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**Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts  
Announces \$1 Million Dollar Gift  
to The Wallis' Arts Education and Outreach Programs  
from Gregory Annenberg Weingarten  
through GRoW @ Annenberg Initiative**

**This Transformational Gift Made by Gregory Annenberg Weingarten  
in Honor of his Mother, Wallis Annenberg,  
Will Support the Continued Innovation of  
GRoW @ The Wallis Educational Initiatives Over the Next Five Years**

(BEVERLY HILLS, CA, November 5, 2021) — As it re-opens with its 2021/2022 Season, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts announces a \$1 million-dollar leadership gift from Gregory Annenberg Weingarten through GRoW @ Annenberg, a philanthropic initiative of the Annenberg Foundation. Given in honor of Weingarten's mother, Wallis Annenberg, for whom The Wallis is named, the gift will support the continued success, growth, and innovation of GRoW @ The Wallis educational initiatives over the next five years. The Wallis' umbrella for the robust mix of education and outreach programs was originally established as GRoW @ The Wallis in 2015 by a visionary gift from Gregory Annenberg Weingarten and Family to ensure arts learning as central to The Wallis' mission. The Education Wing at The Wallis is named in the Weingarten family's honor. Weingarten is a Vice President and Director of the Annenberg Foundation, a family foundation established by Ambassador Walter H. Annenberg in 1989 and currently led by Wallis Annenberg, Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO. Gregory has served as a member of the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts Board of Directors since 2018. Regina Weingarten, Gregory's wife and philanthropic partner, also served as a Board member of the Performing Arts Center for two years from 2016 to 2018.

GRoW @ The Wallis uses the power of the arts to address critical needs in the greater community through arts leadership, learning, collaboration and partnership. Established because of The Wallis's commitment to the belief that everyone deserves to learn and grow through the arts, GRoW @ The Wallis features a wing on The Wallis' campus dedicated to sharing the arts with learners of all ages. Arts learning is integral to all that is done at The Wallis. Overseen by Director of Education, Mark Slavkin, long recognized as a dedicated advocate for children, families and the arts, GRoW has continued to thrive and even innovate during the pandemic, particularly in its Creative Aging programs. As the pandemic left many older adults

feeling isolated and alone, the weekly online classes offered by The Wallis helped participants connect to a community of peers.

“Gregory’s passion for arts education is evident in his significant contributions globally for over two decades culminating in this significant investment in the future of The Wallis,” says Michael Nemeroff, The Wallis’ Chairman of the Board. “We are proud to serve the larger community through the programs of GRoW @ The Wallis. Everyone – of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds – is invited to participate. This gift will help ensure The Wallis’ continued vibrancy as a destination for the performing arts, education and civic life in Los Angeles.”

According to Slavkin, “A gift of this magnitude is a game-changing investment in the future of GRoW @ The Wallis. Gregory’s generosity affirms our belief that the arts are a unifying force to help people recover from the trauma of the pandemic. We are deeply grateful for this forward-thinking investment, which will ensure that GRoW @ The Wallis’ deeply meaningful work of arts learning, education, and outreach will continue to thrive.”

“I have always been proud to support the work of GRoW @ The Wallis and even more so now as we make this gift in honor of my mother,” says Weingarten. “Its programming, staff and governing board – beginning with Wallis Annenberg – share GRoW’s long-standing philanthropic value that every person deserves access to the arts, and that starts with arts education.”

Weingarten, who received a bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University and worked as a journalist at The Times of London, went on to become an accomplished artist whose work has been exhibited in galleries and private collections throughout the United States and Europe. His philanthropic work is both programmatically and geographically diverse and ranges from repatriating sacred Native American objects from Paris to the United States to supporting teachers in remote areas of Peru, building healthcare centers in Bangladesh, supporting school safety programs in Watts, California, to funding museums, opera companies, and numerous student scholarships across the U.S. and Europe. He is a member of various boards and committees, including London's National Gallery and V&A Museum; Paris's Les Talens Lyriques, Opera & Ballet, Louvre Museum, and Musée des Arts Décoratifs; and across the United States, the National Park Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, the J. Paul Getty Trust, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Annenberg Foundation Trust at Sunnyslands, USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

For more information about the Gregory Annenberg Weingarten gift, please visit <https://thewallisgrowblog.org/wallis-annenberg-center-for-the-performing-arts-announces-1-million-dollar-gift-to-the-wallis-arts-education-and-outreach-programs-from-gregory-annenberg-weingarten/>. For information on giving at The Wallis, please contact Rachel Fine, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, at [rfine@thewallis.org](mailto:rfine@thewallis.org) or (310) 246-3800.

**About GRoW @ Annenberg:**

GRoW @ Annenberg is a philanthropic initiative founded and led by Gregory Annenberg Weingarten, a Vice President and Director of the Annenberg Foundation. GRoW is dedicated to supporting humanitarian efforts across the globe as well as innovative projects in health, education, the arts and civic & cultural life. With the belief that every person deserves respect, dignity, and access to opportunities to achieve his or her own greatest potential, GRoW @ Annenberg supports organizations and leaders promoting these values. Among the many organizations GRoW @ Annenberg continues to support – both locally and internationally – is Friendship, an organization that provides primary healthcare and educational services to people living on the riverbanks of northern Bangladesh. GRoW also has a significant relationship with the Los Angeles Trade Technical College, supporting its Design and Media Arts Pathway with the largest private gift to the college. GRoW's ongoing partnerships with the Royal Opera House, Institut Curie, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Loving Hands Community Care, and the Watts Leadership Institute attest to the great diversity of the initiative's philanthropic outreach. Additionally, GRoW @ Annenberg's core beliefs center around the idea that accessibility and opportunities should be available to all. This philosophy is demonstrated through its giving in the arts, which has the power to bridge divides between people. To help achieve this, GRoW has provided a range of support to cultural institutions – the LA Opera, American Cinematheque, LACHSA and the Getty, and the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, among others – with a focus on interweaving the preservation of art and culture with the importance of education and accessibility. In 2013, one example of GRoW's unique philanthropic vision received international attention. With assistance from the Annenberg Foundation, Gregory Annenberg Weingarten intervened in a French auction and anonymously purchased sacred Native American objects and repatriated them to their rightful owners – the majority to the Hopi Tribe.

**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 300 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 79 Ovation Awards and nine 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 GRoW @ Annenberg, please visit [growannenberg.org](http://growannenberg.org).

For more information about The Wallis, please visit: [TheWallis.org](http://TheWallis.org).

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