

# DENVER ART MUSEUM

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## **Dr. Lewis I. Sharp** **Frederick and Jan Mayer Director, Denver Art Museum**

Lewis Sharp's visionary leadership of the Denver Art Museum has built the Museum and the city into a hub for arts and culture. During his 20-year tenure, he played an important role in helping Denver become the vibrant cultural landscape it is today. Upon retirement in December 2009, he leaves behind a legacy as one of the city's most accomplished cultural leaders and a tireless advocate for artists and the arts.

Prior to leading the DAM, Sharp served for 17 years at the venerable Metropolitan Museum of Art, his last eight as curator and administrator for the American Wing. Sharp received his Ph.D. from the University of Delaware, and has published numerous works on American art.

Under his directorship, the DAM moved decisively to develop a national agenda, which included refining and augmenting the Museum's collections, and initiating one of the nation's most innovative and renowned museum education programs. In 1993 and 1997, Sharp led the Museum through major renovations of the North Building, including several new galleries, an education center and special exhibition spaces.

In addition to revitalizing museum spaces, Sharp focused his efforts on expanding the Museum's reach in the community by developing strong relationships that extended far beyond business. Those relationships have helped the DAM grow its endowment, expand its collections and build community support for the institution and its programs. His ability to create relationships has also supported regional cultural goals by advocating for increased public art including support for Denver's Percent-for-Art Program and the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District—a voter-approved special district that provides funding for cultural organizations of all sizes.

Most recently, Sharp envisioned and realized the completion of the Frederic C. Hamilton Building, which nearly doubled the size of the current museum complex. Spearheading this expansion project, Sharp worked with world-renowned architect Daniel Libeskind to design the new building with expanded permanent gallery and exhibition space.

In December 2009, Sharp will step down from being director of the DAM and into his new role of maintaining the family's orange groves in Ventura, Calif., with his wife, Susan.

