



Contact: Katrina Carl
Public Relations Manager
805.884.6430
kcarl@sbma.net



THE CAMPAIGN
SANTA BARBARA
MUSEUM OF ART

Santa Barbara Museum of Art Announces \$500,000 Gift to Imagine More Capital Campaign The Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation Contributes \$500,000

October 16, 2017—The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) is pleased to announce a contribution of \$500,000 from the late philanthropist Elaine F. Stepanek through her foundation, The Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation, towards the Imagine More Capital Campaign for the Museum's current renovation project.

With The Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation gift, the Museum has reached a total of \$30.8 million towards the \$50 million campaign goal. "A hard hat tour of the Museum's construction opened my eyes to the building's critical infrastructure needs," said Daniel H. Gainey, grandson of Elaine Stepanek. "It became clear to me we needed to participate in saving this building and keeping our Museum in the heart of downtown Santa Barbara."

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 the generous new gift from The Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation. It will serve to fund the absolutely critical needs of this renovation project, and is already having a galvanizing effect on the Museum's capital campaign."

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. Upon completion, the Museum will be uniquely positioned as the leading visual art organization on the Central Coast.

About the Donor

Originally from Boston, MA, Mrs. Stepanek moved to Santa Barbara in 1962 with her first husband Daniel C. Gainey. She actively and generously supported a number of cultural, educational, and medical organizations, locally and nationally. She married the late Edward E. Stepanek in 1979 and they enjoyed 23 years together.

Upon her passing, Mrs. Stepanek left a generous legacy gift to SBMA which was directed to supporting 19th-century European art exhibitions, especially French Impressionist, which she loved. Her legacy gift has since supported two important exhibitions: A Gift for Santa Barbara: The Dwight and Winifred Vedder Collection (2007) and Delacroix to Monet: Masterpieces of 19th-Century Painting from the Walters Art Museum (2010).

Mrs. Stepanek's lifetime giving to SBMA spanned 25 years and totaled more than \$1.2 million. Her generosity continues today through her foundation. Recently, The Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation underwrote the Museum's 75th-anniversary publication 75 in 25: Important Acquisitions at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. This book celebrated the extraordinary growth of the institution, its art donors, and its remarkable permanent collection.

About the Foundation

The Elaine F. Stepanek Foundation was established in 2012 to support the visual arts, education, and medicine in various geographical areas of the country.

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