

Susan & Robert Wislow

Distinguished Philanthropists Award | 2024 Annual Philanthropy Awards

Susan J. Wislow was a founder of Corporate Relocation Coordinators and served as its president for 14 years. Susan joined the Erikson Institute's Board of Trustee in 1996 and was Board Chair from 2003-2006. She has served on the Goodman Theatre Women's Board since 1994, as President during 2002-2003; she is also a member of the Goodman Board of Trustees. She was a member of the Chicago Children's Museum Board for nine years, where she held various executive offices. Formerly, Susan was an elementary school physical education teacher in the Chicago Public Schools for seven years where she started a pre-school gymnastics program which led to an annual gymnastics exhibition. In 1971 she helped found, coordinate, and assist in running the Sheffield Garden Walk. This year will be its 53rd annual walk. Living in Lincoln Park, she initiated a successful recycling program in her neighborhood prior to our City's current program. Susan is a graduate of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree.

In 2017, Susan received the Spirit of Erikson Award. On that occasion, Erikson Institute co-founder Barbara T. Bowman stated, "Susan has long had a commitment to children. She played 'teacher' as a child and became a Chicago Public School teacher after college. Working in public education and Head Start, she learned about children whose lives were in jeopardy and supported them. She wanted for other people's children what she was able to provide for her own and now her grandchildren. She is a unifier. She listens to people; she strives to understand them and respects their different perspectives. But, equally important, she is recognized as the kind and generous person she is, which encourages the best in others."

Robert A. Wislow is Chairman of Parkside Realty, Inc., a boutique real estate venture Bob co-founded with longtime business partner Camille Julmy. In 1978, Bob and Camille founded U.S. Equities Realty, Chicago's largest, privately-owned commercial real estate services firm, where Bob spearheaded the company's ongoing development and growth, including its expansion into Central and South America, and the renovations and repositioning of the John Hancock Center and Willis Tower in Chicago. U.S. Equities Realty merged with CBRE in 2014, and Bob served as CBRE Chicago Chairman until 2019.

Bob is deeply committed to Chicago's civic activities and is the current Chairman of the Chicago Public Library Foundation, Rush University, the Museum of Contemporary Photography, and the Nominating Committee of the Civic Consulting Alliance; and currently serves on the Executive Committees of The Rush Hospital System, The Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, North Central College, and the Civic Consulting Alliance; and the boards of the Civic Committee, Columbia College, The Rush Hospital System, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Cook County Council of Economic Advisors. Bob is also Past Chairman of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, North Central College, Burnham Park Planning Board, Sculpture Chicago and the Chicago Development Council.

He is a graduate of North Central College in Naperville where he received his bachelor's degree in business and economics.

Bob is the recipient of multiple awards, including the 2006 Urban Land Institute's prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2004 Friends of the Park Award, the 2011 NAIOP Chicago Awards for Excellence, the 2014 DePaul University's Outstanding Leadership in the Real Estate Profession Award, the 2016 Chicago Architecture Foundation Legacy Award, the 2016 Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce Roper Award, and the 2016 AJC Civic Leadership Award, the 2020 Chicago Commercial Real Estate Legend Award, and the 2021 Grant Park Music Festival Advocate Award.

Susan and Bob reside in Chicago. They have two daughters and three grandchildren.