

**The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts  
Receives**

**\$5 Million Gift on Behalf of the  
People of the United Arab of Emirates**

**Gift to the *Building the Future* Capital Campaign supports  
the REACH, the Kennedy Center's new expanded campus  
opening September 7, 2019**

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts today announced a \$5 million capital campaign gift on behalf of the People of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in support of the REACH, the Kennedy Center's unprecedented new expansion, scheduled to open September 7, 2019.

"We are incredibly grateful to the People of the UAE for their generous and long-standing support of the Kennedy Center and our programs and initiatives," stated Deborah F. Rutter, President of the Kennedy Center. "Art is truly a global platform. It has a unique ability to break down barriers, bringing people and communities together. This remarkable gift supports our vision to create those connections and build community amongst artists and audiences. The REACH is more than a physical extension of the nation's cultural center. It is an immersive space to inspire new connections between the art, visitors, artists, and even with each other."

"The arts build bridges across cultures and create common ground among all people," said [UAE Ambassador to the US Yousef Al Otaiba](#). "We are pleased to support The REACH, an innovative cultural space that will foster collaboration, exchange and creativity."

In addition to this gift from the People of UAE, the Embassy of the UAE generously supported the Kennedy Center's *Building the Future* Capital Campaign in 2014. The Embassy's philanthropic support of the Center began in 2008 with the multi-disciplinary *ARABESQUE* festival, which celebrated the arts and culture of the 22 Arab nations. Since then, the Embassy has supported an array of programs of the Center including education initiatives and special events, providing critical designated and undesignated funding for the Center's mission-driven activities.

The People of the UAE's gift to the Kennedy Center's *Building the Future* Capital Campaign brings the total raised to more than \$236 million in support of the 4.6 acre expansion, which features 72,000 square feet of new interior space and 130,000 square feet of lush outdoor. The Center launched the \$250 million *Building the Future* capital campaign in 2013, drawing exclusively on private philanthropy to finance the project's design, construction, and activation. Set in motion by Kennedy Center Chairman David M. Rubenstein's \$50 million cornerstone gift, the campaign has inspired hundreds of other major donors around the world to participate. The Center is pleased to recognize the People of the UAE's significant gift

in connection to the Presidential Grove, located in the landscaped lawn area on the southern end of the REACH campus and features 35 ginkgo trees planted in honor of President John F. Kennedy.

At once a public incubator, a hands-on learning lab, and a set of dynamic, light-filled collaborative spaces, the REACH was designed by architect Steven Holl to support the Kennedy Center's evolving needs as the nation's cultural center. The REACH will open September 7 with a free 16-day festival through September 22. For more information about the REACH, please visit [here](#).

### **About the Kennedy Center**

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts is America's living memorial to President John F. Kennedy, attracting millions of visitors each year to more than 2,000 performances, events, and exhibits. With its artistic affiliates, the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera, the nation's busiest performing arts center is dedicated to providing world-class art, powerful education, and outstanding memorial experiences to the broadest possible constituency. Across all its offerings, the Kennedy Center is committed to increasing accessible, inclusive opportunities for all people to participate in, and learn through the arts, including more than 400 free performances each year and a variety of [Specially Priced Ticket](#) programs for students, seniors, persons with disabilities, and others. To learn more about the Kennedy Center, please visit [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

### **About the United Arab of Emirates**

The United Arab Emirates and United States are close friends and strong allies. With shared interests and common values, the UAE and USA work together to promote regional security, create economic prosperity and address pressing global challenges. Cultural exchange initiatives connect Emiratis and Americans and enhance mutual understanding. As the host for numerous arts fairs, world-class museums and creative spaces, the UAE is an emerging hub for the arts both in the Middle East and globally.

### **Funding Crediting**

*The REACH is made possible through extraordinary generosity by David M. Rubenstein, The Boeing Company, Fred Eychaner, Jacqueline Badger Mars, Michael F. and Noémi K. Neidorff and The Centene Charitable Foundation, and Stephen and Christine Schwarzman.*

For more information about the Kennedy Center visit [www.kennedy-center.org](http://www.kennedy-center.org).

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### **Kennedy Center Contacts:**

Brittany Laeger

202-416-8445

[balaeger@kennedy-center.org](mailto:balaeger@kennedy-center.org)