



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Rachel Faulkner, Associate Director  
310-396-4557  
rachel@smedfoundation.org

### **The Santa Monica Wine Auction Raises \$400,000 for Local Public Schools**

Santa Monica, Calif., May 27, 2022 – The seventh annual Santa Monica Wine Auction, held on Sunday, May 15, raised \$400,000 for essential staff and programs in the Santa Monica public schools. This was the first time the event had been in person since 2019. Hosted by the Miramar Hotel, the Wine Auction featured food and wine tastings from top local restaurants and renowned wineries. Guests enjoyed the tastings under the Miramar Hotel’s iconic Moreton Bay Fig tree while also bidding in live and silent auctions.

“The evening was absolutely incredible,” said Alison Havel, President of the Santa Monica Education Foundation’s Board of Directors. “After three long years, it was magical being back in person again. The excitement was palpable! We are grateful to our generous community – our sponsors, volunteers, tasting partners, student performers and donors – for their involvement and support.”

The seven Wine Auctions have raised a combined \$1.75 million for Santa Monica’s public schools.

This year’s event was bittersweet because of the recent announcement of Linda Greenberg’s retirement after 28 years. Attendees were ready to celebrate Linda and her dedication to Santa Monica public school students; there were even special donation amounts of \$2,800 and \$280 during the Paddle Raise to commemorate her time with the Ed Foundation. A record \$187,880 was collectively raised during that Paddle Raise.

Funds from the Wine Auction will support arts programs, elementary classroom aides, STEM programs, as well as important social-emotional programs, like mindfulness. Social-emotional programs have been critical during the pandemic, as students have continued to adjust to the ever-changing landscape of COVID.

The event’s presenting sponsors were Kilroy, Saint John’s Health Center Foundation, MSD Capital and The Miramar Hotel, Santa Monica Place, and Macerich.

The Wine Auction featured incredible wine and food tastings. Restaurants at the event included 1212 Santa Monica; Blue Plate Taco; Boa Steakhouse; Gelson's; Little Fatty; Lunetta; Milo & Olive; North Italia; Papille Gustative; The Shores Kitchen; and Sushi Roku. Desserts were provided by Broadway Baker, Huckleberry Bakery and Café, Milk Bar (sponsored by Andrew Fried of Boardwalk Pictures), and The Misfit.

Wine and spirit tastings included The Wine House; Caymus Vineyards; Chambers & Chambers; Constellation Brands; Crocker and Starr Winery; The Dalmore; DAOU; DeMeine Estates; FIG; Fulldraw Vineyard; Grapevine Wine Brokers; Huneus Vintners; Law Estate Wines; Regal Wine Co.; Rosenthal Wines; Villa Creek Cellars; and Wagner.

For the first time, the Wine Auction also featured the Library Reserve Room, where the most exclusive wines were poured for only 40 people. Library Reserve Room wineries included Cardinale, Caymus Vineyards, Continuum, DAOU, Dominus Estate, Heitz Cellar, MAHA, Joseph Phelps, and Quintessa.

In addition to the presenting sponsors, many other Corporate Partners helped make this event possible. Gold Sponsors included Boardwalk Pictures; Cedars Sinai; FreeAssociates; Harding, Larmore, Kutcher & Kozal LLP; Kaiser Permanente; Raymond James; Related; Santa Monica Daily Press; Sir Speedy Santa Monica, and Verizon. Silver Sponsors were Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo; Boston Properties; Broadway Baker; Downtown Santa Monica; Khedr Management Company; and Maurice & Rustad, Real Estate.

Fundraising for 2022-2023 school-year programs will continue through June 30, 2022. For more information or to make a gift, or to make a special gift in honor of Linda Greenberg's retirement, go to [smedfoundation.org](http://smedfoundation.org).

### **About the Santa Monica Education Foundation**

Contributions to the Santa Monica Education Foundation fund excellent 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](http://smedfoundation.org).