

## **PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM MOURNS PASSING OF LEONORE ANNENBERG**

### *Philanthropist Played Pivotal Role in Museum's Development*

March 12, 2009 (Palm Springs, CA) – The Palm Springs Art Museum expressed its mourning over the passing of Leonore Annenberg, widow of publisher and former Ambassador Walter Annenberg. The noted philanthropist and her late husband provided outstanding support to the museum for more than five decades while serving as a trustee and patron, and the museum's famed Annenberg Theater and one of the two main exhibition wings were named in honor of the Annenbergs' legacy. Earlier this year, the museum observed Mrs. Annenberg's 91<sup>st</sup> birthday to acknowledge her extraordinary dedication and financial support, where museum guests were able to enjoy the recently refurbished Annenberg Theater and the Annenberg Art Wing, currently displaying the exhibition, *Wayne Thiebaud: 70 Years of Painting*.

The Annenbergs provided vital leadership and funding to the museum in the 1970s, when it moved into its present landmark building. With the greatly expanded gallery space in the Annenberg Wing and the opening of the Annenberg Theater, the museum affirmed its commitment to the visual and performing arts and to innovative children's education programs. Numerous grants from the Annenberg Foundation have supported major capital campaigns, education programs, special projects, the museum's annual Gala and other fundraising events.

"We are very saddened by the loss of Leonore Annenberg," said Harold J. Meyerman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Palm Springs Art Museum. "Over many years Mrs. Annenberg, her late husband Ambassador Annenberg, and the Annenberg Foundation have provided an extraordinary legacy to the museum, which helped make it a cultural cornerstone for the desert communities. Their unparalleled legacy of philanthropic support allowed the museum fulfill a vital educational and cultural role in the community. Our deepest sympathies extend to the Annenberg family for this great loss."

Mrs. Annenberg's legacy at the museum dates back to the 1960's, when she served as a Trustee from 1966 to 1976 and as an honorary Trustee from 1977 to the present. She was President of the Board of Trustees from 1972 through 1976, during which time she played a key role in the construction, interior design and funding of the museum. Over the last five decades, the Annenbergs' and their Foundation contributed in excess of \$8,000,000 to the museum, and are one of the museum's six Grand Benefactors.

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features compelling exhibitions and a robust permanent collection of modern, contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian and glass art in 28 spacious galleries and in its two outdoor sculpture gardens. The museum offers educational lectures, films and an assortment of programs and art workshops for all ages. The museum's Annenberg Theater features outstanding musical performances. The museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. with free admission from 4 – 8 p.m. sponsored by the City of Palm Springs. Admission is free to members; \$12.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; \$5 for adult students and active-duty military with I.D. and free for youths 17 and under. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit [www.psmuseum.org](http://www.psmuseum.org).

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