



Humanity Rising: Notre-Dame Cathedral Reborn

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The world held its collective breath on April 15, 2019 when the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the iconic Notre-Dame Cathedral, was engulfed in flames. Although it suffered severe, devastating damage, the core of the historic structure—one of the if not the world’s greatest examples of Gothic architecture—survived. French President Emmanuel Macron not only challenged the people of the French Republic, but people the world over to rebuild with the ambitious and remarkable goal of completing the initial restoration and rebuild by 2024.

Dr. Carla Knorowski, a member of the board of directors of the Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris (FoND), the official fundraising foundation abroad for Notre-Dame Cathedral has played an integral in the raising funds for its rebuild and restoration. Knorowski has served on the FoND board since prior to the fire and has successfully led many efforts to raise funds to restore the Cathedral to its former glory. At the height of the pandemic, Knorowski engaged cellist Yo-Yo Ma, filmmaker Ken Burns, actress Glenn Close and others of note to participate in a virtual gala benefitting the Cathedral. The event raised approximately \$500,000. For her efforts among many others, she was recently named to the rank of “Officer” in the French Republic’s National Order of Merit—an honor bestowed upon her by the General Assembly of France and President Emmanuel Macron.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Knorowski has served as a managing director of the Chicago Humanities Festival, CEO of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation, President of the U.S. Naval War College Foundation and currently as President and CEO of Thirteen-Fifty Philanthropy, LLC. In addition to her service on the FoND board, she also serves on the board of directors of the Pritzker Military Museum and Library in Chicago. She is a three-time graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago earning her Ph.D. in Public Policy in 2000. She holds a certificate from Harvard University’s Graduate School of Education’s Management Development Program.

In her presentation, *Humanity Rising: Notre-Dame Cathedral Reborn*, Dr. Knorowski will share some rarely seen photographs of the Cathedral during its post-fire renovation and provide an exclusive update on its renovation and rebuild.

