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**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts
Launches 2021 with the Announcement of
Two Visionary Endowment Gifts,
Totaling \$1 Million;
Funding will Support Emerging Talent
Through GRoW @ The Wallis' Thriving Education and Outreach Programs**

**The Walter and Peggy Grauman Endowment Fund
Which Establishes The Walter and Peggy Grauman Fellowship in Music,
a First-Ever Fellowship Program at The Wallis,
are Made Possible by the Generosity of Performing Arts Philanthropist
and Wallis Ambassador Peggy Parker Grauman
and her Late Husband Walter Grauman**

**The Steven D. Cochran Memorial Fund,
Committed to Inspiring and Encouraging Young People's Love for the Performing Arts,
is Made Possible by the Generosity of Wallis Ambassador Dan Clivner,
Husband of the Late Steve Cochran,
former Wallis Board Member and Longtime Wallis Supporter,
and their Friends and Family**

(BEVERLY HILLS, CA, February 11, 2021) — The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts launches 2021 with the announcement of two visionary endowment gifts totaling \$1 million. The Walter and Peggy Grauman Endowment Fund, which establishes The Walter and Peggy Grauman Fellowship in Music, and The Steven D. Cochran Memorial Fund will provide ongoing funding to support emerging talent through GRoW @ The Wallis' education and outreach programs. GRoW @ The Wallis, an umbrella for the robust mix of education and outreach programs at The Wallis, uses the power of the arts to address important social issues and respond to critical needs in the greater community through arts leadership, learning, collaboration and partnership. Overseen by Director of Education, Mark Slavkin, long recognized as a dedicated advocate for children, families and the arts, GRoW has continued to thrive even during the pandemic and The Wallis' campus closure.

The Walter and Peggy Grauman Endowment Fund and the establishment of The Walter and Peggy Grauman Fellowship in Music are made possible by the generosity of performing arts

philanthropist and Wallis Ambassador Peggy Parker Grauman and her late husband, Walter Grauman. The Grauman Fellowship in Music, the first-ever fellowship program at The Wallis and the first of its type in Los Angeles County, will provide an annual Fellowship Award of \$15,000 to advance the career of an exceptionally talented emerging classical pianist or strings player based in Los Angeles. The program is intended to support the Fellow during the transition from formal education training to the professional world with the notion that building a career as a classical musician requires a skill set that extends far beyond exceptional talent as a performer. In addition to receiving a \$15,000 fellowship award, the Grauman Fellow will receive mentorship from The Wallis, including live performance opportunities, guidance related to successful auditioning, and exposure to career-readiness opportunities, among other experiences. Fellows will also be asked to plan and implement a community-based project designed to promote awareness and appreciation of classical music among new audiences in Los Angeles County, including younger audiences and those who lack regular access to the arts. The Wallis will announce the selection of the Grauman Fellow annually at the beginning of the organization's Season.

According to Slavkin, "I have personally witnessed Peggy and Walter Grauman's passion for supporting talented young artists over our more than twenty-year friendship, and I find it humbling that Peggy, who could have chosen to partner with any number of Los Angeles area institutions, is making this investment in GRoW @ The Wallis. I believe it speaks to her belief in The Wallis as a creative and innovative institution, and it is a huge boost of confidence in our work."

"Walter and I have made a special effort over the last 50 years to help advance the training and talent opportunities of so many outstanding young musicians here in Los Angeles County," says Mrs. Grauman. "One of Walter's proudest accomplishments was in 1988 when he created the nationally recognized scholarship and arts training program at the Music Center known as The Spotlight Awards. I am excited that now The Wallis will have the ability to provide opportunities to talented, young string musicians and pianists through a mix of performance and professional learning opportunities during their fellowship year at The Wallis."

The Steven D. Cochran Memorial Fund, committed to inspiring and encouraging young people's love for the performing arts, is made possible by the generosity of Wallis Ambassador Dan Clivner, husband of the late Steve Cochran, a former Wallis Board member and long-time Wallis supporter, and their friends and family. A transformational investment in the youngest members of The Wallis' community, it is the first endowed fund of its kind at The Wallis and is dedicated to supporting education, arts learning, and community engagement initiatives embodied through GRoW @ The Wallis in perpetuity.

