

## **David Geffen Pledges Historic \$150 Million to the *Building LACMA* Campaign**

### **Largest commitment toward the museum's Peter Zumthor-designed permanent collection building**

(Los Angeles, October 4, 2017)—The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) announced today that philanthropist and entertainment executive David Geffen has pledged \$150 million toward the museum's new galleries. The largest single cash gift from an individual in the museum's history, Geffen's philanthropic support also makes him the largest individual donor to the *Building LACMA* campaign. The new Peter Zumthor-designed building will be called the David Geffen Galleries in honor of his extraordinary gift.

David Geffen said, "I am excited to see the positive effects this new building will have on Los Angeles's art and architectural communities. This innovative addition to the LACMA campus will ensure ongoing and expanded access to their permanent collection. LACMA will be able to touch millions of lives and create an even healthier and more vibrant community for everyone." He continued, "At a time when federal funding for the arts is threatened, it's important that we foster public-private partnerships, like this one, to support arts and cultural institutions. We must ensure that the public, everyone, has access to these venerable institutions. I am proud to partner with the County and other members of the community in helping LACMA move this remarkable project from vision to reality. Together, we can and must make sure every person has access to the arts."

"This historic commitment propels LACMA's two-decade expansion and rebuilding project forward," said Michael Govan, LACMA CEO and Wallis Annenberg Director. "David Geffen is one of Los Angeles's, and our nation's, most generous philanthropists. This gift, for which we are incredibly grateful, ensures that our new building becomes a reality. Pledges of this magnitude are incredibly rare, and David's commitment demonstrates his belief in the power of art museums to reach a broad and diverse public and create significant civic benefit. "

Elaine Wynn and Tony Ressler, co-chairs of LACMA's board of trustees, said, "We are immensely grateful to David for his profound support of the museum, and for the vast opportunities his investment provides for LACMA's future. Through his significant

philanthropy across the nation, he has strengthened the fabric of our communities by supporting education, arts and culture, social justice, and improved health. David, who achieved his business success in L.A., has long given generously to causes that have moved our city and citizens forward, and his latest commitment only underscores his civic leadership.”

With this pledge, the total amount committed to the *Building LACMA* campaign is \$450 million, which includes a major contribution from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and significant pledges from LACMA board co-chair Elaine Wynn, patron A. Jerrold Perenchio, and trustee Eric Smidt and his wife Susan, in addition to other substantial commitments from members of the board of trustees.

The David Geffen Galleries, which will replace four of the museum’s seven current buildings, is intended to enable LACMA’s vast encyclopedic collection to be shown and experienced in innovative ways. The project is scheduled to begin construction in 2019, with the new building slated to open in 2023.

### **About David Geffen**

Born in Brooklyn, New York, David Geffen has made an indelible mark on many fields, including film, theater, and, most notably, music, where he created the legendary record companies Asylum and Geffen Records, discovering and cultivating the careers of some of America’s most prominent musicians and actors. His numerous professional successes enable him to generously support charitable organizations important to him. His record-setting donations to the UCLA School of Medicine, totaling in excess of \$400 million, support not just medical education, but unprecedented scholarships for medical students, and research grants that help attract some of the nation’s leading instructors. In recognition of his leadership and game-changing support, the school is now the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Furthering his philanthropic support of UCLA and Los Angeles, in early 2016 he provided a \$100 million grant to UCLA to fund the creation of a college preparatory school on the campus for LA area youth grades 6 through 12. Additionally, he has been a major benefactor to AIDS Project Los Angeles, Gay Men’s Health Crisis, amfAR, God’s Love We Deliver, the Elton John AIDS Foundation, and Project Angel Food.

He is a pioneer of public-private partnerships that support the arts and benefit the community in Los Angeles, New York City, and elsewhere. His first news-making engagement with the Los Angeles art community was in 1996 when he collaborated with the Museum of Contemporary Art to create and fund the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA, an innovative gallery space in Los Angeles’s historic core and a precursor to

the development of the city's thriving Downtown Arts District. He was a \$25 million lead donor in the creation of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, which, though not a program of LACMA, is being constructed on the LACMA campus. In addition to his support in Los Angeles, he has been a generous supporter of public institutions and charities in New York City. His visionary philanthropy has bolstered communities nationwide, transforming major institutions, including most recently the Museum of Modern Art and the Lincoln Center.

Mr. Geffen has also been a longtime patron of LACMA. His many generous contributions have helped the museum grow its campus as well as its encyclopedic collection, including the historic joint acquisition of the Robert Mapplethorpe archive with the J. Paul Getty Trust. Mr. Geffen has called Los Angeles home for many years and has been a particularly generous philanthropist, helping to shape the cultural landscape of the city.

#### **About LACMA**

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes more than 130,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Among the museum's strengths are its holdings of Asian art; Latin American art, ranging from masterpieces from the Ancient Americas to works by leading modern and contemporary artists; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world. A museum of international stature as well as a vital part of Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collections through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over one million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement. LACMA is located in Hancock Park, 30 acres situated at the center of Los Angeles, which also contains the La Brea Tar Pits and Museum and the forthcoming Academy Museum of Motion Pictures. Situated halfway between the ocean and downtown, LACMA is at the heart of Los Angeles.

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