



## **Judith Rodin Thanks Darren Walker for an Extraordinary Eight Years of Service**

March 16, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

As we discussed at our all-staff meeting earlier today, after eight wonderful years at the Rockefeller Foundation, Darren Walker has decided to pursue a new opportunity at the Ford Foundation. In his role as Ford's Vice President of Education, Creativity and Free Expression, Darren will be responsible for grant making in education, arts and culture, media, religion, and reproductive health and rights.

When Darren informed me that he had been approached about this opportunity, he said he felt now was the right time for him to take on a new career challenge after eight years here – given the strong and talented team that we have at the Rockefeller Foundation, the positive momentum that has built across the organization, and his own desire to follow a core passion. I fully understand and support Darren's desire to assume this role and know this was not an easy decision for him to make.

Rockefeller is a family and Darren will be greatly missed by all of us. But I know that we are all proud of what he has achieved as part of the deep and talented team we have built here. I also appreciate that opportunities often beckon for talented leaders from dynamic and successful organizations that are committed to developing their people, and I imagine that none of you will be surprised that the Ford Foundation has recognized the great things that Darren and all of you have accomplished together.

Darren's commitment to all of us – and the great work we do at Rockefeller – is unwavering and he will remain in his current position through April 30 to ensure a smooth and orderly transition process. In fact, Darren has already begun meeting with Peter, Zia and me to discuss the transition process, and we will be working with you and our entire leadership team over the next six weeks to solicit your ideas and ensure a seamless transition.

I feel lucky to have counted Darren as a friend and partner through the last five years – and I know that our friendship will develop and grow in the years to come. He has been an integral member of the leadership team which, together, charted a new course for the Rockefeller Foundation as one of the most innovative and impactful organizations in philanthropy today – with more than \$300 million in active grants across the globe. That team has helped craft our strategic vision and instill a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach across the Foundation, and Darren has been a key part of its success. He also has helped us to integrate our U.S. and international work to reflect the reality of globalization, and provided critical support to our efforts to forge new partnerships and alliances that have amplified the impact of the Foundation’s work.

Darren and I have often discussed the importance of leadership at every level of the Foundation, and I see all of you as important members of the Rockefeller team. We are a strong, resilient institution filled with talented, passionate people committed to making a difference in the world. I could not be more proud of all of you and the important role you continue to play in building on the Foundation’s long legacy of helping poor and vulnerable communities. And, as we look towards our centennial—just three short years away—I am confident that we will enter our 100th year with new achievements and breakthroughs that will honor the Foundation’s glorious past while embracing the future with energy and determination.

Over the next six weeks, we will have many opportunities to celebrate Darren. More on that in due course, but for now, I know that you join me today in wishing Darren every success on the next stage of his remarkable career.

With appreciation to Darren and all of you,

Judy