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**LOUIS GRACHOS NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM**

**Grachos will join the Palm Springs Art Museum in June, 2019**

PALM SPRINGS, CA (April 10, 2019) – The Board of Trustees of the Palm Springs Art Museum today announced the appointment of Louis Grachos as the Museum’s incoming Chief Executive Officer and JoAnn McGrath Executive Director. Grachos will begin his new position in June 2019. He comes to the Palm Springs Art Museum from Austin, Texas, where he has served as the Ernest and Sarah Butler Executive Director and CEO of The Contemporary Austin.

“I am exhilarated and honored to accept this new role at the Palm Springs Art Museum,” says Grachos. “It will be a privilege to work with such distinguished museum buildings and collections, develop strong exhibitions programs, and deepen the museum’s commitment to arts education and outreach. I am inspired by the ever-growing community surrounding the museum, and I believe that the three uniquely distinct sites that comprise it present an extraordinary opportunity to further develop and nurture Palm Springs as a rich cultural destination. I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees and outstanding staff.”

Steve Maloney, Board Chairman of the Palm Springs Art Museum, says "It is truly an honor to welcome Louis to the Palm Springs Art Museum. Louis has a stellar reputation as an Executive Director and CEO, and will be a great asset for us. He has a rich network that spans the international art world and is a perfect fit for the museum. The entire board and staff look forward to working with Louis on the many new exciting opportunities ahead of us."

Mark Prior, who has been a board trustee since 2017, assumed the role of Interim CEO in September 2018 while the search for an Executive Director was underway. “It’s been a great privilege to serve as CEO of such a fine institution and pillar of our community,” says Prior. “I want to thank the museum staff, board and membership for giving me so much support over the past eight months. I look forward to working with Louis on a seamless transition and, later, as a trustee; I can’t wait to experience what he will bring to the museum.”

A museum director with over 30 years of experience in the field, Grachos led The Contemporary Austin through significant initiatives, including the development and growth of the museum’s mission to represent preeminent international artists through exhibitions and educational outreach; the launch of an international program of contemporary outdoor sculpture at the Betty and Edward Marcus Sculpture Park—created through a \$9 million grant secured during Grachos’s first year as director; the creation of

the Suzanne Deal Booth / FLAG Art Foundation Prize—now one of the most significant art prizes in the world; the construction of the Moody Welcome Pavilions, which have reconfigured and greatly enhanced the visitor experience at the museum’s historic Laguna Gloria location; and the renovation and expansion of the museum’s downtown exhibition space, the Jones Center on Congress Avenue. During his tenure, Grachos worked closely with contemporary artists Ai Weiwei, Janine Antoni, Carol Bove, Tom Friedman, Orly Genger, Liam Gillick, Jim Hodges, Wangechi Mutu, Do Ho Suh, SUPERFLEX, and many others.

Prior to his tenure at The Contemporary Austin, Grachos served as the Executive Director of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York, from 2003 to 2012, as well as the Director of SITE Santa Fe in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from 1996 to 2003.

For more information about Palm Springs Art Museum exhibitions programs and events, please visit [psmuseum.org](http://psmuseum.org) or call (760) 322-4800.

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### **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, located in downtown Palm Springs, features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the Annenberg Theater, all in a 124,000 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 a Silver LEED-certified building named The Galen featuring rotating exhibitions and special collections. The Galen is surrounded by the four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden.