, which Laurance Rockefeller had pledged to the National Park Service in 2000, and which was deeded to the government in 2007, had been his family retreat, the former JY Ranch. With funding from his estate, buildings were removed, and the land was restored to its natural state; new trails were constructed and a visitor center built. The preserve reflects Laurance Rockefeller’s commitment to conservation, education, land stewardship, and public access to areas of natural beauty.

Peggy McGrath Rockefeller helped to establish the MCHT, which has been helping to preserve coastal and other lands distinctive to Maine since the 1970s. The pioneering use of “conservation easements,” as well as land donation and bargain sales, have been instruments for the MCHT in protecting more than 130,000 acres in Maine, including the entirety of two hundred and seventy-five coastal islands.

In 1992, Laurance S. and Mary French Rockefeller, a granddaughter of Frederick Marsh Billings, donated Mary’s ancestral home in Woodstock, Vermont, and five hundred and fifty surrounding acres to the federal government to establish Vermont’s first national park. The Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park focuses on the history of conservation and land stewardship in America. It interprets the conservation contributions of George Perkins Marsh, Frederick and Julia Billings, Mary Billings French, and Mary French and Laurance S. Rockefeller.

Since 1983, more than 1,000 acres of the Rockefeller family estate near Sleepy Hollow, New York, have been donated to the state of New York for public use. The park contains wetlands, woodlands, meadows, fields, and a lake. Carriage paths make it ideal for strolling, jogging, cross-country skiing, and horseback riding.

The center was established by David Rockefeller and his daughter, Peggy Dulany, in honor of his wife and her mother, Margaret “Peggy” McGrath Rockefeller (1915–1996), whose interests included raising cattle and preserving American farmland. Situated on eighty acres near the family’s estate in Pocantico Hills, New York, the nonprofit farm and educational organization demonstrates, teaches, and promotes sustainable, community-based food production.

A stop on St. John during a cruise through the U.S. Virgin Islands in the early 1950s inspired Laurance S. Rockefeller’s efforts to create a national park on the island. Using mostly his own funds and working through the nonprofit Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., Laurance Rockefeller acquired 5,000 acres of property on St. John. The land was turned over to the government to create the park, which was dedicated on December 1, 1956. Other private properties within park boundaries were subsequently purchased and donated to the National Park Service. Laurance Rockefeller also ceded to JHPI the small St. John resort of Caneel Bay Plantation, which he had purchased and renovated. Designed to accommodate park visitors and inspire an appreciation of nature, the Caneel Bay resort became a model of environmentally respectful development, with all proceeds from the resort earmarked for conservation purposes.
Religion

Rockefeller Hall at the Reverend A. C. Bacon’s Baptist Indian University in Muskogee Indian Territory, 1889. Between 1883 and 1891, John D. Rockefeller’s ledger books show that he gave $12,359.30 to the school, much of it to finance construction of this building. (PHOTOGRAPH BY J. F. STANDFORD)
John D. Rockefeller Sr. channeled much of his charitable giving in the late nineteenth century through the Baptist church, using such organizations as the American Baptist Home Mission Society and the American Baptist Education Society to help build churches and schools nationwide. Between 1879 and 1903, he gave the Home Mission Society more than $600,000 for churches and mission work. He also gave to about eighty institutions of other denominations. In addition to the University of Chicago and Spelman College, he provided nearly $540,000 to thirty-two other Baptist colleges and universities through the ABES in the 1890s.

The Rockefellers had long been regular attendees and supporters of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church and, after 1922, the Park Avenue Baptist Church, predecessors to the Riverside Church, which became the institutional manifestation of the ecumenical movement that John D. Rockefeller Jr. encouraged and supported. He was a trustee (1929–1949) and a leading intellectual and financial force in the church’s development from a Baptist church into an interdenominational center serving worshippers of all faiths. He persuaded Harry Emerson Fosdick to lead the church, bought the land for the new building, and served as chairman of the building committee. In honor of his mother, he funded the church’s four-hundred-foot tower with the enhanced carillon from the Park Avenue Baptist Church. The new church on Riverside Drive opened in 1930, serving since then as a both a national forum and a local parish. JDR Jr. financed the addition of a new wing in 1955. His total gifts to the church are estimated at more than $32 million.

Supporting religious work in the communities in which they live has been a long-standing Rockefeller family practice, and the small Pocantico Hills, New York, community surrounding the Kykuit estate is no exception. As early as 1901, John D. Rockefeller Sr. made annual contributions to the then-new Pocantico Hills Society for Christian Work, which was formally reorganized as the nondenominational Union Church in 1915. Rockefeller donated the land for the church site in

