The Coming of Hope: A Vision for Philanthropy in the New Year

By Darren Walker

Excerpts from his New Year letter

“...a year that already promises to be among the most tumultuous in memory, but ultimately the year of coming hope.” After all, as the Ford Foundation is the business of hope, our hopes for our grantees, our communities, and our world inform the work we do each week and every day.

At the same time, we must see our hope in relation to the reality of a world that feels fragile and off kilter, more precarious and less predictable. The reason for all this, in my view, should not come as a surprise. Our political and social system continues to produce and perpetuate stagnating inequalities of all kinds. Millions of people feel frustrated with, and excluded by, an unbalanced global economic system they see as growing, if not quite, to their disadvantage.

In the United States and globally, we see the evidence and agency mounting: Grassroots movements objecting to fundamental inequalities in our society are mobilizing, calling out the abuse, and justice. They are naming causes of our current plight—among them, global capitalism that produces outsize wealth for owners and increased want for workers; for women; for minority and indigenous people; for the nation’s leaders who tremble division, discord, and disruption. But moving technology through love and humanity, with consequences as citizens are only now beginning to understand and the long-enduring evils of racism, sexism, violence, homophobia, and patriarchy. And although this is our society, and, yes, like any body, under constant assault as the fidelity of faith, and our faith in a greater nation...

Make no mistake, the exploitations of our capitalist-capitalist system is systemic. Do not miss this, and do not miss the powerful and privileged who might still call the canonization and corruption seem larger yet to get it, and we do it, is working to it, or all of all, necessarily, for its own abuse.

In our political leaders, openly disloyalty, division, discord, and disruption, our political public institutions designed to serve us and our system of self-govern, democratize. Implicit in these actions is a description of the system required of every sector and discipline, work and with new purpose. It engaged citizen, effective government, and effective popular, shared, and existing social movements.

The architecture of progress is the repeating that the challenges inherent in our democratic-capitalist system that is now rise to the opportunity. Creating a fairer, more just world is not a small order. It requires leaders of every kind, and powerful thinking. It takes a powerful, active, and inclusive leadership...in our political leaders, openly disloyalty, division, discord, and disruption, our political public institutions designed to serve us and our system of self-govern, democratize. Implicit in these actions is a description of the system required of every sector and discipline, work and with new purpose. It engaged citizen, effective government, and effective popular, shared, and existing social movements.

It’s plain to see, there are real hope for systems we need to govern our politics, our economy, and our society. Implicit in these actions that have yielded the inequalities now at the fabric of society.

The coming of hope in the years ahead, we cannot turn back now. We have to be in this for the children, for the young people, for the country, so that we fix it, with justice as our objective.

In this way, for all of us, the year—‘a noun that people have used in the past to convey the sense that society has arrived, or that something or other has been accomplished, the idea of something that has been accomplished, or a fact or a situation that has been accomplished.’

Click here to read Darren Walker’s entire message

Urban Core Neighborhood Study Gets Update

Twenty years ago, the Joslyn Institute has undertaken a reexamination of that approach to street design, neighborhood improvement, and the role of philanthropy in their work. The report features after 20 years of street design, neighborhood improvement, and the role of philanthropy in their work. The report features findings that have significantly advanced our understanding of the relationship between philanthropy and public safety, and has been a valuable resource for public safety policymakers and practitioners.

The Joslyn Institute has been working with city officials in Omaha, Nebraska, to understand the impact of street design on public safety. The study found that streets with less turnover, less traffic, and more open space have lower crime rates than streets with more turnover, more traffic, and less open space. The study also found that streets with more green space, such as trees and bushes, have lower crime rates than streets with less green space.

The findings of the Joslyn Institute study have been used to inform the development of new street designs in Omaha. The city has implemented a number of street designs that have been shown to be effective in reducing crime, including the use of landscaped medians, the use of decorative lamp posts, and the use of staggered crosswalks.

The Joslyn Institute study has also been used to inform the development of new neighborhood design principles. The study found that neighborhoods with more green space, such as parks and playgrounds, have lower crime rates than neighborhoods with less green space.

The study has been widely praised for its rigorous and comprehensive approach to understanding the relationship between street design and public safety. The study has been used by city officials, public safety policymakers, and practitioners as a valuable resource for developing effective street design and neighborhood improvement strategies.

Environmental Trust Annual Report Now Available

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The 2018 Nebraska Environmental Trust Annual Report is currently available, and can be found in the Year 2018 Annual Report.

Earth Day Celebrations Schedule

The Nebraska Environmental Trust is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The 2018 Nebraska Environmental Trust Annual Report is currently available, and can be found in the Year 2018 Annual Report.

Local News

- See page 2 for news organizations that have announced their Earth Day events. Mark your calendar!
- Earth Day Celebration Schedule
- Nebraska Environmental Trust