




Message from the Chairman of the Board of Trustees Ronald W. Drucker, CE'62

It never occurred to me way back in 1957 when I arrived at the Great Hall of The Cooper Union to take my entrance exam that this was the beginning of a lifelong commitment to this prestigious college. For me, the legacy of Peter Cooper's vision transformed the dream of higher education and the career path that follows into a reality. In 1998, having maintained an active relationship with my alma mater, I was elected to the Cooper Union Board of Trustees and in late 2004, it became my privilege and honor to support Cooper Union as chairman.

Throughout the years, all of us who are committed to Cooper Union have been justifiably proud that the institution has maintained its tradition of academic excellence, its uncompromising selectivity and its awarding of full-tuition scholarships to all students accepted into its architecture, art and engineering degree programs. These distinctions—along with the college's egalitarian ethos—remain the core of the Cooper Union experience. Time, technology and a rapidly evolving global economy, however, have impelled us toward bold changes which will insure the future of our exemplary academic programs and secure the long-term financial foundation of the college.

Under the leadership of President George Campbell Jr., with the support of an expanded and strengthened Board of Trustees, the last two years have seen enormous and energetic progress in implementing the college's master plan, which will preserve the future of this great American and New York institution.

There is now a new, income-producing building on Astor Place, designed by renowned architect and Cooper Union trustee, Charles Gwathmey. In 2007, we broke ground for a new academic building, technologically, environmentally and pedagogically advanced. Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Thom Mayne of Morphosis with associate architects Gruzen Samton LLP, this will be the first green academic laboratory building in New York City built to LEED Gold standards. It will house the Albert Nerken School of Engineering, the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and it will provide studios and other space for use by the School of Art and the Irwin S. Chanin School of Architecture.



Peter Cooper's great landmark—the Foundation Building—which has stood proudly for almost 150 years, will be renovated to adapt the interior for modern use. Similarly, the new academic building is being designed for flexibility to accommodate changes in technology and uses throughout the coming decades.

The final property to be developed for sustained income will be 51 Astor Place. When the new academic building is complete, the site of the existing engineering building will be leased long-term for development of another revenue-producing property for Cooper Union.

These developments have several important and intertwined purposes: to ensure that Cooper Union remains the leading provider of education that it is; that it remains an inspiring intellectual touchstone for its students, faculty, alumni and the larger community; and that it continues to graduate the exceptional architects, artists and engineers who will shape science, art, technology and culture throughout the 21st century.

