

AMERICA'S AUTOMOTIVE *Trust*



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America's Automotive Trust Gala Earns Nearly \$700,000

Annual Fundraiser Benefits Renowned Automotive Museum and Its Partner Nonprofits

(September 18, 2020) — The virtual 2020 Wheels & Heels Gala to benefit America's Automotive Trust and its partners – LeMay-America's Car Museum and RPM Foundation – was a rousing success, with donors contributing nearly \$700,000 to the nonprofit organizations.

Hosted by David Silverman with honorary gala chairs Michael and Pamala Towers, the September 12 event was the first virtual version of the Trust's largest annual fundraiser, held in lieu of the usual event at LeMay – America's Car Museum in Tacoma, Wash. The event allowed virtual attendees from across the nation – enthusiasts from cities as far-flung as Chicago, Phoenix, and Detroit were among the participants – to bid for live and silent auction items and participate in a "raise the paddle" fundraising show of support. The success of the gala was of particular importance to the organization, given the months-long COVID-related closure of LeMay – America's Car Museum and revenue that was lost during that time. The funds raised will not only go to support the museum, but also automotive-related educational programs across the country.

Participants were also able to celebrate individuals who have made a substantial impact in the automotive community. Car collector Bill Parfet was presented with the Nicola Bulgari Award; longtime Tacoma philanthropists John and Marilyn Dimmer were presented with the President's Award for Outstanding Service; and Alex and Amanda Haugland were named as the Master Collector recipients. The Haugland's remarkable collection of automobiles will be on display at LeMay – America's Car Museum when the venue reopens on Sept. 25.

The event was sponsored by Titus-Will Automotive Group, the LeMay Family Collection, State Farm, Hagerty, Propel Insurance, Avantia, Uptown Gig Harbor, Columbia Bank, BMW Northwest, and Circuit of the Northwest.

For more information visit americasautomotivetrust.org.

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About America's Automotive Trust

America's Automotive Trust convenes like-minded nonprofits working together to preserve and evolve car culture, community, and careers. Its purpose is to fuel five key initiatives: Youth STEM Education, Workforce Development, Women Driving Change, Car Culture and Community; and Celebrating the Past, Present and Future of Mobility. As a part of those initiatives, America's Automotive Trust fosters the love of driving and a sense of community through Club Auto and Concours Club. America's Automotive Trust is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) and its partner organizations include LeMay – America's Car Museum, TechForce Foundation, and RPM Foundation. For more information, visit www.americasautomotivetrust.org.

About LeMay – America's Car Museum

LeMay - America's Car Museum is an international destination for families and auto enthusiasts to experience the past, present, and future of the automobile and learn how it shapes our society. Based in Tacoma, Wash., the stunning 165,000-sq.-ft. facility has been recognized as one of *MSN's* 10 Best Automotive Museums worldwide, *USA Today's* 10 Best Museums in Seattle and *KING5's* Best Museum in Western Washington. It is known for its educational outreach serving more than 30,000 students annually, spectacular rotating exhibits, stunning event spaces, and a show field for hosting community events. LeMay – America's Car Museum is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) and partner organization of America's Automotive Trust, TechForce Foundation, and RPM Foundation. For more information, visit www.americascarmuseum.org. Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About RPM Foundation

RPM Foundation works to ensure that the critical skills necessary to preserve and restore collector automobiles, motorcycles, and boats are not lost by supporting internships, apprenticeships, and scholarships for students and organizations committed to hands-on restoration and preservation training. RPM Foundation is a supporting organization of America's Automotive Trust, a nonprofit 501(c)(3). For more information, visit www.rpm.foundation.