

## FOREWORD

I am honored to introduce the second issue of *Philanthropia*, which invites you to read across disciplines and traditions of inquiry. It challenges you to make judgments about matters both empirical and normative as philanthropy's roles in our world are analyzed, expressed, and reimagined, in contexts both contemporary and historical, and with reference to philosophers, artists, and poets. It is what we expect from an endeavor rooted in the humanities that helps us cultivate a discerning capacity to make judgments and craft insights. It embraces an expansive understanding of the voluntary will, where knowledge is bound to remain contingent and provisional, dependent on imaginative as much as systematic approaches.

You have before you a kaleidoscope of insights and provocations to enrich your thoughts and deliberations on philanthropy. And wonderfully so. Too many conversations in my everyday in the university begin with the deadening qualifier, “as a (insert your discipline) I see the matter in a particular way.” Despite the widespread conviction that insights and discoveries are bound to come from the combination of disciplines and from puzzles that reside at their interstices or through grand aggregations of methods, we continue to reproduce our knowledge in the iron cages of disciplines. This is where *Philanthropia* works against the grain, embracing the challenges and joys of traversing disciplines and stretching one's judgment beyond the confines of one's scholarly training. I may not know much about a particular field of inquiry, but I think I should approach it through the many ways I have learned to discover as a human, only one of which is the likely narrow training that certified me in a particular discipline.

Still, in a narrow, more technical sense of justifying knowledge claims, you should at least know how to make the case for the location of your tradition of inquiry and how it relates to other traditions that also seek to understand philanthropy. In a more expansive and imaginative sense, you should embrace the generosity implicit in the possibility of sharing discovery – for what are our traditions of inquiry but rule-based communities. I find it exhilarating to join a community of discovery that challenges and invites you to cast your judgement beyond what is already known. How else does knowledge advance?

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