A few years back when the publisher of Crain’s Detroit Business wrote in an op-ed piece: “The MEDC hit a homerun with its investment in Shakespeare,” and a former head of MEDC reported that “the best return on investment we had this year was our grant to an arts organization,” the arts and culture community in Michigan clearly was identified as a key asset to our state’s reinvention. Ken Fischer, a Michigan native, Interlochen and UM alumnus, executive committee member of Ann Arbor SPARK, and longtime president of the University Musical Society of the University of Michigan, will stimulate our thinking about the creative sector and it’s strong correlation to the economic well-being of our state. Ken is sure to be very engaging!

Ken Fischer is the President of the University Musical Society (UMS), a 132-year-old independent multi-disciplinary performing arts presence with a long and deep affiliation with the University of Michigan (UM) in Ann Arbor. Each season UMS presents 60-90 performances, sponsors an extensive education program, commissions and presents new work, and hosts artists’ residencies. Under Ken’s leadership UMS has expanded and diversified its programming and audiences; deepened its engagement with UM and southeast Michigan communities; created effective partnerships with corporations, arts organizations, educational institutions, and community organizations; and received significant endowment support from leading foundations. Ken has contributed to the presenting field as speaker, workshop leader, writer, consultant, panelist, and U.S. State Department cultural ambassador to Brazil, China, Lithuania, and Mexico. In addition Ken collaborates with various organizations including the Society for Performing Arts, Classical Action/Performing Arts Against AIDS and Chamber Music America. He is also active with Major University Presenters.

University of Michigan Wolverine Caucus Forums will be held at the Christman/MML Building, 208 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

More About the Wolverine Caucus

University of Michigan Alumni and friends who work in and around the State Capitol are welcome to participate in the Wolverine Caucus. Our mission is to provide diverse forums at which University of Michigan friends can meet one another, enjoy fellowship, exchange views, and learn from the world-class talents of the University of Michigan.

To receive announcements of upcoming programs, call the UM Lansing Service Center at (517) 372-7801 or email veronicj@umich.edu or amccullu@umich.edu and ask us to add your name or the names of associates.
SAVE THE DATE!

Please join us for the following 2011 University of Michigan Wolverine Caucus Forums
Forums will be held at the Christman/MML Building, 208 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933

Can Michigan Local Governments Cooperate Their Way Out of Fiscal Crisis?
Featured speaker: Professor Elisabeth Gerber, UM Ford School of Public Policy

Why Investing in Arts and Culture Makes Sense for the Reinvention of Michigan
Featured speaker: Kenneth Fischer, President of the University Musical Society

What the 2010 Census Tells Us about Trends in Michigan
Featured speaker: Professor Emeritus Reynolds Farley, UM College of Literature, Science and the Arts

Youth Violence: The Tragic Effects of Bullying
Featured speaker: Professor Marc Zimmerman, UM School of Public Health

Michigan’s Film Industry
Featured speakers: Panel with Professors Jim Burnstein and Rob Rayher from the UM Rackham School of Screen Arts and Cultures

A New Day in Health Insurance Reform
Featured speakers: Panel from The Center for Healthcare Research & Transformation (CHRT), UM Health Systems, and The UM School of Public Health

Wednesday, February 16, 2011
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, March 16, 2011
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19, 2011
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 8, 2011
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 29, 2011
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Location: TBA

Tuesday, September 13, 2011
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.