Donation: **Billy Van Pelt Black Box**

With a lifetime focused on land conservation, Billy Van Pelt (’97 Landscape Architecture alum) has pledged $25,000 for The Black Box, an area in The Maker’s Suite that provides space for students to professionally photograph their work to include in their portfolios.

Van Pelt is the Director of External Relations and Senior Advisor at American Farmland Trust, the agricultural land trust that designs innovative conservation programs. He works with major donors throughout the Southeast; presents at conferences and meetings of allied organizations; and secures partnerships and sponsorships to increase AFT’s visibility across the region.

Van Pelt received his bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture in 1987, and is licensed to practice landscape architecture in Kentucky. As a landscape architect, he worked in both the private and public sectors, including over a decade as the director of a farmland protection program in Lexington, Kentucky, where he conserved 28,000 acres.