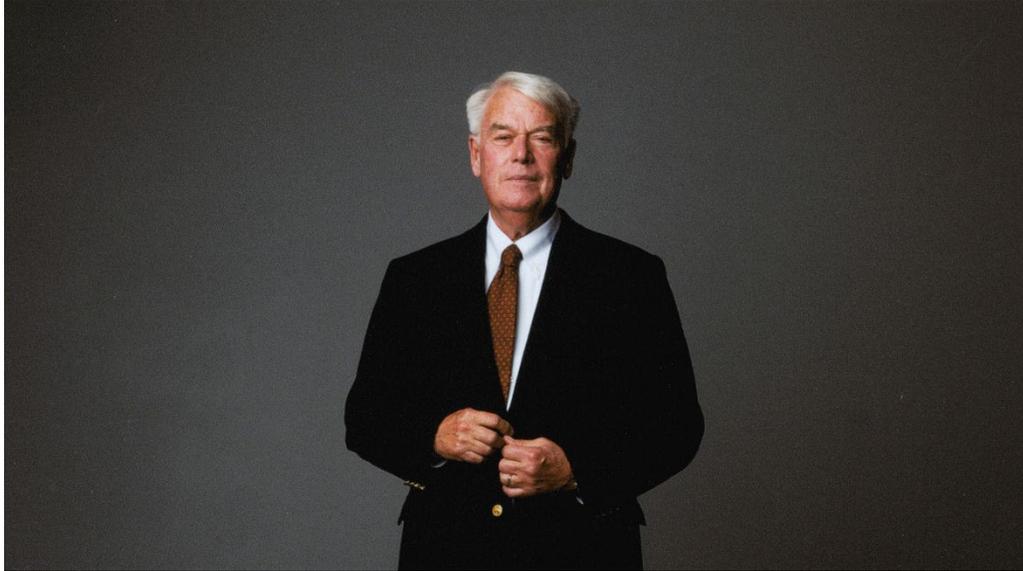


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## **Bowers Museum Family Mourns Loss of 31 Years' President and CEO, Dr. Peter C. Keller**



**November 10, 2022 (Santa Ana, California)** After over three decades of leadership, it is with the greatest sadness that the Bowers Museum family announces the passing of President and CEO Dr. Peter C. Keller. Those who knew him well understood that, in many ways, his final day was an ideal one for him - putting in a full day of work in preparation for the opening of an exceptional exhibition that he was very proud of, *Guo Pei: Art of Couture*, followed by dinner with his wife.

***“With his leadership and experience, we have brought amazing exhibits from all around the world to Orange County.”***

**– Anne Shih, Bowers Museum Chairwoman of the Board of Governors**

### **About Dr. Peter C. Keller**

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Dr. Keller was born in 1947 in Allentown, Pennsylvania, and earned a B.A in Geology from George Washington University and his M.A. and PH.D. in Geology from the University of Texas at Austin where he specialized in the Geology of northern Mexico.

Prior to joining the Bowers, Dr. Keller was the Director of Education at the Gemological Institute of America, the largest educational institution for gemology in the world. Dr. Keller also spent nearly a decade at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, where he was Curator of Mineralogy and later Associate Director for Public Programs. He joined the Bowers Museum in 1991.

## Dr. Keller's Legacy

Since his arrival, Dr. Keller has overseen two major building expansions and lifted the Museum to a world-class internationally celebrated institution, focused on presenting fine art and culture from around the world. Alongside Chairwoman of the Board of Governors, Anne Shih, Dr. Keller brought in over fifty critically acclaimed exhibitions such as *Secrets of the Silk Road*, *Terra Cotta Warriors*, and *Mummies: Treasures from the British Museum*. They have also forged major partnerships with some of the greatest museums throughout the world, including the British Museum, the Palace Museums in Beijing and Taiwan, the Museo del Oro in Bogotá, Colombia, and many others.



Spring 2021 not only marked the reopening of the Museum after a year of closure due to the pandemic, but also the 30-year anniversary of Dr. Peter C. Keller's Presidency. The Museum celebrated the anniversary in June that year with the reveal of a new name above the Bowers Museum entrance, honoring Dr. Keller.

Dr. Peter Keller reacted that "After such a difficult year for the Bowers staff, our loyal visitors, and our global community, I'm humbled to look back at the 30 years that led us to the unified family we are today. In a lot of ways, we came out of the pandemic stronger than we've ever been."

Dr. Keller immensely enjoyed traveling and there aren't many places he hasn't been. In a 2021 interview, local philanthropist and honorary board member Dee Dee Anderson shared her memory of riding camels with Dr. Keller in the Sahara Desert; and Ed Roski Jr., a Bowers honorary board member, recalled one of their trips as members of The Explorers Club, journeying up the Sepik River in Papua New Guinea "on a raft made of two dugout canoes and a tarp cover, exploring untouched villages as far as we could go." Dr. Keller has traveled to China with Anne Shih more than 100 times in the last 25 years. In 2022 he fulfilled a bucket-list adventure when he travelled with Ed Roski and his wife Signe to the South Pole.



Dr. Peter C. Keller is survived by his wife, children, and grandchildren. He will be privately buried in his hometown and plans for a celebration of life are forthcoming. In lieu of flowers, Dr. Keller's family asks that donations be made to the Bowers Museum at [www.bowers.org/donate](http://www.bowers.org/donate). These funds will be used to continue his legacy and grow his favorite permanent collection exhibition *Spirits & Headhunters: Art of the Pacific Islands*. Images can be [found here](#).

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