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Honorary Degree Citation: Lewis Manilow

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Granted 1996

LEWIS MANILOW

Humanitarian, policy activist, art connoisseur, lawyer, businessperson, philanthropist, and visionary, Lewis Manilow fused the very best of the modern American culture in his interests and his activities. As a graduate of the University of Chicago and of Harvard University Law School, you dared to envision the future and use your profound intellectual power and judgment to take steps to mold that future for the better in numerous domains.

You currently serve as Chair of the United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy, going throughout the world to further global understanding by establishing appropriate linkages in public diplomacy. Recently, you participated as a board member of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs and chairman of the group's Middle East Committee as one of a 40-person delegation to observe the Palestinian Authority elections in Gaza and the West Bank. You are not only an activist, but are also an analyst of contemporary policy and have written about your international experiences and helped to found and serve on the Board of the Progressive Policy Institute, a national think-tank.

Your cultural and civic contributions in Chicago include chairing the Museum of Contemporary Art Board, serving as a trustee and governing life member of the Art Institute, member of the Executive Committee of Chicago's oldest foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, and on numerous boards, including the Goodman Theater and the Children's Museum. Most importantly for Governors State University, you are the genius behind the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park sited on the university grounds.

You, along with your father, Nathan, developed the community of Park Forest South (later to become University Park), an extension of the brilliant development of Park Forest, of which your father was one of the developers. Concerned that this new town and its region enjoy a future rich in culture and art, you worked to help create GSU and conceived of and built the park bearing your father's name, which today is internationally recognized for its twenty-two monumental sized art works, gracing the 750-acre GSU campus. Your inspiration, selfless commitment to education, culture, philanthropy, and public service most fortunately blended twenty-five years ago, to create the spirit and the soul of Governors State University. For your many achievements, Governors State University Honors and Salutes you.