



**Palm Springs
Art Museum**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT FROM CRAIG HARTZMAN, CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Palm Springs, CA (November 19, 2025) — Palm Springs Art Museum is aware of the commentary published in the *Los Angeles Times* regarding the museum's governance and finances.

We respect the role of an independent press. At the same time, the column is based on selective internal correspondence and does not fully reflect the work we have done with our auditors and outside advisors over the last several years. Some of its characterizations of the museum's financial condition and board oversight are not consistent with the facts as understood by our board, management, auditors, and independent consultants.

Board service and recent resignations

We do not comment on the contents of individual resignation letters, even though the column specifically referred to the resignation letter of one of the two board members who recently resigned. We can only wonder how and why the *Los Angeles Times* obtained the letter.

As is typical for a nonprofit board of this size, trustees leave for a range of reasons, including the end of their term prescribed in our bylaws (three years), personal and professional commitments, relocation, and, in some cases, differences of view on governance. And sometimes they simply develop personal grievances based on differences of opinion and other factors.

The board is actively engaged in its responsibilities and is committed to maintaining strong, diverse trustee leadership in support of the museum's mission.

Audit letters and "material weakness"

Each year, our independent audit firm issues two communications:

- a formal opinion on the museum's financial statements; and
- a separate internal-control letter to management and the board that identifies any control issues or process improvements the auditors believe should be addressed.

These internal-control letters – including instances where items are grouped under a "material weakness" heading – are standard practice across the nonprofit sector. They are intended to guide improvement, not to serve as a public rating of an organization's overall health.

Since 2021, management and the board's Audit Committee have worked systematically with our auditors to respond to the control comments in those letters. Essentially all the recommendations identified in

2021 have been implemented and completed, and work on the one remaining item is well underway as we complete our current audit cycle.

Earlier this year, in response to questions raised about historical accounting practices, the board also engaged independent outside professionals – including an accounting consultant and legal counsel – to review those matters and report their findings. Their work was presented to the board, and any additional recommendations will continue to be considered as part of our normal oversight process.

Our commitment going forward

Palm Springs Art Museum takes its fiscal and fiduciary responsibilities seriously and is committed to operating with transparency and accountability. We will continue to publish our audited financial statements and IRS Form 990 tax returns on this website (see <https://www.psmuseum.org/about/institutional-information>), and we are preparing additional plain-language information to help anyone interested understand our finances and governance practices.

Above all, the museum remains focused on advancing its mission through inspiring exhibitions, education programs, and community engagement. This season's slate is shaping up to be our best ever. We are grateful to our staff, volunteers, donors, members, the City of Palm Springs and community partners who support the museum and help ensure that Palm Springs Art Museum remains a vital and trusted cultural resource for the region.

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About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley. 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. Five blocks away, 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. The museum's collection also contains two icons of modernist design: Frey House II (1962) on the mountainside behind the main building and Aluminaire House™ (1932) on museum grounds.