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Libertarian billionaire donates \$30 million to Smithsonian

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The Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History announced on Wednesday that multibillionaire and early Libertarian Party benefactor David H. Koch donated \$30 million to fund a hall depicting human

Most of the money will finance the David H. Koch Hall of Human Origins while the remainder will go toward a research chair endowment and education and outreach programs.

An article from Science Insider said the new hall "will focus on major milestones over our 6-million-year history—from when our ancestors first started walking upright through the development of language and symbols and beyond."



David Koch (AP Photo/Peter Kramer)

The hall will display fossil skull replicas representing various stages of human evolution, reconstructed human faces from different epochs, and exhibits showing how climate change and environmental conditions have impacted human evolution.

Older libertarians, however, will remember the impact Koch had on the still-fledgling Libertarian Party.

In 1980, the Libertarian Party selected Ed Clark as their presidential candidate and David Koch as his running mate. Under the campaign laws, this allowed Koch to contribute \$1.6 million of his own money to the campaign, most of which went toward buying national network television ads.

The Clark-Koch ticket garnered 921,299 votes (1.06 percent), a record that still stands.

Forbes magazine currently ranks Koch, in a tie with his brother Charles, as the 9th wealthiest American. The pair own Koch Industries, a petroleum and energy conglomerate headquartered in Wichita, Kansas. It's the second largest privately held company in the US based on revenue.

Koch's personal commitment to libertarian philosophy combined with his appetite for philanthropy has caused him to donate significant funding for many prominent libertarian institutions over the years. These include the Reason Foundation (publisher of the libertarian movement's leading political journal, Reason Magazine) and the Cato Institute, a public policy think tank headquartered in Washington, DC. Koch still serves on their boards of directors.

The Advocates for Self-Government, a non-profit, non-partisan libertarian educational organization, profiles David Koch in their "Libertarian Celebrities & VIPs" section.

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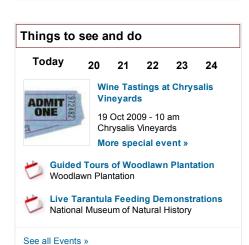
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