



THE KOSCIUSZKO FOUNDATION
THE AMERICAN CENTER OF POLISH CULTURE

Dear KF Friends,

I regret to inform you that the Kosciuszko Foundation Executive Committee has decided to cancel the 85th Annual Fundraising Dinner & Ball scheduled for April 25th, due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The event may be postponed until later in 2020 or ultimately canceled because the situation is complex and evolving rapidly. While we are dealing with uncertain times, we want to reassure you that we are taking all necessary measures for the safety of the Ball attendees and our staff.

As the current situation unfolds, I would like to take a moment to look back and reminisce about the history of our great event and its advantages. This exquisite tradition began in the early 20th century. In 1928, the Kosciuszko Foundation hosted its first dinner at New York's Commodore Hotel to honor the pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski. It happened to be a marvelous success, and by 1933 the Foundation began holding an annual fundraising ball to support its educational mission. The first official ball was held at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York, and moved to the luxurious Waldorf Astoria in 1936.

Why is the Ball so great? In the simplest terms, it extends Polish culture and celebrates its legacy. For over 90 years the Foundation has organized the Ball with numerous themes and honored over 400 distinguished guests. Each year the ball brings significant funds to sponsor the Foundations Academic Programs. During my four year tenure as the Kosciuszko Foundation President & Executive Director, I have had the privilege to organize, celebrate, and meet with so many magnificent people, for which I am truly grateful.



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I would like to express my gratitude to you for always believing in us, and willingness to meet this year. I know a lot of our loyal Friends were planning on joining us at the 85th Dinner & Ball. Please accept my apologies for not being able to host you this year due to the epidemic. The decision is drastic, but it is all for the safety and health of the Foundation's Community. You are always the utmost importance to us.

There has never been a better time to support and donate to the KF. I understand that the current situation is challenging for all of us. During this time, it is important to keep in mind our scholarship recipients as well as the cost of rescheduling the event. Please help us survive this critical time of need. I am putting all my trust in you and our strong Polish community.

We will continue to update you with further information. Thank you for your support.

I hope you and your loved ones are doing well during these difficult times.

We are all in it together!

Sincerely,

Marek Skulimowski
President & Executive Director