FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 22, 2014

DIRECTOR OF THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION PRESENTS A CASE FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE IN A PROSPEROUS SOCIETY

Dr. Dorothy Kosinski discusses issues facing museums and other cultural institutions and illuminates the benefits such organizations provide.

Washington, DC—On January 27, Dorothy Kosinski, director of The Phillips Collection, will present a case for the importance of culture in a prosperous society. The discussion will be based on a paper of the same title, authored by Dr. Kosinski as part of her Legatum Institute Global Fellowship.

Throughout history, culture has been at the root of flourishing societies, fostering creative capital, economic opportunities, and educational advancement, as well as serving as a moral force for expression, citizenship, and democratic values. Yet the humanities are now on the defensive as decision-makers on both sides of the Atlantic reassess global competitiveness and education policies. Dr. Kosinski’s paper discusses why the humanities should be center in the conversation about creating solutions to 21st century policy challenges. Furthermore, she posits, culture remains vital for driving growth and innovation—even in a down economy. She offers critical prognosis for the future of museums, which comes at a pivotal point in the debate over the relevance of such institutions in today’s society.

“The Legatum Institute is committed to exploring the roots of prosperity through interdisciplinary studies,” says Alanna Putze, Senior Programme Director at the Legatum Institute. “Arts and culture can profoundly impact societies with long lasting effect, and should therefore be examined as much as economic and political structures. Dorothy Kosinski’s fellowship paper provides valuable insight into how the humanities contribute to flourishing societies and why they remain vital in preparing for the future.”

Dr. Kosinski’s decades of leadership in the museum field make her uniquely qualified to weigh in on the relevance and resonance of culture. Under her direction, The Phillips Collection has expanded its global outreach initiatives, including major international tours of its collection and the launch of the International Forum program. She has trained as an art historian and has served as curator and in leadership capacities at major cultural institutions, both in the US and Europe. She is the author of books and exhibition catalogues on 19th-, 20th-, and 21st-century art. And in August 2013, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Council on the Humanities. She currently serves on the boards of the Association of Art Museum Directors and the Musée Rodin, Paris.

Media Contacts:
The Phillips Collection
Sarah Schaffer, 202-387-2151 x243
sschaffer@phillipscollection.org
Elizabeth Lubben, 202-387-2151 x235
elubben@phillipscollection.org

Legatum Institute
Shazia Ejaz, +44 (0) 207 148 5422
+44 7501 490 034
shazia.ejaz@li.com

Online Press Room
www.phillipscollection.org/press
The January 27 presentation takes place at The Phillips Collection, and is hosted, in partnership with the Legatum Institute. Dr. Kosinski is joined by Dr. Steven Knapp, President of the George Washington University, and Jeffrey Brown, Chief Correspondent for Arts, Culture, and Society for PBS, moderates the discussion. Attendance is by invitation only.


**ABOUT THE PHILLIPS COLLECTION**

The Phillips Collection is one of the world’s most distinguished collections of Impressionist and Modern American and European art. Stressing the continuity between art of the past and present, it offers a strikingly original and experimental approach to Modern art by combining works of different nationalities and periods in displays that change frequently. The setting is similarly unconventional, featuring small rooms, a domestic scale, and a personal atmosphere. Artists represented in the collection include Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Vincent van Gogh, Edgar Degas, Henri Matisse, Pierre Bonnard, Paul Cézanne, Pablo Picasso, Paul Klee, Claude Monet, Honoré Daumier, Georgia O’Keefe, Arthur Dove, Mark Rothko, Milton Avery, Jacob Lawrence, and Richard Diebenkorn, among others. The Phillips Collection, America’s first museum of modern art, has an active collecting program and regularly organizes acclaimed special exhibitions, many of which travel internationally. The Intersections series features projects by contemporary artists, responding to art and spaces in the museum. The Phillips also produces award-winning education programs for K–12 teachers and students, as well as for adults. The museum’s Center for the Study of Modern Art explores new ways of thinking about art and the nature of creativity, through artist visits and lectures, and provides a forum for scholars through courses, postdoctoral fellowships, and internships. Since 1941, the museum has hosted Sunday Concerts in its wood-paneled Music Room. The Phillips Collection is a private, non-government museum, supported primarily by donations.

**ABOUT THE LEGATUM INSTITUTE**

The Legatum Institute (LI) is a non-partisan public policy think tank whose research, publications, and events advance ideas and policies in support of free and prosperous societies around the world.

**ABOUT THE LEGATUM PROSPERITY INDEX™**

The *Legatum Prosperity Index™* is a unique global assessment of national prosperity based on both wealth and wellbeing. In its 6th year, the Index assesses 142 countries, representing more than 96% of the world’s population and 99% of the world’s GDP. Using rigorous research and in-depth analysis, the Index ranks countries based on their performance in eight sub-indices: Economy; Education; Entrepreneurship & Opportunity; Governance; Health; Personal Freedom; Safety & Security; and Social Capital.

###