

## Bocconi University dedicates the building at piazza Sraffa 13 to Leonardo Del Vecchio and celebrates his human and philanthropic legacy

*The ceremony honored the entrepreneur's figure and the impact of the fund established thanks to the donation from Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio. The photographic exhibition "Glances that change the World. The Story of Leonardo Del Vecchio" was also inaugurated today, open to visitors until October 2025.*

**Milan, May 22, 2025.** Today, Bocconi University hosted the **Leonardo Del Vecchio Tribute Event**, during which — for the first time in Italy — the University dedicated a central campus to one of the most important entrepreneurs of the twentieth century, a place where over 5,000 students attend classes every day.

The initiative follows the historic agreement, formalized last October, between Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio and Bocconi University to establish the *Leonardo Del Vecchio Students Award Fund*: a concrete commitment to promoting a more equitable and inclusive university. With an endowment of €20 million, the fund will provide permanent annual support to deserving students—who have passed the entrance test—from financially disadvantaged backgrounds, through tuition waivers and scholarships.

The agreement was strongly supported by **Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio**, President of Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio, and by **Francesco Billari**, Rector of Bocconi University. During the ceremony, they were joined by the entire **Del Vecchio family**, Bocconi President **Andrea Sironi**, Professor of Economic History **Andrea Colli**—who gave the talk "*Leonardo Del Vecchio and the Italian Model of Capitalism*"—as well as **Ferruccio De Bortoli**, President of VIDAS and Fondazione Corriere della Sera, **Antonella Carù**, Pro-Rector for Development and Alumni Relations at Bocconi and **Silvio Garattini**, President of the Mario Negri Institute for Pharmacological Research IRCCS, that took part in a panel discussion moderated by journalist **Maria Silvia Sacchi**, "*Family Foundations, the role of philanthropy, and the need for a public-private relationship*". Students who benefited from the fund also shared their testimonies.

*"The legacy of Leonardo Del Vecchio, visionary entrepreneur and philanthropist, continues to inspire new generations," declared the Rector Billari. "His personal and professional story embodies values central to Bocconi University: commitment, merit, inclusion, trust in the talent of young people. It is in this shared spirit that we chose to dedicate the Piazza Sraffa 13 building to him with a plaque that not only commemorates its profile but also serves as an invitation to future generations to believe in their own abilities and not be limited by their starting circumstances".*

Opening the ceremony, **Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio, President of Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio**, stated: *“Once again, we feel the need to thank Leonardo for having created the conditions for Fondazione Leonardo del Vecchio’s existence and for instilling in us an awareness of the responsibility each of us bears to generate a positive impact on society by giving back the good received and experienced. This sense of responsibility continues to energize us, thanks to the opportunity to carry out many projects with the Foundation, alongside extraordinary people, based on needs and remaining consistent with the values that have inspired all of Leonardo’s activity: education, healthcare, social inclusion, and research. Our goal of working in each area to leave a clear and systemic mark of positive change. The collaboration with Bocconi University is a first step of high-impact intervention from which we have learned much, and now we also look at other fields, such as technical Institutes and training, convinced that everyone deserves the tools to express their talent. There is a need for hope, and for this reason we are even prouder to know that over time, hundreds of thousands of young people passing through the building named after Leonardo will have the opportunity to read on the plaque dedicated to him, engraved with a phrase that encapsulates much of his life and example: “I was certain that everything would depend on me and my work”. It is this awareness that is the true engine of change.”*

During the ceremony, the photographic exhibition **“Glances that change the World. The Story of Leonardo Del Vecchio”**, curated by Maria Vittoria Baravelli, was also inaugurated and will remain open until October 2025.

### **Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio**

Founded by the initiative of Leonardo Del Vecchio, an entrepreneur of uncommon vision who shaped the development of the Italian economy, Fondazione Leonardo Del Vecchio is a non-profit organization conceived as a give-back project to the community.

Today, the Foundation is led by Nicoletta Zampillo Del Vecchio who, as President, is committed to preserving the values that marked her husband’s activity as both a man and an entrepreneur, throughout his life. She pursues this mission by proposing and supporting projects capable of generating a real and meaningful social impact in the priority areas identified by her husband Leonardo: **education, healthcare system, research, support in situations of need.**