1922. His son, John D. Rockefeller Jr., financed the church tower and the carillon in honor of his mother; he also provided land for the parsonage in 1939. The Rockefeller family commissioned major artists to create stained-glass windows for the church. Henri Matisse designed a rose window in honor of Abby Aldrich Rockefeller. Marc Chagall created nine windows, including the Good Samaritan window to honor John D. Rockefeller Jr. The Union Church is an active congregation, and its tours to view the windows are available to the public through Historic Hudson Valley.
Wrapping bandages for the Red Cross during World War I. John D. Rockefeller 3rd (wearing cap with cross) and his sister, Babs (hatless), stand directly in front of their grandfather. (PHOTOGRAPH BY UNDERWOOD AND UNDERWOOD)
The Bureau of Social Hygiene was incorporated by John D. Rockefeller Jr., in 1913, as a result of his service on a grand jury in 1910 to investigate white slavery in New York City. Its purpose was “the study, amelioration, and prevention of those social conditions, crimes, and diseases which adversely affect the well-being of society, with special reference to prostitution and the evils associated therewith.” A grant-making agency focusing on research and education, the bureau, which lacked an endowment, received backing from the Rockefeller Foundation, the Spelman Fund of New York, the New York Foundation, and individuals such as Paul Warburg and John D. Rockefeller Jr., the main contributor. Between 1911 and 1928, its targets were prostitution, vice, narcotics, and police corruption. After 1928, it shifted emphasis to criminology, crime reporting, juvenile delinquency, and social hygiene, along with narcotics. It ceased making new appropriations in 1934. Annual meetings were held until the bureau’s formal dissolution in 1940.

This national Native American foundation, based in New York City, developed from the philanthropic work of Ann Rockefeller Roberts. Founded in 1990, the fund sought to promote constructive social change at the grassroots level by supporting programs focusing on environment and environmental justice, social justice, and Native Americans. After Ingrid Washinawatok El-Issa became its program director, in 1992, the fund gave increasing attention to indigenous communities throughout the western hemisphere. The fund’s leaders began to consider a foundation led by Native Americans, operating according to their values. In 1999, the Fund of the Four Directions, governed by a Native American board and directed by El-Issa, realized that idea. El-Issa was killed by Colombian revolutionaries that same year. The fund never fully recovered from the loss of her leadership and soon ceased operations.

In the 1920s, John D. Rockefeller Jr. began what would become a $10 million experimental investment in housing. He believed that decent, affordable housing for people of modest means could be built at a profit of 6 percent, and hoped that other developers would follow suit. Many of his projects were conceived by Andrew J. Thomas, whose work popularized the garden-apartment design. In Manhattan, they built the Lavoisier Apartments at Sixty-seventh and Sixty-eighth streets, east of Park Avenue, and apartment buildings along York Avenue. They also built the Thomas Garden Apartments in the Bronx, the Paul Laurence Dunbar Apartments in Harlem, the Van Tassel Apartments in North Tarrytown, New York, and apartments in Bayonne, New Jersey. Forest Hill Estates, on part of the family’s estate in Cleveland, Ohio, was intended for a more prosperous clientele. The Great Depression caused some of the projects to be abandoned or modified. Rockefellers returned to housing in the 1950s and 1960s, when Nelson A. Rockefeller’s International Basic Economy Corporation established the IBEC Housing Corporation to build low-cost, prefabricated concrete homes in Virginia, Iraq, Peru, and Chile.
The Population Council, with funds from the Rockefeller Foundation, trained young Korean women in the mid-1960s to produce intrauterine contraceptive devices for distribution in Korea.
Formed in October 1918 by John D. Rockefeller Sr. and named for his late wife, the LSRM operated from JDR Jr.’s office with a fluid program until 1922, when Beardsley Ruml was named director and developed a long-range program with special interests in child study, education, public health, race relations, religion, social studies, and social welfare. In 1929, the LSRM was folded into the Rockefeller Foundation and made a final grant of $10 million to the Spelman Fund of New York to continue to administer still-active grants.

Supporting the national and local branches of the Urban League is a Rockefeller family tradition. The National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes was formed in 1911 to provide social services to African-Americans moving from the South to northern industrial cities. The following year, John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his father provided further support. The Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial provided support in the 1920s, along with JDR Jr.; during the 1930s, his sons became supporters, as did the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in the 1940s. In 1952, a gift from Winthrop Rockefeller enabled the Urban League to acquire a new building for its national headquarters.

In the early twentieth century, when scientists and crusaders such as Margaret Sanger began their work on population, John D. Rockefeller Jr. and later his son John D. Rockefeller 3rd became interested in maternal health, family planning, birth-control laws, and reproduction research. By 1934, JDR 3rd had taken up the subject as one of his major concerns. In 1952, he created the Population Council “to stimulate, encourage, promote, conduct, and support significant activities in the broad field of population.” He served until 1978 as the council’s chairman. In the 1960s, JDR 3rd actively promoted family planning and became a widely known advocate for population control worldwide.

“It seems imperative that every effort should be made to encourage competent civilians to enter Federal service as a career and to stimulate the sustained interest, growth, and development of those already in service,” wrote John D. Rockefeller 3rd in 1951. The next year, he established the Rockefeller Public Service Award, administered by the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University, to provide sabbatical support for government employees to pursue additional training. The program helped build support for the Government Employees Training Act, which was passed in 1958. The program continued in different forms until the bestowal of the last award in 1980, not long after JDR 3rd’s death.

The Spelman Fund of New York was incorporated on December 27, 1928, with a grant of $10 million from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial, which was being merged with the Rockefeller Foundation. The Fund was intended for “charitable, scientific and educational purposes, including the advancement and diffusion of knowledge concerning child life, the improvement of inter-racial relations, and cooperation with public agencies.” It completed administration of LSRM grants, but its main focus was on public administration and intergovernmental relations. Programs were designed to improve technical knowledge and experience, and to discover new methods of organization within the public sector. The fund was ultimately dissolved in 1949.