

ADVANCED PRAISE FOR *WIT AND WISDOM*

“In his *Wit and Wisdom: Unleashing the Philanthropic Imagination*, Mark Constantine has surfaced for all to glimpse for the first time, and to be deeply moved by, the overriding passion for social justice and equality in America that has motivated the lives and work of some of the nation’s most influential foundation officers and trustees. . . . It is not at all fanciful to think of these interviewees as a band of unseen good angels among us, powered, sustained, and guided by their conscience, by their courage, too, and by the clarity of their vision of what America can and should be at its best.” **Joel L. Fleishman, Professor of Law and Public Policy Studies, Director, Samuel and Ronnie Heyman Center for Ethics, Public Policy, and the Professions, Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University; Author, *The Foundation: A Great American Secret—How Private Wealth is Changing the World***

“If we are going to make sure that this is not the first generation since the Great Depression to hand down to the next a lower standard of living, we need to do what the wise voices of *Wit and Wisdom* tell us to do—listen more, act with greater personal and organizational humility and courage, recruit new leaders, pitch a big tent, and, most importantly, ask the right question: At the end of the day, are the children, families, and communities we seek to help concretely and measurably better-off?” **Ralph Smith, Executive Vice President, The Annie E. Casey Foundation**

“Everyone in American Philanthropy should read—no, listen to the voices of *Wit and Wisdom* so ‘justice can roll down like flowing water’ in our field as it certainly should and must.” **Dr. Claire Gaudiani, Clinical Professor of Philanthropy, George H. Heyman, Jr., Center for Philanthropy and Fundraising, NYU; Author, *The Greater Good: How Philanthropy Drives the American Economy and Can Save Capitalism***

“In this important and insightful book, Mark Constantine has set out to illuminate the wisdom of the philanthropic community. He has certainly done that, and much more. Readers will come away from this book with a deeper understanding of the transformative power of giving and the increasing importance of philanthropy in resolving the pressing problems that prevent us from achieving the true meaning of justice and democracy.” **John A. Powell, Executive Director, Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Gregory H. Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Moritz College of Law, The Ohio State University**

“If there were one book I would commend to anyone entering the field of philanthropy, it would be Mark Constantine’s *Wit and Wisdom*. . . . Rarely have I read passages that so vividly describe the stresses, convictions, and sources of fulfillment of individuals devoted to addressing our nation’s hardest issues.” **Judy Jolley Mohraz, President and CEO, Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust**

“This book asks the *right* questions of the *right* people at the *right* time. It will become my go-to reference for guidance on how to frame and articulate the imperatives around race, poverty, and justice that philanthropy must embrace if it is to have any relevance in our society at all.” **Mae P. Hong, Program Director, The Field Foundation of Illinois**

“True understanding of people or movements comes in the telling and passing on of their stories—their lore. In that pursuit, *Wit and Wisdom: Unleashing the Philanthropic Imagination* adds immeasurably to our grasp and appreciation of Southern philanthropy and its leaders.” **Virginia Esposito, President, National Center for Family Philanthropy**

“The message that emerges from *Wit and Wisdom* is that change comes when hard work, patience, and pain meet vision, a commitment to justice, and the humor and humility of episodic progress.” **Lucy Bernholz, President and Founder, Blueprint Research & Design, Inc., Author, *Creating Philanthropic Capital Markets: The Deliberate Evolution; On the Brink of New Promise: The Future of U.S. Community Foundations*; and publisher of *philanthropy2173.com***

“*Wit and Wisdom* is an amazing demonstration of imagination. . . . Nonprofit leaders, educators, clergy, students, activists, or anyone imagining a better world, will benefit from this book.” **Brad R. Braxton, Senior Minister, The Riverside Church, New York City**

“Foundation board members will find in this text an insightful, well-grounded, and fascinating exploration of the multi-layered challenges and opportunities facing these important institutions.” **Denise Cavanaugh, Cavanaugh, Hagan, Pierson & Mintz**

“With his *Wit and Wisdom: Unleashing the Philanthropic Imagination*, Mark Constantine has gently challenged American philanthropy to flex its muscles and draw on its multiple forms of capital to address our country’s most daunting challenges: racism, political and economic inequality, and poverty. We are all better for knowing the stories of the extraordinary women and men featured who have blazed a trail for all of us to follow.” **Frederick A. Davie, President, Public/Private Ventures**

“*Wit and Wisdom* shows that unleashing philanthropic imagination has more to do with the boldness to act in the face of structural inequities than with intellectual prowess that is often associated with ‘clever’ or ‘innovative’ grantmaking. Mark Constantine documents the experiences of philanthropic leaders that did their part to create the world they imaged, where racism, poverty, and injustice would no longer undermine the pursuit of democracy. Their wisdom lights the path for future philanthropy.” **Rahsaan Harris, Program Executive, The Atlantic Philanthropies**

“While there are many volumes on library shelves that are about wisdom, there are far fewer that actually contain wisdom. This is a rare book that does both. . . . Here is wisdom to assist with the work ahead for those who truly yearn to see philanthropy help make a profoundly better world for us all.” **Thom Jeavons, President, ARNOVA**

“If there is an American South perspective on philanthropy, and especially as it intersects with race, equity, poverty, and community, Mark Constantine has captured it perfectly in his book *Wit and Wisdom*. . . . We learn a lot about how creative philanthropy can be, and how long-term legacy for communities is nurtured.” **Peter Karoff, Founder, The Philanthropic Initiative (TPI); Author, *The World We Want—New Dimensions of Philanthropy and Social Change***

“Through his conversations with a remarkable group of leaders in American philanthropy, Mark Constantine beautifully captures the interplay of story and strategy, chance and deliberate choice, power and its limits, in the work of philanthropy.” **Elizabeth Lynn, Director, Project on Civic Reflection, Valparaiso University**

“Emerging philanthropic leaders in particular will be inspired by the frank yet always hopeful reflections of those who have practiced the difficult art of philanthropy in innovative, imaginative ways.” **Michael Moody, Co-author, *Understanding Philanthropy: Its Meaning and Mission***

“With *Wit and Wisdom*, Mark Constantine reminds us of the very best philanthropic and civic traditions of our country through the lives and examples of some of our best stewards. The book inspires, teaches, and motivates us to imagine a world of justice, fairness, and care for all.” **Suzanne Morse, President, Pew Partnership for Civic Change**