



Palm Springs  
Art Museum

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM ANNOUNCES NEXT PHASE**

**PALM SPRINGS, CA (March 18, 2021)** — Palm Springs Art Museum’s Board of Trustees has announced that **Louis Grachos**, the museum’s JoAnn McGrath Executive Director/CEO since 2019, has resigned his position but, in order to ensure a smooth transition, will remain at his post into the summer.

“This a time of great change for our museum and we on the board are excited to enter the next phase of our operations,” says **Mary Ingebrand-Pohlad**, the museum’s current Interim Chair. “Louis has not only been instrumental in redefining and sharpening the museum’s focus and identity, but also in helping guide us through the most difficult period in the organization’s history. He has positioned us extraordinarily well for our reopening on April 1. We have five beautiful new exhibitions on view in our galleries, and two amazing installations on the horizon: the *Aluminaire House* being assembled in our south parking lot and an installation by celebrated artist Gonzalo Lebrija that will go into the lot across the street from the main museum. We also have two fundraisers coming up: Art Auction '21, hosted by Sotheby's, on April 9-16, and our annual Art Party gala on January 29, 2022. While we are saddened to say goodbye to Louis, we celebrate his many accomplishments over the past two years and wish him success in his new position. We look forward to announcing a new director in the near future.”

Grachos has accepted the role of Phillips Executive Director at SITE Santa Fe in New Mexico, a non-profit arts organization dedicated to supporting and amplifying contemporary art through exhibitions, biennials, and public programs. He previously served as the organization’s director from 1996 to 2003.

During his time at the helm of Palm Springs Art Museum, Grachos has overseen the institution’s three major sites and led it through the challenging COVID pandemic. He was responsible for the stewardship of the museum’s collection of over 12,000 works, which included the successful effort to acquire Albert Frey and A. Lawrence Kocher’s *Aluminaire House*, a historic prototype residence created by in 1931. Grachos also steered a number of successful fundraisers, and implemented a restructure of the museum’s membership and volunteer programs.

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 150,000-square-foot, architecturally significant building. The Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design. In Palm Desert, Palm Springs Art Museum's four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden is open to the public from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.