



# Dreams Do Come True

THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE EDUCATION ANNOUNCES TELESKO'S \$2 MILLION DONATION

**P**alm Beach residents **Susan and Dom Telesco** are making education and cultural dreams come true with a \$2 million gift to the **Center for Creative Education (CCE)**.

The funding is earmarked for CCE's new campus, housing the nonprofit's headquarters along with classrooms, student enrichment spaces, community gathering spaces and **The Foundations School**. The Telesco's donation will fund the **Susan and Dom Telesco Arts and Science Center** — a separate and adjacent building on The Foundations School campus for students to create and learn, and for the community to gather for meetings, performances, exhibitions and more.

"Our intention for this building is that the community can use it for the art gallery, performance theater and makerspaces, a place for hands-on learning with tools for creativity, while our students will have access to exceptional programming in digital literacy, technology and science-based projects," said **Robert L. Hamon**, CCE President and CEO. "The Susan and Dom Telesco Arts and Science Center will be a wonderful addition for our elementary school students to expand their knowledge in STEAM learning and for the community to access exciting and affordable cultural activities."

CCE broke ground on its new site at 2400 Metrocentre Blvd. in West Palm Beach in November 2021 and completion of the main building at The Foundations School is scheduled to be ready to welcome elementary school students this fall. The new Susan and Dom Telesco Arts and Science Center is targeted for completion in 2023 — opening as a 22,000-square-foot separate building with visual and media arts studios, including a Mac lab; a 200-seat theater; an art gallery and new makerspaces.

"We strongly believe that the Center for Creative Education is deeply committed to providing a full educational program in order to help underserved children receive a better chance to prepare for their future lives," said **Susan Telesco**. "We love supporting CCE because they believe that arts integration, an approach to teaching that engages



Susan and Dom Telesco

students in the creative process to learn academic subjects such as math, science and language arts, is the best way for students to learn and retain important information. This teaching method advances students' understanding of both the art form and the academic subject. In addition, CCE's vision of a space where the community could find accessible cultural enrichment is so important to us. We are excited to be a part of a solution for issues that are facing our community."

Founded in 1994, CCE was created after community leaders and the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County became concerned about public school budget reductions in arts programming. CCE now provides multiple instructional interventions including an in-house afterschool program focused on technology and media arts; a countywide afterschool program focused on

arts integration; summer programs; professional development for teachers; contracted services to private schools; Art for Literacy, a countywide in-school arts integration program; and its newest initiative, The Foundations School.

Officially opened as CCE's newest education initiative in January 2021, The Foundations School is specifically designed to support those students who, based on test scores, will not be successful without substantial support; who are behind academically; attending poorly performing schools; and may be living with challenging economic circumstances and other threats to their success.

According to Hamon, CCE launched a \$20 million capital campaign to complete the construction of its new site. The Telesco's gift joins that of fellow Palm Beachers, **Irene and Jim Karp**, who are serving as Honorary Chairs of the campaign. The Telesco's \$2 million brings the total funding raised to date to just over \$9 million, including donations from the **Cornelia T. Bailey Foundation**, **Dan Catalfumo of Catalfumo Construction**, **the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**, **the Jasteka Foundation** and the sale of CCE's current location at 425 24th Street in Northwood Village.

As part of its approach, The Foundations School uses small class sizes, flexible grouping, arts integration, and highly qualified and dedicated educators. A low student-to-teacher ratio and a sense of community in the classroom ensure opportunities to customize learning activities to match students' learning styles and academic goals. Targeted for students in underserved communities, the independent school uses a sliding scale fee and tuition is determined based upon need. While every family contributes something, no one will ever be unable to attend due to a financial barrier.

To learn more about enrolling in The Foundations School, visit [cceflorida.org](http://cceflorida.org) or call **Dr. Kevin Kovacs** at 561.805.9927, ext. 118. To learn more about general CCE programming or to make a tax-deductible contribution to the Center for Creative Education, a 501(c)(3) call **Jonathon Ortiz-Smykla** at 561.805.9927, ext. 106.