

Notre-Dame de Paris Then and Now

with Russell Kelley, author of *The Making of Paris*, and Michel Picaud,
Founder and President of The Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12, 2024 / 6 PM

STILLER AUDITORIUM



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Book signing with Russell Kelley following the talk; copies of *The Making of Paris*
available for purchase.

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This lecture will evoke the long and eventful history of the greatest Parisian church of all, the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris, from its inception in 1163 to the catastrophic fire that destroyed its attic, roof and spire on April 15, 2019, and the rebuilding work undertaken to date to enable the cathedral to reopen at the end of 2024.

In 1163, Bishop Sully laid the first stone of his cathedral on the Île de la Cité, in the epicenter of medieval Paris. It was the second church in France, after the Basilica of Saint-Denis, located six miles north of Notre-Dame, to be constructed in the new Gothic style that was to define the Late Middle Ages. Notre-Dame would not be completed until 182 years later, in 1345. While the huge cathedral was first constructed in the Early and then High Gothic style, the upper levels were soon rebuilt in the new Rayonnant Gothic style to allow more light to enter the cathedral. The cathedral continued to evolve over the centuries, and was host to major events such as the first meeting of the Estates General in 1302, the coronation of 10-year-old King Henry VI of England as King of France in 1431, the marriage of the future King Henri IV of France and Marguerite de Valois in 1572, and the coronation of Napoléon Ier as Emperor of the French in 1804. After falling into disrepair during and after the Revolution, the cathedral was restored by Eugène Viollet-le-Duc in the mid-19th century, when a new spire was installed. That spire was being restored when it went up in flames, along with the surrounding attic and roof, on April 15, 2019. Restoration work is underway, with the cathedral scheduled to reopen to the public at the end of 2024.

SPEAKERS



Russell Kelley is Vice President of the Alliance Française Miami Metro. He has lived in Paris for 30 years and is the author of *The Making of Paris: The Story of How Paris Evolved from a Fishing Village into the World's Most Beautiful City* (Lyons Press, 2021).



Michel Picaud is the founder and president of The Friends of Notre-Dame de Paris. Since the catastrophic fire of April 15, 2019, the mission of The Friends of Notre-Dame has been to help fund the reconstruction and restoration of what has been called “the beating heart of Paris.”

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SUPPORT FOR OPEN STUDIO WAS PROVIDED BY THE MR. AND MRS. LEWIS SCHOTT ENDOWMENT FOR EDUCATION.