



Palm Springs Art Museum's *Gala 2015: Sculpting A Life Through Art* Raised \$960,000 While Honoring Former JoAnn McGrath Executive Director Dr. Steven Nash

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. (March 17, 2015) – Palm Springs Art Museum's sold-out *Gala 2015: Sculpting A Life Through Art* raised \$960,000 on Saturday, March 14. Held at Palm Springs Art Museum and the Annenberg Theater, this elegant black-tie gala honored eight years of extraordinary leadership by Dr. Steven A. Nash, who recently retired as the museum's first JoAnn McGrath executive director.

The annual gala, with tickets \$750 per person, is the museum's largest fundraising event, with all proceeds going to support exhibition and educational programs. Once again, the event was a sold-out success with 414 attendees. The celebratory evening included a cocktail reception, lavish dinner, spectacular Broadway caliber entertainment, and dancing. The highlight of the evening was a video presentation in the Annenberg Theater paying tribute to Dr. Nash's vision and many accomplishments in spearheading the museum to a new level of excellence as one of the finest mid-sized art institutions in the United States today.

"Through Dr. Nash's leadership, dedication, and unrelenting efforts, he expanded the museum's permanent collection and significantly increased the caliber and quality of its exhibition program," said Jane Saltonstall, President of the Board of Trustees.

The evening included an unveiling of a significant art work purchased by museum supporters and the Contemporary Art Council in honor of Dr. Nash. The work, *Reclining*

Figure (For Rome) by the sculptor Thomas Houseago, is now on display on the Ted Weiner Sculpture Terrace at the front of the museum.

Following the presentation honoring Dr. Nash, Jessie Mueller and Jarrod Spector, stars from the Tony Award-nominated for Best Musical, *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, performed a special show produced specifically for the Gala. The performance featured a full band and night of classic songs from their careers. Dancing concluded the evening while bidding farewell to Dr. Nash.

In attendance were honoree Dr. Steven A. Nash with his wife Carol Nash and their family, Gala co-chairs Bobbi Holland and Chuck Hilliar, MAC President Gloria Scoby, Dr. Jane Saltonstall, Helene V. Galen, Harold B. Matzner, Donna MacMillan, JoAnn McGrath, Dorothy Meyerman, Stacey and Greg Renker, Faye Sarkowsky, and Gary D. Hall, representative of the Wells Fargo Foundation.

Sponsors of *Gala 2015* include **Double Platinum Sponsors** Helene V. Galen, Harold B. Matzner, Donna MacMillan, JoAnn McGrath, Dorothy Meyerman, Stacey and Greg Renker, Faye Sarkowsky, and members of the Wells Fargo Foundation; **Platinum Sponsors** Annette Bloch, Peggy Jacobs and Bob Howard, David Lee, Jan Salta, Arlene Schnitzer, and Louis Stern; **Gold Sponsors** Joyce Brandman, Diane Deshong, Carol and Jim Egan, Bobbi Holland, Joan Dale and R.D. Hubbard, Mary Ann and Charles LaBahn, Katherine and Judd Malkin, Miriam and Wayne Prim, and Nita Soref; **Silver Sponsors** Leisa Austin, Karen Hyde Baker, Becky Benaroya, Margi and Max Briggs, Rosemarie and Dean Buntrock, Peggy Cravens, Jane Emison and Mike Tierney, Georgia and Jerry Fogelson, Joyce and Harold Frank, Barbara Fremont, Joyce and Henry Freund, Marshall Gelfand and Jacqueline Rudman, John D. and Amy Jo Gottfurcht/SSI Investment Management, Jessica and Gary Grace, Susan Goodman and Rodney Lubeznik, William M. Haines and Edward A. Oehler, Beth Edwards Harris, Lisa and Brent Harris, Chuck Hilliar and Bob Archer, Joan Holland, Sally and Morton Kirshner, Jeff Levy, Yvonne and Steve Maloney, Cheryl McArthur, Tom Minder and Duke Kulas, Kathleen and Gerald Peters, Cathy and Larry Pitts, Barbara Platt, Paige Qvale, Linda and Manny Rider, Phyllis and Gary Schahet, Gloria and Michael Scoby, Mary L. Silver, Arline and Fred Simon, Pauline Barton Spivey, Nani S. Warren/The Swigert Warren Foundation, and Gwen Weiner.

For more information about the museum visit www.psmuseum.org or call (760) 322-4800.

About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley and includes three locations in Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The flagship building is located in downtown Palm Springs and features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the 433-seat Annenberg Theater, all in a 150,000 square foot, architecturally-significant building. Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design. Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm

Desert is an 8,400 square foot, Silver LEED-certified building named The Galen that presents rotating exhibitions and special collections. It is surrounded by the four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden featuring important sculpture works. Admission to the Palm Desert location is now free to the public, generously underwritten by Helene V. Galen. For more information, call 760-322-4800, visit www.psmuseum.org, and follow the museum on Facebook, Twitter and InstaGram.

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