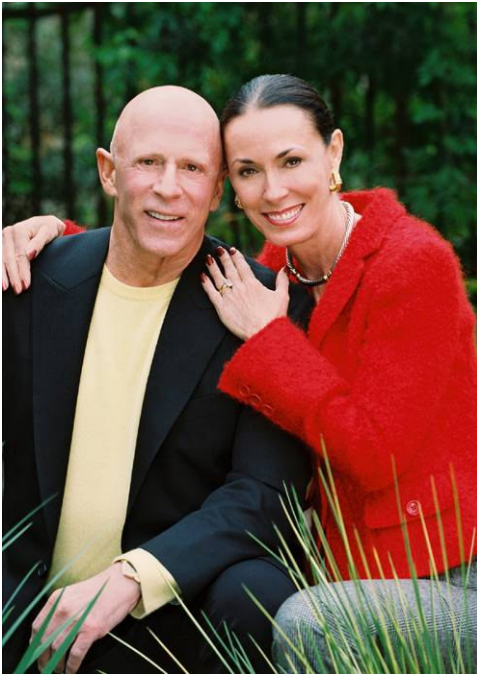


Lester and Sue Smith



Lester and Sue Smith are recognized around the world for their passionate support of many organizations, including the Houston Museum of Natural Science. Their personal involvement in exciting opportunities to engage children in learning has made a significant impact on the millions of visitors who visit the Houston Museum of Natural Science annually.

For more than a decade, Lester Smith has served as a trustee of the Museum; for the last five years, he has served as chairman of the Gems & Minerals Committee. The Smiths have provided millions of dollars in funding to advance science education and highlight the diverse exhibitions that have made the Houston Museum of Natural Science one of the most heavily attended museums in the United States.

A third-generation oilman, Lester began collecting rocks as a young boy in his hometown of Wharton, Texas. His fascination with gems and minerals led to the couple's support of the Lester and Sue Smith Gem Vault, housed in the Museum's Cullen Hall of Gems and Minerals. Featuring the most extraordinary cut and polished jewels ever displayed in a single permanent exhibition, the Smith Gem Vault will complement and enhance the Museum's existing collection of natural mineral crystals, considered to be the finest in the world.

As a two-time cancer survivor, Lester Smith has been an outspoken advocate for cancer research. The Lester & Sue Smith Foundation has raised millions of dollars to fund critical research at Houston's Texas Medical Center. As a Trustee of Baylor College of Medicine, Lester was instrumental in forging a partnership between Baylor and the Houston Museum of Natural Science to present *Body Worlds 3: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies*. In addition, he served as spokesman for a public service campaign associated with that exhibition.

Lester Smith is a board member of The Contemporary Arts Museum Houston, The Holocaust Museum Houston, Board of Visitors at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, and the Prostate Cancer Foundation. Lester and Sue Smith live in Houston, Texas.

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