A letter from The Henry Ford President

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of another year at The Henry Ford, it’s time for reflection as well as anticipation.

For as we recognize that the audacious vision of our founder is now more than 85 years old, we are also aware that it’s as vital and relevant as ever. Our world is more complicated, diverse, and fragile than even Henry Ford could have imagined or anticipated. Which is precisely why we so urgently need to tap into the restless, curious, who’s-Hello-van-do approach he embodied every day of his life.

To that end, we are nurturing a new legion of thinkers and doers through a learning revolution in America. It’s as crucial as it is bold. To give every child in our country access to the critical ideas, content, and problem-solving skills that will enable them to be our innovators and entrepreneurs of tomorrow.

An exciting new element of our work is the Henry Ford’s Innovation Nation, which premiered in September on the CIB Network. Hosted by the incomparable Mo Rocca, the show is a celebration of innovation, engaging millions of viewers every Saturday morning.

And then there’s the multiyear Partnership Innovation we’ve recently formed with Shell Oil Company (page 2). An integral component of the vision we share for the future is The Henry Ford’s commitment to STEM education, an ambitious curriculum focusing on the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. Our goal is to empower K-12 educators to teach innovation to 125,000 students over the next five years.

Innovation and education are also essential to the connection between The Henry Ford and the Ford Motor Company Fund (page 4). For decades, the Ford Fund has generously funded its support, helping us unlock the potential of one of the world’s greatest collections of content, stories and experiences. And today, we work together to unlock the power of those incomparable assets and inspire the next generation of innovators to create the best possible future for us all.

Joining us in that effort is the newest member of the board at The Henry Ford. Judy Ingle is not only the great-great-grandson of our founder but also the first family member since his great-grandson Bill Ford to work in the area of design at Ford Motor Company (page 3). It comes as no surprise that Judy has also inherited that familiar can-do spirit, along with a reverence for The Henry Ford’s firm commitment to continue a family tradition—play a major role as a caring and devoted steward of our mission.

So whether it’s a new member of our board, a new partner like Shell Oil Company or a longstanding collaborator like the Ford Fund, everyone of us with a connection to our cultural jewel shares a common path. We pay homage to the past through our vast and eclectic collection spanning 360 years of American history.

But we also stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, our ever-fixed firmly ahead, focused on the future and collectively fueled by a legacy of inspiration that truly allows us to believe any goal is well within our grasp.

Patricia E. Medrano

DID YOU KNOW?
The Henry Ford is making meaningful connections with innovation in our community and in our country’s greatest innovators, including Bill Gates, Deep Image Labs, and Chelsea Clinton.

Learn more at ONINNOVATION.COM.
The Henry Ford & Shell Unite to Inspire Future Innovators

On April 10-12, 2015, Detroit will be the host city for the Shell Eco-marathon, welcoming more than 1,000 future engineers and scientists from across the country, all with the same objective—to travel the farthest in the Motor City on the least amount of energy.

In late September, The Henry Ford and Shell Oil Company announced a multi-year Partnership in Innovation, a new initiative to inspire and prepare the innovation of tomorrow to tackle the challenges that lie ahead.

"It almost seems Shell and The Henry Ford are like two pieces of Velcro," says Nel Colgghtly, Shell vice president of strategy. "There are so many touch points that just make perfect sense and all fit together.

At the very top of that list is The Henry Ford’s Innovation Tour, a cross-country road trip that teaches students in K-12 how to innovate. Over the next five years, the goal of The Henry Ford’s Innovation Learning Accelerator (ILA) is to empower 5,000 teachers to teach innovation to 125,000 students. The focus and foundation of the ambitious curriculum is the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), all essential tools for a viable career in the 21st century.

"We fully support the importance of STEM education," Colgghtly says. "It’s not enough to simply teach people math, physics and chemistry. But how do you bring all that together and think like an innovator and solve problems? How do you ask the right questions first and then figure out how to solve them? That’s incredibly, highly innovative work that The Henry Ford is doing. It’s very much looking forward and problem solving and quite rightly to help being the catalyst for solving some of these big issues going forward."

