



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Heather Epps
Director of Communications and Events
310-780-0145
heather.epps@smedfoundation.org

Santa Monica Wine Auction Raises \$435,000 for Local Public Schools
Funds to support programs and staff for all students

Santa Monica, Calif., May 13, 2024 – The ninth annual Santa Monica Wine Auction, held on Sunday, April 21, netted a record-breaking \$435,000 for essential staff and programs in the Santa Monica public schools. Generously hosted by the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows as part of their near decade long partnership with the Ed foundation, the Wine Auction featured food and wine tastings from beloved local restaurants and renowned wineries. Guests enjoyed the tastings under the Fairmont’s iconic Moreton Bay Fig tree before moving to the Starlight Ballroom for dinner, a live auction, and performances by the Samohi Jazz Band.

“The evening was one to remember that will benefit the students and families in our Santa Monica community,” said John Baracy, President of the Santa Monica Education Foundation’s Board of Directors. “We are grateful to our generous sponsors, volunteers, tasting partners, student performers and donors for their ongoing involvement and support.”

Funds from the Wine Auction will support arts programs, elementary classroom aides, STEM programs, as well as stretch grants for all Santa Monica public schools. In a year that proved difficult for fundraising, going into the Wine Auction, donations were alarmingly down and the ability to supply the needed funding for programs hung in the balance. However, attendees came ready to support the Ed Foundation’s efforts with lively bidding and a room that seemed electric with philanthropic energy all evening.

To date, the nine combined Wine Auctions have raised over \$2.4 million for Santa Monica’s public schools.

The event’s presenting sponsors were the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, Bjorn Farrugia Real Estate, BXP, Kilroy Realty, Kindo, and Saint John’s Health Center Foundation.

The Wine Auction featured incredible wine and food tastings. Restaurants at the event included

Blue Plate Oysterette; Boa Steakhouse; Caffè Luxxe; Calabria; FIG; Gelson's; Good Gracious! Events; Lunetta; Maestro's; Milo & Olive; Misfit; Papille Gustative; Sorry Not Sorry; Sushi Roku; and Vucacious Catering. Desserts were provided by Uppers Bakery and Cafe; Sweet Maple & U Dessert Story; Fat+Flour; Top Tier Treats; and Mochidoki.

Wine and spirit tastings included The Wine House; Cakebread Cellars; DAOU; Dassai Sake; Divine Vintage; Linne Calodo; Empress Gin; My Favorite Neighbor; Nabor Wines; ONX Wines; Sojourn; Staglin Family Wines; and tercero. Thanks to Glen Knight and The Wine House team, tastings by Beringer, Chimney Rock, Etude, Frank Family Vineyards, Hanna Winery & Vineyards, Klipsun, and Rutherford Hill were also enjoyed by attendees.

The Fairmont Miramar's newly expanded Library Reserve Room, where the most exclusive wines were poured, was open this year for 75 people. Library Reserve Room wineries included Betz, JM Cellars, Sojourn, Chateau Montelena, Peter Michael Winery, Spottswoode Vineyard, Lokoya, Fortunate Son, Groth Vineyards & Winery, Favia, and Dominus Estate.

In addition to the Presenting Sponsors, many other Corporate Partners helped make this event possible. Gold Sponsors included Cedars Sinai; Harding, Larmore, Kutcher & Kozal LLP; Santa Monica Place - Macerich, and Veo. Silver Sponsors were Baird, J.P. Morgan, and Verizon.

The success of the Wine Auction reflects the community's dedication to providing exceptional opportunities for students. The funds raised will undoubtedly make a significant impact on the quality of education and the enrichment of programs in local public schools.

Fundraising for 2024-2025 school-year programs will continue through June 30, 2024. For more information or to make a gift, please visit our website at smedfoundation.org.

About the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows

Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, Santa Monica's casually elegant destination by the sea, offers a unique urban resort experience for both hotel guests and Santa Monica locals. Situated on five expansive acres overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the Miramar Hotel sits on what was originally the private estate of the founder of Santa Monica, dating back to 1875. The Fairmont Miramar is home to 297 guest rooms, suites, and is the only Santa Monica beachside hotel with bungalows. The iconic destination continues to provide guests a relaxing and luxurious environment in its suite of outlets including the heritage-inspired and locally-sourced FIG Restaurant; intimate and authentic Soko Sushi; the celebrated hotspot, The Bungalow; Dogtown Coffee, Em Styles, Lloyd's Barbershop, Atelier by Edward Avedis, exhale Mind, Body & Spa, and Vilebrequin swimwear from St. Tropez. For more information visit: fairmont-miramar.com

About the Santa Monica Education Foundation

Contributions to the Santa Monica Education Foundation fund enriching programs at every Santa Monica public school – from arts to STEM to wellness – that shape our future problem solvers, visionaries, and global citizens.

Established in 1982 by a dedicated group of parents, community leaders, and local business owners, the Ed Foundation raises funds to enhance and supplement the curriculum of the Santa Monica schools. The Foundation's mission is to engage the community to invest in a vibrant educational experience for all public-school students in Santa Monica.

To learn more about the Ed Foundation, visit smedfoundation.org

###