Winner: Derek A. Price

Sponsor: The McCord Museum

Sensitive to Montréal's cultural issues and a history buff, visionary philanthropist Derek Price headed up the rejuvenation of the McCord Museum, playing a decisive role in the museum’s expansion and reopening in 1992. His vision at the time of a modern history museum at the cutting edge of technology (with 11 museum storerooms that meet international standards) was a fulcrum of change that placed the McCord Museum firmly within an international network of renowned museums, allowing it to acquire national treasures and receive a higher rating from the Canadian Cultural Property Export Review Board, important assets in the development of collections.

Preferring to work behind the scenes, Derek Price is a discreet and little-known patron. Both a collector and a manager, his strength lies in his incredible powers of persuasion. Thanks to his involvement, the McCord Museum, which celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2011, has become important to the life of Montréal and a major museum. Derek Price still plays a strategic role on the museum's board of directors with regard to the development of collections, restructuring of governance and fundraising.

A firm believer that Montréal deserves a major world-class historical institution — like other great cities of the world — Derek Price is the man behind the McCord Museum as we know it today. In 1986-1987, he took up the torch with government authorities and the Montréal philanthropic community to keep the McCord Museum collections in Montréal, which were at risk of being disbanded and dispersed outside the city. His participation in creating an independent organization, separate from McGill University, the museum’s birthplace, was critical. In addition to mobilizing a large number of political, economic and university donors, he convinced one of the main philanthropic families in Montréal to get involved in this ambitious project. Without his vision and determination, the McCord Museum would not exist today.

President of the Temple Grove Foundation, Derek Price has also served as president of Montreal Standard Publishing Co., president and editor of the Montreal Star, president of the Montreal General Hospital Foundation, and director of Wainoco Oil Corporation, the Multiple Sclerosis Scientific Research Foundation and the McGill University Health Centre Foundation. Mr. Price has also played an active role on the board of directors of the Orford Arts Centre and Princeton University. In 2007, Derek Price was named a member of the Order of Canada (C.M.) for his philanthropic pursuits, in particular as the former president and CEO of one of the largest philanthropic organizations in Canada, the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation.