USC Roski School of Fine Arts Announces
Robert A. Day Professorship in Fine Arts

USC honors noted philanthropist by establishing endowed named professorship at the oldest art school on the west coast.

LOS ANGELES—The University of Southern California has announced the establishment of the Robert A. Day Professorship in the USC Roski School of Fine Arts, which supports the teaching and practice of transformational fine arts faculty at USC.

Robert A. Day, a noted philanthropist, community leader and arts patron, is Chairman and President of the W. M. Keck Foundation. The endowment of the Robert A. Day Professorship in the USC Roski School of Fine Arts honors Mr. Day’s ongoing support for USC. The professorship highlights the importance of the arts in developing intellectual curiosity, creative thought, and cultural appreciation at the university level, and supports the critical role of fine arts faculty in serving as cultivators and champions of artistic passion, rigorous experimentation, and freedom of expression.

"USC established this endowed professorship to honor Mr. Day’s stellar philanthropic legacy, not only at the university, but throughout southern California and the world," said USC President C. L. Max Nikias. "Not only has Mr. Day supported dramatic discoveries and developments in medical research, teaching, and patient care, but he has long been a passionate supporter of the arts. This professorship will stand in permanent testament to that support, as well as his understanding of the central role the arts play in our society."

“The Keck Foundation and its Chairman, Robert Day, have long been esteemed members of our university community through their generous support of transformational research and scholarship with consequence,” said USC Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Elizabeth Garrett. “By recognizing Mr.
Day's commitment to our institution through this professorship in fine arts, we underscore the importance of creative expression in the search for truth and in striving for human wholeness."

“In addition to acknowledging Mr. Day’s longtime advocacy for USC, this endowed professorship celebrates the faculty at the USC Roski School, who in addition to their own acclaimed professional careers, are dedicated teachers, encouraging and mentoring future generations of artists and art world leaders,” said Rochelle Steiner, Dean of the USC Roski School. “It will help ensure we continue to attract and recruit additional faculty as we build the USC Roski School into one of the premier art schools in the country.”

The USC Roski School of Fine Arts, the oldest art school on the west coast, is recognized for quality of its faculty and the success of its alumni, including many talented artists who have emerged in the last decade such as Amanda Ross-Ho MFA ’06, Elad Lassry MFA ’07, and Diana Molson MFA ’09. The Robert A. Day Professorship in the USC Roski School of Fine Arts extends this tradition and serves as a lasting reminder of Day’s contributions to USC.

For more information about the Robert A. Day Professorship or about the USC Roski School of Fine Arts, visit http://roski.usc.edu.

About the USC Roski School of Fine Arts
First organized in 1883, the USC Roski School of Fine Arts provides a supportive environment for experimentation in visual art of all media. The school encourages interdisciplinary, progressive approaches to studio art, design, curatorial practice, and critical studies. With equal emphasis on making and thinking, the USC Roski School prepares artists, designers, curators, and writers to contribute in new and meaningful ways both to their fields and to society at large.

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