

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

**\$5 Million Gift from the State of Qatar**

**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 from the State of Qatar in support of the REACH, the Kennedy Center's unprecedented new expansion, scheduled to open September 7, 2019.

“We are grateful to our Qatari friends for their steadfast support of the Kennedy Center,” said Deborah F. Rutter, President of the Kennedy Center. “The REACH is a transformational project, and this remarkable gift will help support our vision to create connections and build community amongst artists and audiences.”

“We are proud to support this project that will make the Kennedy Center's world-class arts and creative platforms even more accessible to both artists and the public,” said H.E. Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the U.S. “In Qatar, we share this commitment to creating cultural experiences that everyone can learn and enjoy. The REACH will bring new space and opportunity not only for Washington, D.C. but for the broader global community as well.”

Qatar's gift to the Kennedy Center's *Building the Future* Capital Campaign brings the total raised to \$232 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. Drawing exclusively on private philanthropy to finance the project's design, construction, and activation, the Center launched the \$250 million *Building the Future* capital campaign. Set in motion by Kennedy Center Chairman David M. Rubenstein's \$50 million cornerstone gift in 2013, it has inspired hundreds of other major donors around the world to participate. The Center is pleased to recognize the State of Qatar's significant gift in connection to the Reflecting Pool, located in the landscaped lawn area on the southern end of the REACH campus.

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](#).

Qatar's philanthropic support of the Center began in 2009 with the multi-disciplinary ARABESQUE festival, which celebrated the arts and culture of the 22 Arab nations. Since then, the State of Qatar has

supported an array of programs at the Center, notably Turnaround Arts, which bolsters school improvement efforts at Priority and Focus-designated schools (PK-8) through the strategic use of the arts as well as major galas such as the Mark Twain Prize and Kennedy Center Gala, providing critical undesignated funding for the Center’s mission-driven activities.

### **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 State of Qatar**

Qatar is an independent state in the southern Arabian Gulf. Diplomatic relations with the United States were established in 1972; in the same year, Qatar’s first diplomatic mission in Washington, D.C. opened. The relationship between the two countries has always been friendly, highly productive, and reciprocal. Qatar is home to many Americans, and the United States is both Qatar’s largest foreign investor and its largest source of imports. Qatar-U.S. relations are growing continuously in multiple areas: economic, political, military, educational, and cultural. Qatar is a close ally of the United States and a strong advocate of building a peaceful, prosperous, and stable Middle East.

Qatar has provided significant humanitarian and development assistance to countries around the world, including the United States. In 2005, the State of Qatar announced the Qatar Katrina Fund, which provided \$100M in grants for housing, healthcare and education projects directly to local partners across Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to support long-term recovery in the region after Hurricane Katrina. Following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey in August 2017, the State of Qatar announced a gift of \$30 million for the long-term recovery of the storm’s victims in Texas. The Qatar Harvey Fund was created to administer the gift.

### **Funding Crediting**

*Wells Fargo is the Presenting Sponsor of the REACH Opening Festival.*

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

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