



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 7, 2026

**PHILANTHROPIC NAMING REQUEST FOR THE
CHARLES FORRESTER GALLERY**

REQUEST:

Approval of the philanthropic naming of a gallery space within the Charles Hardcastle Kentucky Building as the Charles Forrester Gallery in recognition of a gift from the Forrester family.

FACTS:

Charles Howard Forrester (1928–2003) was WKU’s first sculpture professor, and he taught in the Department of Art from 1965-1992. He was instrumental in designing a sculpture facility that included a state-of-the-art metal casting foundry in the Ivan Wilson Fine Arts Center.

Forrester was a distinguished international sculptor whose style centered on Abstract Realism. Working primarily in metal, concrete and wood, Forrester created works that expressed his evolving love of the human form, sly humor and engineering feats. Throughout his career, he produced more than 550 sculptures with his work exhibited and placed in public and private collections internationally. His artistic vision and craftsmanship contributed meaningfully to the canon of American art.

This naming is presented in recognition of the Forrester family’s generous support and to honor Charles Forrester’s artistic legacy and lasting contributions to the cultural and educational mission of WKU.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

The Kentucky Museum will cover cost of signage.

RECOMMENDATION:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends the approval of the philanthropic naming of a gallery space within the Charles Hardcastle Kentucky Building as the Charles Forrester Gallery.

MOTION:

Approval of the philanthropic naming request for a space within the Charles Hardcastle Kentucky Building as Charles Forrester Gallery.