

**PRESS CONTACT:**

**Slatkow & Husak Public Relations**

**Meredith Westheimer**

[Meredith@SlatkowHusak.com](mailto:Meredith@SlatkowHusak.com) or 561-213-8192

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FINAL**

**MICHAEL J. BRACCI ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE KRAVIS CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**(WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.)** – The Board of Directors of the Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts, at its annual meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2016, elected Michael J. Bracci as Board Chairman of the nonprofit, effective July 1, 2016. Mr. Bracci succeeds Jane M. Mitchell, who has served as Board Chair for the past three years.

Mr. Bracci served as a Vice Chairman of the Board from 2013-2014 through 2015-2016. He serves on the Audit and Development Committees and has chaired the Governance/Nominating Committee since 2013-2014. Mr. Bracci will be the fourth Chair in the Center's more than 30-year history. Jane M. Mitchell was elected to serve as Vice Chair for a one-year term. Joining Bracci and Mitchell on the Board as officers for one year terms are Laurie Silvers, Vice Chair; John Kessler, Treasurer; and James Harpel, Secretary.

Newly elected to the Kravis Center Board, each for a three-year term, are: Sherry S. Barrat, Corporate Director of NextEra Energy, Inc.; Robert L. Fromer, former managing partner of the New York City law firm Hartman & Craven, LLP; David S. Mack, vice president and senior partner of The Mack Company, a real estate development firm headquartered in NJ; and Bruce M. Newman, founder of Newel Art Galleries, the nation's largest decorative arts and antiques firm.

"The Kravis Center and the Board of Directors are grateful to Jane Mitchell for her leadership, dedication and for the outstanding work she has done as board chair for the past 3 years." said Judith Mitchell, CEO of the Kravis Center. "Under Jane's leadership, the Kravis Center experienced important growth, increased focus on technology and embarked on an ambitious strategic plan. We are so grateful that she will continue in key roles at the Center as a director and Vice Chair.

"As we look to the future of the Kravis Center, we are excited to welcome Michael Bracci, who has long been involved in the Center and the Palm Beach County community. Michael's professional experience and passion for the arts and our community will help the Center to continue to evolve and to meet the needs of all of our patrons."

Michael Bracci has been in the financial services industry for nearly 30 years. He has been with Northern Trust for more than 20 years and is currently President of the Palm Beach/Treasure Coast Region. Bracci is responsible for all aspects of the Bank's wealth management business including investment management, trust and fiduciary management, financial planning and private banking. He leads a team of over 120 professionals in 6 offices stretching from Boca Raton to Vero Beach.

“It is truly an honor to serve as the Board Chairman of the Kravis Center,” said Board Chair-Elect Bracci. “The Kravis Center is the premier performing arts center in our region, and in addition to enriching the lives of residents and tourists in Palm Beach County, the Center also serves as a catalyst for economic development and growth and is a leader in arts education for the region. I look forward to collaborating with the Board of Directors and Kravis Center staff to make a meaningful impact on the Kravis Center’s history.”

A resident of Tequesta, Mr. Bracci currently serves as a Board member of the Town of Palm Beach United Way and is past Board President (2010-2012); the Nicklaus Children’s Healthcare Foundation as Chairman of the Executive Committee and serves as Treasurer of the Board of the Benjamin School in North Palm Beach. Additionally, he is a former Board member of the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County where he was Board President (2002-2004) and the Cultural Council of Palm Beach County serving as Board Chairman (2008-2012)

Thursday’s election was held after the annual luncheon to honor the Board of Directors, Life Trustees and Standing Committee members, held in the Gimelstob Ballroom at the Kravis Center. The luncheon was sponsored by Laurie Silvers and Mitchell Rubenstein.

For almost 25 years, the not-for-profit Kravis Center for the Performing Arts has helped students of all ages fuel their imaginations and expand their lives through comprehensive arts education programs. Last season, nearly 60,000 children from Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, St. Lucie and Okeechobee counties attended numerous performances through the Kravis S\*T\*A\*R\* (Students and Teachers Arts Resource) Series. More than 3,000 adults attended ArtSmart continuing education classes and lectures – with topics ranging from Princess Grace to the Great American Songbook.

Centrally located in West Palm Beach, the Kravis Center is one of the premier performing arts centers in the Southeast with a renowned national and international reputation. Established as a leading force in the social fabric of the community, its many outreach programs are as broad and varied as the community itself. To date, the Center has opened the door to the performing arts for more than 2 million school children.

For general information about the Kravis Center’s performances and events, please visit [kravis.org](http://kravis.org) or call the box office at 561-832-7469.

###

**PLEASE NOTE, INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS CAN BE OBTAINED BY REQUEST BY CALLING MEREDITH WESTHEIMER AT SLATKOW & HUSAK PUBLIC RELATIONS – 561-213-8192.**