



News Release

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DORIS DUKE FOUNDATION FOR ISLAMIC ART, HONOLULU ACADEMY OF ARTS ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP

The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art and the Honolulu Academy of Arts today announced the formation of a partnership to create educational programs related to Shangri La, the Diamond Head home of heiress and philanthropist Doris Duke (1912 – 1993).

Under the partnership agreement, the Academy will serve as a “staging center” to coordinate small group visits to Shangri La, the Islamic-style residence built by Duke in the late 1930s. The home contains architectural features from throughout the Islamic world and an extensive collection of Islamic art including tilework, painted ceilings, carved doors and marble screens, textiles, ceramics and paintings.

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The Foundation plans to open Shangri La to the general public for educational programs and field studies in late 2002.

“Shangri La is a unique historical and cultural resource,” said Deborah Pope, executive director of Shangri La. “The house, the Islamic art and architecture, the water features, gardens and spectacular views of the ocean and Diamond Head all evoke a powerful sense of place. Shangri La was Doris Duke’s retreat, sanctuary and home. By partnering with the Academy, we can reach a larger public audience with educational programs and exhibitions at the Academy, while preserving Shangri La’s special qualities. Doris Duke was a visionary in building Shangri La, collecting Islamic art and donating it to the public. Especially in the context of recent events, we are grateful to have this extraordinary resource for building understanding of Islam and the beauty, diversity and complexity of Islamic art and culture.”

“Doris Duke loved Hawaii and Shangri La, and wanted her home and collections to be open to scholars, students and the public. Now we can fulfill her wish. I know she would be pleased by this plan,” said Joan E. Spero, president of the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art.

Duke inherited a large fortune from her father, James Buchanan Duke, industrialist and benefactor of Duke University. In her will, she mandated the creation of the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art to manage Shangri La and to “promote the

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study and understanding of Middle Eastern art and culture.” The will also directs that Shangri La be open to the public and shared with scholars and students.

In conjunction with the partnership, the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art has awarded the Academy a \$3 million grant to support art programs and educational activities at the Academy that focus on Islamic and Hawaiian art and culture. The Academy will use a portion of the grant to create and install a new Gallery of Islamic Art that will feature aspects of Duke’s collection and serve as a staging center for visitors to Shangri La. The Academy will also create multi-disciplinary programs related to Shangri La; renovate the existing 300-seat theatre, which will be re-named in honor of Duke; and establish an endowment to support Islamic and Hawaiian programs that complement activities at Shangri La.

“Recent events have generated a strong desire in our community to learn more about Islamic culture and art,” noted George Ellis, executive director of the Honolulu Academy of Arts. “We are fortunate to have access to one of the most extensive collections of Islamic art in the United States, and look forward to working with Shangri La to share Ms. Duke’s rare treasures with the public.

“This partnership greatly strengthens our mandate to provide comprehensive programs and activities that reflect the rich cultural heritage of Hawaii’s people,” said Ellis. He added that the grant will also create new jobs and strengthen the state’s visitor industry infrastructure.

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Founded in 1927, the Honolulu Academy of Arts is Hawaii's only general arts museum. Founder Anna Rice Cooke, the Hawaii-born daughter of New England missionaries, supplied the Academy with its first 4,500 works of art. Today, the Academy's collection totals more than 34,000 pieces and is internationally recognized for its quality and diversity.

“This partnership with the Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art brings together the visions of two remarkable women: Anna Rice Cooke and Doris Duke,” explained Sam Cooke, chairman of the Academy's board of directors. “With this partnership, we can continue our mission to promote better understanding and appreciation of art and culture in the community. In recent years, we've received substantial financial support from local foundations. However, to be awarded a \$3 million grant from a Mainland foundation speaks to the reputation this museum has developed outside of Hawaii.”

Added Cooke: “Anna Rice Cooke felt strongly that art builds bridges between people and cultures throughout the world, creating mutual respect and understanding, which is more vital now than ever before.”

The Doris Duke Foundation for Islamic Art is supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, a nonprofit philanthropic organization created in 1996 in accordance with the will of Doris Duke. The Foundation also supports two other

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operating foundations in managing her properties and their use: the Duke Farms Foundation in Hillsborough, New Jersey, and the Newport Restoration Foundation in Newport, Rhode Island.

Duke distributed nearly \$400 million in current dollars, often anonymously, to various charitable causes throughout her life. When she died at the age of 80, Duke left her fortune and properties to the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. Her will proposes that the Foundation support a variety of charitable interests, including the performing arts, environmental conservation, medical research and child abuse prevention.

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation began its grant-making in December 1997. As of December 2000, the Foundation has awarded 214 grants and committed nearly \$236 million in program, planning, capital and endowment funding to nonprofit organizations throughout the United States. The Foundation's current assets total approximately \$1.5 billion. Additional information is available on the Foundation's Web site at www.ddcf.org.

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