



George H. Shirk made his first gift to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation with the intent that it be used for the community's best interest. Today, the Fund for Oklahoma City utilizes gifts like Mr. Shirk's to address needs and opportunities in the community. A recent Fund for Oklahoma City grant supported grand opening activities at the Ronald J. Norick Downtown Library.

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GEORGE H. SHIRK *A Love for His Heritage*

George H. Shirk – mayor, historian, attorney and civic leader – was an early friend of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. In 1970, less than a year after the organization was established, he wrote: “I feel that it is imperative that I be a part of this project; and, in the years ahead I hope to participate more generously.” Mr. Shirk was good on his word. He and his sister Lucyl Shirk soon established the Carrie Shirk Fund in memory of their mother, stipulating that the income be used for the community's best interest. He also helped start the charitable organization endowment for the Oklahoma Westerners Indian Territory Posse, a group of Western history buffs. A devoted historian, Mr. Shirk preserved numerous artifacts including the lion's head ornaments from the cornice at the old City Hall (*picture at left*). He served as president of the Oklahoma Historical Society for nearly 20 years and wrote many articles for “The Chronicles of Oklahoma.” In 1973, he started the Muriel H. Wright Heritage Fund in honor of the publication's longtime editor upon her retirement. Upon his death in 1977, his estate made bequests to five charitable organization endowments at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. A friend from the beginning, Mr. Shirk's gifts will last forever.