Patricia Phelps de Cisneros

For more than four decades, Patricia Phelps de Cisneros has fervently supported education and the arts, with a particular focus on Latin America. In the 1970s, along with her husband, Gustavo A. Cisneros, she founded the New York City and Caracas-based Fundación Cisneros. Its mission is to improve education throughout Latin America and to foster global awareness of the region’s heritage and many contributions to world culture.

The Colección Patricia Phelps de Cisneros (CPPC), the primary art-related program of the Fundación Cisneros, has been a critical component of Patty Cisneros' efforts to enhance appreciation of the diversity, sophistication, and range of art from Latin America. It does so by promoting scholarship of Latin American art, excellence in visual arts education, and a high level of expertise among Latin American art professionals. Additionally, the CPPC works to preserve and study the material culture of the Hispanic world, ranging from the ethnographic to contemporary art. CPPC activities include exhibitions, loans, publications, support for scholarly research, and artistic production.

Patricia Phelps de Cisneros supports a wide range of cultural institutions in the Americas and Europe. Since 1992, she has been a Trustee of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, (MoMA), and is a Founding Member and Chair of MoMA’s Latin American and Caribbean Fund. She is a member of the Harvard University Art Museums Visiting Committee; a Founding Patron of CIMAM, the International Committee of ICOM for Museums and Collections of Modern Art; an active member of the Latin American Acquisitions Committee of Tate, London; the American Friends of the Fondation Beyeler; and she is a Founding Patron of the Fundación Museo Reina Sofia, Madrid, among others.

In recognition for her work to strengthen and promote education and the arts in Latin America, Patricia Phelps de Cisneros has received numerous awards which include, among others: the Great Cross of the Civil Order of Alfonso X the Wise, Spain; the Leone d’Oro di San Marco, Venice; the Cross of the Legion of Honor, Republic of France; the Americas Society’s Gold Medal; the Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney Award for Outstanding Patronage of the Arts, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Maine; the Iris Foundation Award, Bard Graduate Center: Decorative Arts, Design History, Material Culture, New York; and an Honoris Causa Degree in Fine Arts, from her alma mater Wheaton College, Massachusetts.

Lydia Davis

Lydia Davis, currently professor and Writer-in-Residence at the University at Albany, SUNY is an acclaimed fiction writer and translator. She is famous in literary circles for her extremely brief and brilliantly inventive short stories. In fall 2003 Lydia Davis received one of 25 MacArthur Foundation “Genius” awards. In granting the award the MacArthur Foundation praised Davis’s work for showing “how language itself can entertain, how all that what one word says, and leaves unsaid, can hold a reader’s interest. . . . Davis grants readers a glimpse of life’s previously invisible details, revealing new sources of philosophical insights and beauty.”

Her most recent collection, “Varieties of Disturbance” (May 2007), was featured on the front cover of the “Los Angeles Times Book Review” and garnered a starred review from “Publishers Weekly.” Her
“Samuel Johnson Is Indignant” (2001) was praised by “Elle” magazine for its “Highly intelligent, wildly entertaining stories, bound by visionary, philosophical, comic prose—part Gertrude Stein, part Simone Weil, and pure Lydia Davis.”

Lydia Davis is also a celebrated translator of French literature into English. The French government named her a Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters for her fiction and her distinguished translations of works by Maurice Blanchot, Pierre Jean Jouve, Michel Butor and others.

Professor Davis recently published a new translation (the first in more than 80 years) of Marcel Proust’s masterpiece, “Swann’s Way” (2003), the first volume of Proust’s “In Search of Lost Time.” A story of childhood and sexual jealousy set in fin de siècle France, “Swann’s Way” is widely regarded as one of the most important literary works of the 20th century.

The “Sunday Telegraph” (London) called the new translation “A triumph [that] will bring this inexhaustible artwork to new audiences throughout the English-speaking world.” Writing for the “Irish Times,” Frank Wynne said, “What soars in this new version is the simplicity of language and fidelity to the cambers of Proust’s prose… Davis’ translation is magnificent, precise.”


Grace Paley wrote of “Almost No Memory” that Lydia Davis is the kind of writer who “makes you say, ‘Oh, at last!’—brains, language, energy, a playfulness with form, and what appears to be a generous nature.” The collection was chosen as one of the “25 Favorite Books of 1997” by the “Voice Literary Supplement” and one of the “100 Best Books of 1997” by the “Los Angeles Times.”

Lydia Davis first received serious critical attention for her collection of stories, “Break It Down,” which was selected as a finalist for the PEN/Hemingway Award. The book’s positive critical reception helped Davis win a prestigious Whiting Writer’s Award in 1988.

**Ai-jen Poo**

Ai-jen Poo is the Director of the National Domestic Workers Alliance (NDWA) and Co-director of Caring Across Generations. NDWA is the leading organization working to build power, respect, and fair labor standards for the 2.5 million nannies, housekeepers and elderly caregivers in the U.S. She began organizing immigrant women workers in 1996 as the Women Workers Project organizer at CAAAV Organizing Asian Communities in New York City. In 2000, she co-founded Domestic Workers United (DWU), a city-wide, multiracial organization of domestic workers. DWU led the way to the passage of the nation’s first Domestic Workers Bill of Rights in 2010, historic legislation that extends basic labor protections to over 200,000 domestic workers in New York State. DWU helped to organize the first national meeting of domestic worker organizations at the US Social Forum in 2007, which resulted in the formation of the National Domestic Workers Alliance. She has been NDWA’s director since April 2010. In 2011, Ai-jen Poo helped launch Caring Across Generations, a movement to build a caring majority committed to allowing people to mature with dignity, security and independence. Ai-jen Poo serves on
Ai-jen Poo is a 2014 MacArthur Foundation fellow, a 2013 World Economic Forum Young Global Leader, and was named to TIME’s list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2012. Among her early accolades are the 2000 Open Society Institute New York City Community Fellowship, the Ford Foundation Leadership for a Changing World Award, the Ernest de Maio Award from Labor Research Association, the Woman of Vision Award from Ms. Foundation for Women, Crain's "40 Under 40" list, and New York Moves Magazine "Power Women" Award. Other fellowships include the Alston Bannerman Fellowship for Organizers of Color, the Twink Frey Visiting Scholar Fellowship at University of Michigan Center for the Education of Women, and the Prime Movers Fellowship. In 2010, Feminist Press recognized her in their "40 Under 40" awards. In honor of the 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day, Ai-jen Poo was recognized by Women Deliver as one of 100 women internationally who are "delivering" for other women. In 2011, she received Independent Sector’s American Express NGen Leadership Award. In 2012, Ai-jen Poo was named in Newsweek’s 150 Fearless Women list.