Big issues, Colgghtly is quick to add, which encompass not just the specific challenges Shell is grappling with—in energy, fuel and efficiency—"Shell takes very seriously this view of some of the biggest social challenges facing us," he says. "We call it the social nexus between water, food and fuel. All these issues are so interconnected, especially in the context of the climate challenge. And when we think about cities, according to most predictions there’s going to be a city of 11 million people built somewhere in the world every week for the next 30 years. So we’re seeing massive urbanization of the world’s population. And it’s going to be a huge opportunity to tackle some of these big challenges of livability, mobility and planning cities in the right way.

"All the more reason Colgghtly reasons, to join with The Henry Ford not only in recognizing and honoring the importance of innovation in our nation’s history but is taking this definitive step to energize and activate it. The history and future of innovation are entwined in a very unique way at The Henry Ford." Colgghtly says.

"I think when young people walk through the Edison Lab or the Wright brothers shop, they see that innovation actually is figuring out how to do something with your own hands and brain power and thinking creatively. So they can say: Why isn’t it possible for me as a young person to take the next step? What is the next big innovative breakthrough? What can I do with my own hands or brain power?"

To that end, for more than 25 years Shell’s Eco-marathon has been challenging the innovative spirit of high school and college students around the world to design, build and test ultra-energy-efficient vehicles. The program is hands-on and project-based, providing its participants with an opportunity to innovate and inspire, while also developing the talent that will sustain both the automotive and energy industries of the future.

On April 10-12, 2015, Detroit will be the host city for the Shell Eco-marathon, welcoming more than 1,000 future engineers and scientists from across the country, all with the same objective—to travel the farthest in the Motor City on the least amount of energy.

For Nel Colgghtly and Shell, the timing and the venue for this event couldn’t be more perfect.

"We’re hoping that’s the kickoff of what will be years of partnership and innovation," he says. "I’d like to think that doing this in Detroit will draw the attention of people all over the country to what’s happening there. The place is really going gangbusters."

The same can be said for what promises to be a dynamic partnership between Shell, The Henry Ford and a shared vision for a future whose potential truly does seem limitless.
Jody Ingle: From the Farm to The Family Business

Jody Ingle certainly didn’t plan for his life to turn out the way it did.

The 33-year-old great-great-grandson of Henry Ford is the newest member of the Board of Trustees at The Henry Ford. He’s also the first family member since his great-uncle Bill Ford to work in the area of design at Ford Motor Company. Jody is employed at Lincoln as an interior designer.

“Fords are very special for me,” he says. “Bill Ford is one of the most beautiful cars in American history — the Continental Mark II. So it gives me a great sense of pride to be there and to be part of the team.”

Jody grew up on a working farm and vineyard, far away from Detroit and the family business. His mother, Josephine Ford, was eager to move away from their Ocasee Pointe roots and set out on her own. She found a kindred spirit in Jody’s father, John.

“They were both aspiring hippies,” Jody says with a laugh, “and they traveled around the country, looking for the perfect place where they could create something for themselves.”

The spot they settled on was in the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York.

“They spent the first three or four years of their marriage in a cabin that would look more appropriate in Greenwich Village,” Jody says, “but the cutting water, hardly any electricity, my older brother was actually raised there.”

And so was my young couple’s idea for their own version of a family business: The Horse & Whinny, founded in 1972, is now-renowned today for its spectacular setting as much as its distinctive and award-winning collection of wines.

While growing up on the farm, Jody excelled in art but never thought it could lead to a career.

“I just went about my normal liberal arts path,” he says, “not knowing what I was going to be or do.”

But he had a close relationship with his maternal grandfather, Walter Buhl Ford, an artist and industrial designer. “He and I always saw eye-to-eye,” Jody says. “I would guess maybe he enabled me to get in touch with the designers and artists who were already there, and then I knew. I would build these elaborate plastic worship models, and I would give them to him, and he would return me some of his artwork. So I had this sort of exchange of art, and very early on felt this sense of an exchange from him.”

