

Phoenix Art Museum

Press Release

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Phoenix Art Museum honored local philanthropists, premiered *Legends of Speed* at fall gala
The pARTy in the Garden on November 2 celebrated the Museum's 60th anniversary with exhibition of race cars

PHOENIX (November 22, 2019) – In celebration of its 60th anniversary, Phoenix Art Museum honored long-time Museum supporters Ellen and Howard Katz, presented Mayor Kate Gallego, and premiered [Legends of Speed](#), its first exhibition exploring the artistry and design of race cars, at [The pARTy in the Garden](#) on November 2. The event welcomed more than 400 guests and grossed more than \$775,000 in support of exhibitions and arts education programs at the Museum. Since 2007, the pARTy has grossed nearly \$10.5 million in support of the Museum.

“We are so grateful to everyone who attended this year’s event and, in so doing, made a major impact on Phoenix Art Museum,” said Mark Koenig, the Interim Sybil Harrington Director and Chief Financial Officer of Phoenix Art Museum. “The pARTy in the Garden plays a crucial role in both the history and future of the Museum, and the planning committee truly devoted themselves to creating a beautiful event. Their tireless efforts resulted in an infusion of generous support for Phoenix Art Museum.”

The gala was chaired by Susan Emerson and Laurie Florkiewicz, who were joined by Margot Knight and Meredith von Arentschildt in planning the annual event. This year’s event honored long-time Museum supporters Ellen and Howard Katz, who were recognized for their volunteer leadership and transformative support over nearly two decades and were presented with an architectural rendering of the Ellen and Howard C. Katz Wing for Modern Art. The 25,000-square-foot wing for modern and contemporary art was first opened in 2006 and was made possible through the generosity of the Katz family. The Honorable Mayor Kate Gallego of the City of Phoenix also presented the Museum with a proclamation recognizing November 18, the official birthday of Phoenix Art Museum, as “Phoenix Art Museum Day” in Phoenix.

In addition to fine dining, custom cocktails, and dancing under the stars, guests of the event were treated to the premiere of [Legends of Speed](#), the Museum’s first exhibition exploring the art and design of racing cars, before it officially opened to the public that weekend. With more than 20 cars by Maserati, Ferrari, Ford, Mercedes-Benz, and more, the exhibition showcases winners of the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Indianapolis 500, the Italian Grand Prix, and other iconic races, all loaned to the Museum by internationally recognized collectors and automotive museums. Additionally, guests were able to view [PhxArt60: The Past Decade](#), a special exhibition presented in the Katz Wing for Modern Art commemorating the Museum’s 60th anniversary and highlighting works acquired over the past ten years.

Beginning at nine o’clock, [The afterpARTy](#) featured a hosted bar, music, and late-night access to the Museum, including *Legends of Speed*. The art-and-cocktails experience welcomed more than 300 guests, including many gala attendees who stayed to partake in the festive atmosphere. The afterpARTy was sponsored by [Men’s Arts Council](#), [Carvana](#), [Arizona Distilling Co.](#), [Código 1530 Tequila](#), and [PHX Beer Co.](#)

Proceeds from The pARTy in the Garden and The afterpARTy support exhibitions and education programs at Phoenix Art Museum. For more information, contact the Museum’s Press Office at 602.257.2105 or margareebigler@phxart.org.

The pARTy in the Garden Benefactors

(As of 11.02.2019)

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Wines underwritten by Denise and Bob Delgado

About Phoenix Art Museum

Since 1959, Phoenix Art Museum has provided millions of guests with access to world-class art and experiences in an effort to ignite imaginations, create meaningful connections, and serve as a brave space for all people who wish to experience the transformative power of art. Located in Phoenix's Central Corridor, the Museum is a vibrant destination for the visual arts and the largest art museum in the southwestern United States. Each year, more than 350,000 guests engage with critically acclaimed national and international exhibitions and the Museum's collection of more than 20,000 works of American and Western American, Asian, European, Latin American, modern and contemporary art, and fashion design. The Museum also presents a comprehensive film program, live performances, and educational programs designed for visitors of all ages, along with vibrant photography exhibitions made possible through the Museum's landmark partnership with the Center for Creative Photography, University of Arizona. To learn more about Phoenix Art Museum, visit phxart.org or call 602.257.1880.

About Legends of Speed

Legends of Speed is the first major exhibition presented at Phoenix Art Museum to explore the artistry and design of racing cars. On view through March 15, 2020 and featuring more than 20 legendary cars by Maserati, Mercedes-Benz, Alfa Romeo, Ford, Ferrari, and more, the landmark exhibition showcases an unprecedented selection of cars driven by some of history's greatest drivers, including Mario Andretti, A.J. Foyt, Dan Gurney, and Stirling Moss. Featured cars have won many of the world's most iconic races, including the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Indianapolis 500, and the Italian Grand Prix, and were loaned to the Museum by internationally recognized collectors from Arizona and across the United States.

Legends of Speed is organized by Phoenix Art Museum. It is made possible through the generosity of Melani and Rob Walton, through The Rob and Melani Walton Foundation, Susan and Carter Emerson, Carl & Marilyn Thoma Art Foundation, Joan Cremin Exhibition Endowment, Laurie and Budd Florkiewicz, Jackson Family Foundation, APS, and OUTFRONT Media. Additional support is provided by Sonia and John Breslow, Nancy and Najeeb Kahn, Del and Sharron Lewis, narrative™ and Berkley One®, and Men's Arts Council. It is also made possible through the generosity of the Museum's Circles of Support and Museum Members.

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