Adds Slavkin, "Steve Cochran chaired The Wallis Board's Education Committee and continued to attend Board meetings and GRoW performances as often as he could during his illness. This includes the appearances of Steven's Puppets that Steve and Dan sponsored, so that their shows on the Promenade Terrace of The Wallis were free for all children and families who attended. It was a huge source of joy to him to see our theatres filled with kids. We are deeply moved that Dan and many friends and family members came together to make such a significant gift, and it is an honor for us at The Wallis to steward Steve's legacy in this way."

“The Wallis is the cultural heart of Beverly Hills and the greater Los Angeles region,” says Clivner, “and these funds will help bring youthful vitality to The Wallis and ensure the beat goes on for a long, long time.”

“Philanthropic investments of this magnitude speak to the dedication of our Wallis Family members and the priority they give The Wallis as a cornerstone institution of our community and a bright hope for our future,” says Rachel Fine, The Wallis’ Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer. “These two tremendous and significant funds, the first endowment gifts we have received since before The Wallis’s 2013 opening, fortify our mission and vision, as well as underscore our core values at a critical moment in time. During the pandemic and the extended closure of our campus and theaters, our GRoW @ The Wallis programs have proved indispensable in terms of reaching a vast community of arts learners and maintaining their connection to the performing arts when that connection is needed most. We are exceedingly grateful for and inspired by the generosity of Peggy Grauman and Dan Clivner.”

For more information about the Walter and Peggy Grauman Endowment Fund, the Grauman Fellowship in Music, and The Steven D. Cochran Memorial Fund, please visit <http://thewallisgrowblog.org/the-walter-and-peggy-grauman-fellowship-in-music/> and <http://thewallisgrowblog.org/the-steven-d-cochran-memorial-fund/>. For information on endowment giving at The Wallis, please contact Rachel Fine, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, at rfine@thewallis.org or (310) 246-3800.

About GRoW @ The Wallis:

The Wallis believes everyone deserves to learn and grow through the arts. Thanks to a generous gift from Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family, The Wallis campus includes a wing dedicated to sharing the arts with learners of all ages. Arts learning is integral to all that is done at The Wallis: connecting audiences with the very best in the performing arts; using the power of the arts to build community and address pressing social issues; and responding to critical needs in the greater community through arts leadership, collaboration and partnership.

About the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts:

The Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is a dynamic cultural hub and community resource where local, national and international artists share their artistry with ever-expanding audiences. The campus, located in the heart of Beverly Hills, CA, is committed to robust and distinctive presentations and education programs curated with both creativity and social impact in mind. Distinguished by its eclectic programming that mirrors the diverse landscape of Los Angeles and its location in the entertainment capital of the world, The Wallis has produced and presented more than 275 dance, theater, opera, classical music, cinema and family programs since its doors opened in October 2013. Hailed as “au courant” (LaLa Magazine), The Wallis was lauded by Culture Vulture, which proclaims, “If you love expecting the unexpected in the performing arts, you have to love The Wallis.” Its programming has been nominated for 57 Ovation Awards and seven L.A. Drama Critic's Circle Awards. The campus itself, a breathtaking 70,000-square-foot facility, celebrating the classic and the modern, has garnered six architectural awards. Designed by acclaimed architect Zoltan E. Pali (SPF:architects), the restored building features the original 1933 Beverly Hills Post Office (on the National Register of Historic Places), which serves as the theater's dramatic yet welcoming lobby, and includes the contemporary 500-seat, state-of-the-art Bram Goldsmith Theater; the 150-seat Lovelace Studio Theater; an inviting open-air plaza for family, community and other performances; and GRoW @ The Wallis: A Space for Arts Education, where learning opportunities for all ages and backgrounds abound. Together, these elements embrace the city's history and its future, creating a performing arts destination for L.A.-area visitors and residents alike. The

Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts is led by Chairman of the Board Michael Nemeroff, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer Rachel Fine and Artistic Director Paul Crewes.

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: TheWallis.org.

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