Jody’s innate artistic talent, coupled with his grandfather’s guidance and support, ultimately led him, graduating from the College for Creative Studies with a degree in Industrial Design, to starting a career at Ford and now taking an active role in helping to shape the future of The Henry Ford for generations to come.

“My name is just 2,” Jody says, “and it’s amazing to see how the pieces all fit together every time we go to The Henry Ford.”

“His face lights up, his eyes open wide and you can almost see that light bulb in his brain illuminate. It’s a wonderful thing to see, and it makes me understand the importance of this place even more.”

And now that Jody is living in Detroit and reinvigorating his family’s historic barn, he sees an important role for The Henry Ford in its revival.

“Detroit used to be the epicenter of the world: technology and brain power, and people wanted to come here,” Jody says. “And what Henry Ford represents is the path to restoring that greatness, the path to innovation, invention and the sort of do-it-yourself innovation. I think that’s the most important thing that people take away from here — that sense of innovation to invent and create.

When we create something, we are usually plundered and essentially coming out of the darkness. This is what we need in Detroit, and the more we do so, the more we have to reenvision this.”

And, his family believes, supporting The Henry Ford and all it does is an important way that good can be accomplished.

“Any place has to mean something to you to give to,” Jody says. “And I think it’s very hard for The Henry Ford not to mean something to anybody who grows through its doors. It’s an amazing, and you feel spiritually enlightened that you want to be a part of it and you want to give.”

“We always talk about all our employees being part of the Ford family,” he continues. “It’s very much the same at the museum. Warrington people to come in and feel like they’re part of the family and contribute in any way possible, whatever it’s volunteering or giving or whatever. Whether you’re giving $100,000 or just a few dollars, it doesn’t matter. What’s more important is, it has to mean something to you and you feel a part of it.”

What is The Henry Ford Effect?

It’s the impact and inspiration you create through your philanthropic investments. Your generosity helps us maintain a vital cultural scene, preserve and increase accessibility of national resources, and develop innovative learning tools.
The Henry Ford &
The Ford Fund:
A Shared Vision From
The Beginning

"...it’s essential for students to have that unique, hands-on experience that only The Henry Ford offers. By teaching these students about the past and bringing history to life, they’re being prepared for a better future."

Vella, who grew up in southwest Detroit, was one of those kids when he made his first visit to The Henry Ford on a field trip with his fifth-grade classmates.

"I remember being so excited to see the exhibits and displays, and I was amazed by the history and things I learned. That’s always stuck with me.

"There are very few times when kids get to interact with real artifacts and exhibits. It’s an opportunity for us to get out of the classroom and still learn. That’s a unique opportunity that not everyone has.

"The Ford Fund is really about dreaming.

"Vella was easy. "The story of The Henry Ford is really about dreams.

Vella adds, "That’s what Henry Ford was all about, making sure that people had the opportunity to live their dreams. It’s an opportunity for him to recall that first visit to The Henry Ford all those years ago.

"It’s a dream," he says. "Because when I was in this chair and helping people realize their dreams, it’s really an exciting experience. It’s rewarding, but it also can be stressful. And sometimes, it’s not easy to be innovative and creative in an environment where things are changing all the time.

"The education piece is really essential for a number of reasons," he says. "First of all, it’s one of the building blocks of our society. Without an innovative curriculum, we can’t move forward and improve. And how we develop and create new companies is vital. Moreover, it’s through our support of The Henry Ford and its extensive educational resources that we can help shape our future.

2013 Financial Supporters

In the previous issue of The Henry Ford, we recognized our 2013 team of supporters. We wanted to bring out the amazing people and organizations who make a difference in our community.

Visionary Level - $1000
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Elwood
Mr. and Mrs. Scott Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. James W. Reif

Innovative Level - $500
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Wachesaw
Mr. and Mrs. Lynne Blower
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Kramer
Mr. and Mrs. Alan J. McRitchie
Mr. and Mrs. Stewart J. McStay
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Mortimer
Mr. and Mrs. Robert D. Sheehan
Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Stoddard
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Hultzen

For questions or information on how to donate, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement, 313.761.5087 or hfdialup@theford.org