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KRAVIS CENTER HONORS ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LIFE TRUSTEES AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.) The Kravis Center's Board of Directors, Life Trustees and Standing Committee members took their bows amid standing ovations and were honored on April 27th at the annual luncheon to celebrate highlights of the 25th anniversary season.

The annual luncheon was sponsored by Laurie Silvers and Mitchell Rubenstein, who have generously underwritten the event for the past 11 years. Ms. Silvers, who serves as Board Vice Chair, welcomed guests and briefly discussed how the arts education programs at the Kravis Center are preparing the next generation of artists and audiences.

Following lunch, Board Chairman Michael Bracci in his opening remarks acknowledged that Kravis Center CEO Judith Mitchell was recently recognized with the prestigious George Abbott Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts at the 41st Annual Carbonnell Awards sponsored by the South Florida theater community. He noted Ms. Mitchell is now in her 28th year of service, and the Kravis Center is fortunate to have a CEO who is a master of building and sustaining a great team. He also provided a recap of the Kravis Center's spectacular season, noting special accomplishments in both ticket sales and fundraising.

"In the area of fundraising and development, I am thrilled to report that we have met and exceeded our annual fundraising goal of \$5.8 million, three months ahead of schedule," said Mr. Bracci. "Our two sensational, spectacular and sold-out fundraising events - the Palm Beach Wine Auction and the Gala - both set new fundraising records during our silver anniversary season, with a combined total of one million dollars."

Mr. Bracci then introduced a video on the history of the Kravis Center and its economic impact on the community over the past 25 years.

"Everyone knows that we all would not be sitting here today, 25 years later, if it were not for the vision and hard work of Alexander Dreyfoos, our Founding Chairman. Thanks to Alex and so many who supported his dream, the Kravis Center is a cultural arts destination that has fueled nearly half a billion dollars into our local economy since our first performance in 1992. To date, there have been over 13,000 performances with over 10 million patrons in attendance. We are particularly proud that more than two million students have participated in arts education programs at the Kravis Center."

After providing a recap of the season, Mr. Bracci announced that Pollstar, the only publication which measures the number of tickets sold by all concert venues around the world with up to 10,000 seats, rated the Kravis Center as the third largest concert ticket seller in the world and the top placement in the United States.

“This is particularly impressive, since the Kravis Center only has 2,195 seats, and was ranked behind the Auditorio Nacional in Mexico City and the Royal Albert Hall in London, where there is greater seating capacity.”

He then paid tribute to the late Lewis M. Schott, a Kravis Center Life Trustee, who passed away earlier this season. “Lew served as a Board member from 1995 through 2007 and then as a Life Trustee. During that time he co-chaired the Development Committee and served as a member of the Employee Relations Committee. He was strongly instrumental in the founding of the Palm Beach Wine Auction and used his business expertise to help guide policies to ensure the Center’s continued position as a leader in our cultural community. His impact on the Kravis Center and on the community was enormous and he will be deeply missed.” A moment of silence was observed in his memory.

Mr. Bracci acknowledged and congratulated Board members John Jenkins, Amin Khoury, Sidney Kohl and Lee Wolf who at the end of the season will be awarded the designation of Kravis Center Life Trustee upon completion of their terms as members of the Board.

John Jenkins has served on the Board of Directors since April 2005. He has been a member of the Community Relations Committee since 1997 and Chair since 2005. He has also served on the Nominating and the Employee Relations Committees. John and his wife Jessie have supported the Kravis Center since its opening in 1992.

Sidney Kohl was first elected to the Board in 2005. He served on the Audit Committee since 2005 and has been the Chair since 2007. Under Sidney’s extraordinary leadership, the Audit Committee has worked tirelessly to maintain the highest integrity and transparency of the Kravis Center’s financial reporting systems. Sidney and his wife Dorothy are Founder members.

Amin Khoury has served on the Board since March 2004. He has chaired the Investment Committee and Operations Committee as well as serving on the Finance, Government Relations and Investment Committees. As Founder members, Amin and his wife Julie have generously supported the Kravis Center for many years.

Lee Wolf was first elected to the Board in April 2005. She served as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and the Nominating Committee and has served on the Governance and Employee Relations Committees. Lee was a Founder of the Cultural Society in 1998 and since has co-chaired the Cultural Society’s very successful *Lunch and Learn* Series. Lee is a Founder member.

As Mr. Bracci reflected on the success of the 25th anniversary season, he reported on the free Community Salute Day in October, when 4,000 guests attended live performances over a 12-hour period. In all, there were 480 presentations this season, which were attended by over 343,000 patrons. Ticket sales are at an all-time high for the Kravis On Broadway Series, with over 8,700 subscribers.

“Our Board Luncheon would not be complete without a look forward to the 2017-18 season. We are very excited to announce that our Kravis On Broadway’s 10th Anniversary Season will feature seven blockbuster hits including multiple Tony Award winners. Thank you all for your dedication and stewardship as we build on the progress of the past 25 years and plan for a fantastic future,” Mr. Bracci concluded.

This season, as the Kravis Center celebrates its silver anniversary, it renews its commitment to the community to present the gold standard of excellence in the performing arts.

The Kravis Center is a not-for-profit performing arts center whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County by presenting a diverse schedule of national and international artists and companies of the highest quality, by offering comprehensive arts education programs, by providing a Palm Beach County home for local and regional arts organizations to showcase their work and by providing an economic catalyst and community leadership in West Palm Beach, supporting efforts to increase travel and tourism to Palm Beach County.

For information about the Kravis Center, please visit the Kravis Center's official website kravis.org.

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