

## **Anthony P. Hurst**

**Commitment:** Describe the nominee's above and beyond efforts demonstrating their passion and dedication to the community foundation. Include the nominee's length of service.

Anthony P. Hurst is the son of the famous Jackson engineer and businessman, Peter F. Hurst. The story goes that Peter got off the train in Jackson Michigan instead of his intended destination of Chicago at the request of some Jacksonian passengers. They convinced him not only to get off the train, but to start his business in Jackson which would eventually become Aeroquip Corporation founded in 1940. Peter was a young German aeronautical engineer who held the patent rights to manufacture two new products designed for the aviation industry, detachable, reusable hose fittings and self-sealing couplings.

Growing up, his son Tony learned a tremendous amount from his father, including the need to give back and invest in the community. Tony was serving in Vietnam as a pilot (probably in a plane with Aeroquip parts made in Jackson) and was called back to Jackson due to his father's illness. Tragically, Tony was not able to make it back before his father's passing in 1969.

In his will, Peter made both a substantial gift to the Jackson Community Foundation and at the same time, set up the funding to start the Hurst Foundation, a private family foundation. Shortly after, Tony began his service as a Trustee of the Jackson Community Foundation and served from 1969 until 1987, approximately 18 years of service. He was only 25 years old when he first started on the board and the other board members were senior business leaders.

**Leadership:** Describe the nominee's noteworthy contributions demonstrating their vision, initiative, team building, consensus building and other such examples of leadership. Include reference to the nominee's leadership roles as well - trustee, committee chair, etc. - and how they have modeled excellence in those positions.

Some of things that Tony was able to do as a board member were to help broaden the investment philosophy of the Foundation to diversify away from just City Bank to include Comerica Bank and to have a global view of investing. This at the time was a major change for the Foundation and has helped us to grow into the foundation we are today.

Tony's service didn't stop when he was no longer on the board. He continues to show up and be present with people in our community who have ideas and support their work with his foundation's resources. For example, in 1982, he founded the Hot Air Jubilee as an annual community event in Jackson, MI that continues to this day. Because of his early enthusiasm for this sport, thousands of people both near and far have had the opportunity to enjoy and experience the beauty of ballooning and contribute to the economic impact of our community.

**Impact:** Describe how the nominee has made a difference in the community or region. Share specific stories or examples.

When you ask Tony about some of the most memorable grants that the Hurst Foundation has made over the years, it is not the big dollar grants that stand out for him. For 25-30 years he gave \$1,000 a year to the Action on Smoking and Health. Tony asked the rhetorical question, "What difference could giving \$1,000 a year have on the world?" Well, the "trickle of information can take a long time to have an impact" he said, and we now live in a world where smoking is no longer permitted on airplanes and in public buildings. We forget what the world used to be like and could still have been like without visionaries who were willing to act upon their beliefs. In retrospect, he believed in systems change and the long-term investment it takes to see change through decades before it became a popular focus for philanthropy.

One of the most significant impressions in his life came from a visit to Crazy Horse Monument in South Dakota. The profound story and legacy of one man pursuing a promise and a dream inspires Tony to take bold actions. Tony has been making an annual grant of \$5,000 a year for over 30 years. Korczak Ziolkowski started the Crazy Horse Monument as one man knowing that it would take 150 years to complete. They are now 70 years into the work and when completed it will be the world's second largest sculpture. I think Tony not only admired Korczak's audacity, intrepidity, and vision, but also at some level identified with his ability to think long, think big, think impactful, and think meaningfully.

**Creativity:** Describe the nominee's efforts to lead, strengthen or support innovative ideas through their involvement with one or more community foundations. For example, how has the nominee helped to design creative solutions to complex challenges?

In 1992, he launched the Teacher's Fund, a Field of Interest fund at the Jackson Community Foundation to support K-12 teachers in Jackson County. His initial gift of \$220,000 from the Hurst Foundation was made with the purpose to inspire creativity and innovation within our K-12 schools in Jackson County by funding classroom proposals submitted by teachers. An advisory council of public and private teachers, current and retired, were recruited to volunteer to oversee the grantmaking. They are the experts who understand the dynamics of working in a classroom and what it means to be creative and innovative. In the 30 years the Teachers Fund has existed, the endowment has grown to \$445,706.62 and has granted over \$300,000 in grants to Jackson County classroom teachers.

In an effort to strengthen and support the teachers in our community who go above and beyond to inspire and educate our youth, Tony partnered with the Jackson Community Foundation and a local monthly print magazine called Jackson Magazine to put together a Teacher of the Year Award in 2016. Together we developed a nomination process, a rigorous classroom visit and evaluation, and an event to identify and celebrate 4 top teachers and a Teacher of the Year. The top teachers receive a \$1,500 classroom grant from the Jackson Community Foundation and the Teacher of the Year receives a \$7,500 award from the Hurst Foundation to use however they wish. The Teacher of the Year is now a prestigious accomplishment in our community.

**Collaboration:** Describe how the nominee has supported partnerships through their engagement with the community foundation. How has the nominee helped bring people together and supported cooperation and togetherness?

During the years when Tony was a board member, he was able to harness the grants that the JCF was granting to fortify the efforts with grants from the Hurst Foundation. This is probably one of the earlier examples of today's Funder Forum and collaboration that we seek to build with other local foundations. This was an exciting time of growth in Jackson and many of the institutions and buildings that we take for granted today have their roots back to these days. The Potter Center for performing arts at the Jackson College, the Jackson YMCA, the Jackson Symphony Orchestra, and the Ella Sharp Museum are just a few of the major projects that were helped through this collaboration.