

Thomas d'Aquino and Susan Peterson d'Aquino - Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser

Arts and culture have been the principal focus of Tom and Susan's decades-long fundraising and philanthropy in Ottawa and across the country. Tom's support of the National Gallery of Canada spanned a quarter of a century, to include 18 years as chair of its Foundation – he is now chair emeritus. He has served on the boards of the Confederation Centre of the Arts in Charlottetown and the National Music Centre in Calgary. Susan has served on the boards of the National Arts Centre Foundation, the Banff Centre for the Arts, and the Glenn Gould Foundation. She as well attracts support for the National Gallery's collection of prints and drawings as co-chair of its "Friends of the Print Room". Together they are keen supporters of Ottawa's chamber music festivals: Chamberfest and Music and Beyond.

As well, they have for many years actively supported their neighbourhood – Tom was the founding president of the Rockcliffe Park Foundation which raises funds to support activities in the community and Susan has long served on the board of the community association, with a focus on protecting its heritage.

With a professional life in business and the law, Tom was for many years the founding chief executive officer of the Business Council of Canada (formerly known as the Canadian Council of Chief Executives). Susan was a senior executive in the public service of Canada, serving two prime ministers and five successive ministers of finance, before returning to her first love – culture – when she served as associate deputy minister of Canadian Heritage.