



Office of the President

October 31, 2016

Subcommittee on Honorary Degrees
Academic Senate

Dear Subcommittee Members,

I am writing to nominate Saul Kupferberg to be a recipient of an honorary degree at Queens College. Mr. Kupferberg has been an active participant in the family business at Kepco Incorporated, a company founded by his father Max Kupferberg (graduate of Queens College's original class of 1941 and on whose honor the Kupferberg Center is named). Mr. Saul Kupferberg previously served as Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Kepco.

Mr. Kupferberg has been a longstanding member of the Queens College Foundation, and now serves as its Secretary. He is the current Chair and a founding member of the Kupferberg Center for the Arts Advisory Board. His work on the board has expanded funding for Queens College student internships in the arts as well as created opportunities for our students at cultural locations to participate not only in internships but to exhibit their works of art in places like Flushing Town Hall, Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning and the Langston Hughes Library among others. Through his leadership, our students have also received performance and teaching opportunities in parks, libraries and other community based organizations through curatorial efforts of the board's campus and community committee.

Through Mr. Kupferberg's generous service and commitment as Chair of the Arts Advisory Board, and as an advocate of the activities of the Kupferberg Center, the Center has been able to find new ways to better serve Queens College students and on-campus stakeholders while continuing to be the borough's largest multi-cultural arts venue hosting over 300,000 people each year. Support for the College has also increased as a result of being able to leverage the Kupferberg family gifts to secure additional government and private support aimed at strengthening the academic, cultural, and professional lives of Queens College students.

Mr. Kupferberg has served on numerous boards to advance the common good including the board of the Queens Botanical Gardens. His professional accomplishments coupled with his deep commitment to enriching the lives of those who live in Queens County and/or study at Queens College, make him an especially worthy candidate for this award. His nomination clearly falls within the guidelines of a recipient to be "honored for making a significant contribution to the mission of the College." As someone who has achieved the highest levels of success in his profession, has generously supported the College philanthropically, and has been a great contributor to help advance Queens College's mission, I recommend him with the highest enthusiasm.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Matos', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez, Ph.D.
President

Saul Kupferberg

Biography

Saul Kupferberg rose to Vice President of Sales and Marketing at Kepco Incorporated after having been a part of the company since 1988. While Vice President, he was responsible for all marketing activities and European and Asian sales for this major manufacturer of Instrument Grade DC Power Supplies. Prior to joining Kepco Incorporated, Mr. Kupferberg attended Trinity College, where he earned his degree in Religion and graduated with honors. He then attended Dropsie College from which he graduated with an MA in Ancient History. He is a member of IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers), which is the largest professional association for the advancement of technology.

Mr. Kupferberg is a member of the Queens College Foundation, and a founding member and current Chair of the Kupferberg Center Arts Advisory Board at Queens College. He has been an outstanding supporter of the role of the center to provide enrichment to the academic and professional lives of Queens College students and campus stakeholders. In his role as chair, he has been a driving force behind and a strategic implementer of the cultural vision of the Kupferberg Center in relationship to both Queens County and, in particular, Queens College.

In his capacity as Chair of the Advisory Board he has worked with the Executive Director and AAB Coordinator to establish five working committees focused on: development, marketing, community and campus, academic/internship, and an Executive Committee. Each Committee Chair (and Co-Chair) meet with committee members and develop annual goals for the committee which address activities that impact components of the Cultural Vision Statement. These have included expanding both funding for internships in the arts as well as expanding opportunities for Queens College students to participate in internships at cultural locations. His support has also made possible the exhibitions of work by our visual arts students in places like Flushing Town Hall, Jamaica Center for Arts & Learning and the Langston Hughes Library among others.

Through his leadership on the board, last spring, a major Battle of the Bands took place in the 2100-seat Colden Auditorium which was co-produced by the Queens Library and the Kupferberg Center for the Arts where over 1100 attended. Through his leadership on the Arts Advisory Board, a Student Arts Festival was also launched this fall which resulted in 19 curated works by Queens College and other CUNY students being showcased during homecoming weekend at Queens College.

Fundraising has also increased significantly due to the ability of the College to leverage the Kupferberg family gifts to secure additional government and private support. Saul has also personally made significant financial contributions to the annual Louis Armstrong House Museum Gala, and contributes to other cultural initiatives including the upcoming "Fiddler on the Roof" theatre fundraiser.

Mr. Kupferberg meets regularly with the executive staff of the Kupferberg Center to evaluate strategic initiatives that the Kupferberg funding will support. This has included the purchase of new sound equipment to reduce operational/rental costs for major shows, and also allow Colden rental clients to utilize the sound equipment at reduced rates in comparison to renting from private sound companies. Support also helped with the design of a new logo, the student festival, the annual Louis Armstrong's Wonderful World Festival in Flushing Meadows Corona Park which is the highlight of the Kupferberg Center for the Art's 50+ off-site cultural programs which take place "in the neighborhoods where our students and their families live and work."

With Saul's generous service and commitment as Chair of the Arts Advisory Board, and an advocate of the activities of the Kupferberg Center, The Kupferberg Center is finding new ways to better serve Queens College students and on-campus stakeholders as well as to continue being the borough's largest multi-cultural arts venue hosting over 300,000 people each year.