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THE CAMPAIGN

SANTA BARBARA  
MUSEUM OF ART

## **Santa Barbara Museum of Art Receives Recent Gifts Totaling \$1.8 Million Towards Imagine More Capital Campaign**

**Major Contributions from the Estate of Diane Cunningham,  
The Ahmanson Foundation, and an Anonymous Donor**

August 6, 2018—The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) is pleased to announce recent gifts totaling \$1,800,000 towards the Imagine More Capital Campaign for the Museum's current renovation project. These include \$1 million from the estate of Diane Cunningham (bringing total contributions by her estate to \$4 million toward the campaign), \$500,000 from an anonymous donor, and \$300,000 from The Ahmanson Foundation. With these gifts, the Museum has reached a total of \$37 million towards the \$50 million campaign goal.

Larry J. Feinberg, SBMA's Robert and Mercedes Eichholz Director and CEO, states, "All of us on the SBMA staff and board are extremely grateful for these generous gifts. They will serve to fund the absolutely critical needs of this renovation project, and are having a galvanizing effect on the Museum's capital campaign."

### **About the Donors**

#### **Diane Cunningham**

Diane Cunningham cared about preserving the Museum's iconic building and felt the structural issues were at the heart of the project. Ms. Cunningham was the stepdaughter of J. Hewes Crispin, who had an enormous affection for the Museum and always intended to help support its future. Mr. Hewes spent much of his career at Bechtel Corporation in San Francisco and became Senior Vice President of Finance. When he retired in 1975, he and his family moved to Santa Barbara. He became involved with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and served as president from 1986 to 1988. In 1995, in gratitude for this service, Mr. Hewes was the first recipient of the Wright S. Ludington Award and was conferred the title of Life Honorary Trustee. Ms. Cunningham was very close to her stepfather and continued his support of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art through her own generosity and commitment.

#### **The Ahmanson Foundation**

The Ahmanson Foundation was begun by Howard F. Ahmanson who was passionately committed to community building through contributing to a community's culture, education, and social fabric. Trustees of The Ahmanson Foundation made this gift to honor the memory of Robert F. Erburu, who served as a Trustee of the Foundation and was President, CEO, and Chairman of the Board of the Times Mirror Company. Under his leadership, Times Mirror grew to a Fortune 500 media firm with nine newspapers. Mr. Erburu expected Times Mirror and its subsidiaries to be actively involved in the communities they served. In addition, his interest in art led him to serve as Chair of the Boards of The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens, The Getty Trust, and The National Gallery of Art. This dedication of service to one's community and love of art was shared with his wife of 59 years, Lois Erburu. Locally, Mrs. Erburu has served as a Board of Trustee member at SBMA since 2012, and has been a member of the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation and the Art, Design and Architecture Museum Council at UCSB.

### **About the Imagine More Capital Campaign**

The Imagine More Capital Campaign is the most ambitious fundraising initiative in the Museum's history and supports the current renovation project, addressing critical needs of the building and making improvements to benefit staff, visitors, and the entire Santa Barbara community. The Museum has already begun construction in earnest, with current efforts focused on seismic retrofitting, structural work, and significant improvements to art movement and storage. In addition, the renovation will provide for two new galleries, one dedicated to the display of Photography and one to the display of Contemporary Art.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is one of the finest museums on the West Coast and is celebrated for the superb quality of its permanent collection. Its mission is to integrate art into the lives of people through internationally recognized exhibitions and special programs, as well as the thoughtful presentation of its permanent collection.

**Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA.**  
**Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, Free Thursday Evenings 5 – 8 pm**  
**805.963.4364 [www.sbma.net](http://www.sbma.net)**