

## **DR. WILLIAM P. and MARY ANN FOSTER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES TWO PHOTOGRAPH PORTRAITS ADDED TO SMITHSONIAN NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY**

November 13, 2017

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The Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation (Foster Foundation) is pleased to announce that the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery added two photograph portraits of Dr. William P. Foster to its collection.

These new acquisitions were possible thanks to the generosity of The William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation, Anthony F. Foster, son of Dr. William P. and Mrs. Mary Ann Foster, and will join more than 22,000 other works in the Portrait Gallery's collection; they represent the thousands of people who have made a significant impact on the history and culture of America.

"It is a pleasure and an honor to have the two portraits of my father added to the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery," said Anthony Foster. "These photographs will enable the Smithsonian to share Dr. Foster's remarkable story with the public."

Bio of Dr. William P. Foster is attached, and available at the Foster Foundation's website at [www.drwpfosterfoundation.org](http://www.drwpfosterfoundation.org).

### **About the Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation**

The Dr. William P. and Mary Ann Foster Foundation (Foster Foundation) promotes increased awareness of the life, career, values and legacy of Dr. William P. Foster and his contribution in creating the legendary incomparable Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University's (FAMU) Marching 100 Band. He is known as the Maestro, the Law and the Legend. Through his creation, the Marching 100 became the brand of FAMU. The Foster Foundation promotes the ideals, values, commitment to music education and historical legacy of Dr. Foster and further promotes greater civic engagement and recognition of integrity in the public arena. It financially supports students who participate in the Marching 100 Band and others. The Foster Foundation supports permanent and changing exhibits designed to promote historical literacy, conferences, educational outreach and other programs, both scholarly and popular.

### **About the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery**

Experience portraiture beyond the frame. Our collections present people of remarkable character and achievement. These Americans—artists, politicians, scientists, inventors, activists, and performers—form our national identity. They help us understand who we are and remind us of what we can aspire to be. Get to know us at the National Portrait Gallery.

The mission of the National Portrait Gallery is to tell the story of America by portraying the people who shape the nation's history, development and culture.

The National Portrait Gallery was authorized and founded by Congress in 1962 with the mission to acquire and display portraits of "men and women who have made significant contributions to the history, development, and culture of the people of the United States." Today, the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery continues to narrate the multi-faceted and ever-changing story of America through the individuals who have shaped its culture. Through the visual arts, performing arts, and new media, the Portrait Gallery presents poets and presidents, visionaries and villains, actors and activists whose lives form our national identity.

As the nation's only complete collection of presidential portraits outside the White House, the "America's Presidents" exhibition lies at the heart of the Portrait Gallery's mission to tell the country's history through the individuals who have shaped it. Gilbert Stuart's "Lansdowne" painting of George Washington is the grand introductory image to this exhibition. In 2000, the Portrait Gallery was in danger of losing this painting—which had been on loan since the museum's opening in 1968—when its owner decided to sell it. A generous gift from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation allowed the "Lansdowne" painting to be purchased as a gift to the nation. "America's Presidents" continues to acquire portraits—including paintings, sculpture, photographs, caricatures, video, and time-based media—of each succeeding president.

Over the years the collections, which were initially restricted to paintings, prints, drawings, and engravings, have grown to over 23,000 items in all media, from daguerreotypes to digital. In the late 1990s, the Portrait Gallery began commissioning portraits of presidents, beginning with George H. W. Bush. In 2006, the Portrait Gallery hosted the first Outwin Boochever Portrait Competition, now a prestigious triennial event, which also brings commissioned works into the collection. The 2013 winner was Bo Gehring, whose close-up video and sound portrait of jazz musician Esperanza Spalding draws delight and praise from visitors.

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