

THE CULTURE CLUB

Who's who when it comes to the most important private funders of New York City's unparalleled cultural offerings? The list would be long. But it would have to include these power patrons of the arts.

Donations to arts and cultural nonprofits suffered with the recession, as funding dried up for music, opera, dance, and other performing and visual arts, and many philanthropists shifted their charitable efforts toward more basic human needs, like hunger or health. Arts giving nationwide fell by around 2% last year, according to Giving USA, and in New York, the megamillion-dollar gifts that came to exemplify the boom years proved harder for arts executives to mine.

Still, a number of major donors, like David Koch, a co-owner of Koch Industries, and Ann Ziff, the widowed matriarch of the publishing clan, have made big contributions to local arts and cultural groups over the past

few years. And some philanthropic institutions, including the Ford Foundation and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, actually have increased their recent giving.

In this first-of-its-kind compilation of New York City's most important arts donors, *Crain's New York Business* presents the people who gave some of the largest gifts of 2010 and the first half of 2011, as well as leading corporate and foundation supporters that have stepped up where others have pulled back. As one company's philanthropy chief explained, "The arts make cities vibrant places to live." And to do business.

—MIRIAM KREININ SOUCCAR AND JERMAINE TAYLOR

Sandy and Joan Weill

Chairman, **Carnegie Hall**

Chairwoman, **Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation**

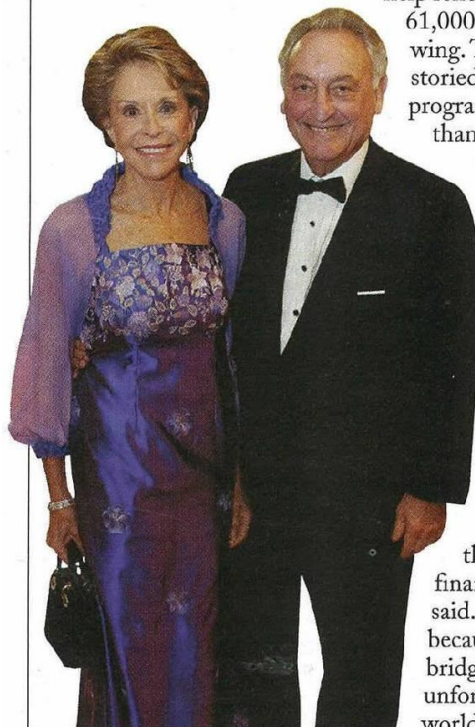
For decades, they've been one of the city's most prominent power couples in the arts. Sandy Weill, the 78-year-old former head of Citigroup, has led Carnegie Hall's board since 1991. His wife, Joan, 77, has been chairwoman of the Alvin Ailey Dance Foundation since 2000.

Their commitment hasn't waned in recent years, even as the value of Citigroup shares plunged during the financial crisis. In 2008, the couple co-chaired a \$50 million endowment campaign for Ailey's 50th anniversary, kicking it off with a \$15 million donation of their own. And in the past 18 months, they donated \$52 million to cultural organizations, mainly in New York.

In January, for instance, the Weills gave \$25 million to Carnegie Hall to help renovate its studio towers and create a 61,000-square-foot music education wing. The expansion will allow the storied concert hall to grow education programs that currently engage more than 170,000 people a year, including thousands of New York City public school kids.

Now that the Weills are spending more time in California, cultural groups there get to share the bounty. A recent \$12 million gift to the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University, Ms. Weill noted in an email, could help the venue become a "West Coast equivalent to Tanglewood."

"We have been involved with the arts for several decades not just financially, but with our time," she said. "We are passionate about the arts because we believe they can help bridge cultural divides that unfortunately exist throughout the world."



CHRISTOPHER DUGGAN