For decades after the School of Fine Arts was founded in 1891, art studios and classrooms were scattered in buildings across campus. During Chancellor Chalmers’ tenure, planning began for a centralized visual arts facility.

The Art & Design building was dedicated on April 9, 1978. It is now the home of the Department of Visual Art, with a gallery, metalsmithing and woodworking shops, a foundry, and studios for painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and textiles.
“At the University of Kansas, the student has been the raison d'etre of our existence for more than a century. … It is primarily to enhance the instruction of our students that we engage in extensive programs of scholarly research and creative endeavor.”

— Chancellor Chalmers in his installation address, September 1969

E. LAURENCE CHALMERS
Chancellor of the University of Kansas, 1969-72

A good chancellor possesses, among other qualities, a diplomatic nature. Chancellor E. Laurence Chalmers was known for giving students a voice and keeping peace during a turbulent period in our university’s history. While brief, his chancellorship had a profound effect on the KU community. His leadership — and beloved bow ties — continue to be remembered fondly by former students and faculty.

After leaving KU, Chalmers continued to champion the arts, becoming president of the Art Institute of Chicago and, later, the San Antonio Museum Association.

Welcome
Bernadette Gray-Little, Chancellor, University of Kansas

Remarks
Zoe Newton, Vice Chair, Kansas Board of Regents

Video
E. Laurence Chalmers: Leading Through Difficult Times

Remarks
William M. Tuttle Jr., Professor Emeritus of American Studies

Unveiling of bronze plaque

Family response
E. Laurence Chalmers III

Closing
Bernadette Gray-Little, Chancellor

RECEPTION in gallery and student study area of Chalmers Hall following program