The seventh annual Helen K. Persson Society luncheon was held in the Kravis Center’s Gimelstob Ballroom March 23, 2016. The event honored Society members for their commitment to supporting the Permanently Restricted Endowment Fund with their current and deferred gifts.

In her welcome remarks, CEO Judith Mitchell said, “The Center takes seriously its responsibility to all of our donors—past, present and future—to build a strong endowment fund to ensure the Kravis Center will endure and flourish. We are deeply grateful to Helen K. Persson for her shining example of generosity, and we know she would be proud of all of you for your dedication.”

During the luncheon, Senior Managing Director Evan Deoul and Senior Vice President and National Director of Philanthropy at Bernstein Private Wealth Management Brian Wodar, provided Society members and guests with timely and effective strategies to donate and invest for philanthropic success in 2016.

Following the presentation, Kravis Center Board Chair Jane Mitchell recognized the Helen K. Persson Society members in attendance and honored new Society members with a special commemorative memento.

“These individuals realize that the vast majority of funds to support our mission come from individuals with a passion for the arts,” she said. “Gifts to the endowment fund help the Center expand its vision and continue its mission of making the best arts programming and educational services accessible to the entire community for many generations to come.”

In addition to being the generous sponsor of the Persson Society luncheon for the past seven years, Bernstein Private Wealth Management is a longtime supporter and has been a Kravis Center Corporate Partners Executive Committee Member since 1995.

Ilene Arons, Marilyn Berman, Sherry and Tom Barrat, Debra Elmore, Eileen Ludwig Greenland, Carolyn Metskas, John Mike, Joan Gerson, Christine and John Howard, Sandra Thompson, Joan Gordon
T here will never be a more opportune time than right now for your gift to have a meaningful and memorable impact at the Kravis Center. Whether it is through your yearly gift to our Annual Campaign, or your deferred gift to support our Permanently Restricted Endowment Fund, you are partnering with us to preserve and expand the Kravis Center’s artistic heritage and educational excellence for future generations. For nearly 25 years, the Center has been a showcase for world-class entertainment bringing enjoyment to you, your family and your friends. The Kravis Center is “Yours. Truly.”

This issue of Persson to Person is a tribute to Helen K. Persson Society members for their confidence, trust and investment in the Center’s long-term future as one of South Florida’s premier performing arts institutions. I was pleased to thank many of the Society members personally at our annual luncheon March 23. The Society currently has 136 members who have demonstrated their love of the arts and their support of our mission through a current or deferred gift to the endowment fund. The fund has a market value of over $18.5 million and is growing.

For readers who wish to know more about endowment and planned giving opportunities that best suit your family and philanthropic goals, I encourage you to consult your professional advisors or speak with a member of our development department. Please let us know if you have already named the Kravis Center as a beneficiary in your estate plan so we can thank and honor you as a member of the Helen K. Persson Society. You may also remain anonymous, if you choose.

We greatly appreciate your thoughtful consideration and continued support.

Judith A. Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer

Annual Persson Society Luncheon Honors Members
When I was 7 years old, my parents took me to my first opera in Philadelphia where I grew up. Since that night, the performing arts have had a very special place in my heart. When I moved to Florida in 1979, I missed the joy and delight of seeing premier ballet companies, the Metropolitan Opera and hearing internationally acclaimed orchestras perform in a world-class facility. The trek to the “leaky tee-pee” was far from ideal, and it was heartbreaking to watch artists perform in much less than perfect conditions.

In the mid-80s, when I first heard of the possibility there would be a major performing arts center built in Palm Beach County, I immediately began supporting the fundraising efforts as a volunteer on the “Cocktails for Culture” Committee. I hosted a party at my Frenchmen’s Creek home, and encouraged all my neighbors to support the Center by making a donation to the “buy a seat” campaign. We raised enough money to fund a row of seats.

The planning and building of the Kravis Center were exciting times, and it was an honor to be a member of the Building Campaign Advisory Board. We all worked hard to introduce new donors to the Center’s mission, and we all did our part to turn a dream into the reality it is today—a world-class performing arts center!

Looking to the future, we need to ensure the Center will remain a cultural icon in Palm Beach County forever. Because I care deeply about the Center’s community outreach efforts to engage new young audience members, I made the decision to support the Center with a current gift to the Permanently Restricted Endowment Fund. It is so heartwarming to me to know the work we are now doing to enlarge the endowment will provide income to help the Center continue to carry on its mission, bringing joy and happiness to the youth of today who are the audiences of tomorrow.

For more information about how you can contribute to the Permanently Restricted Endowment Fund, please contact us at endowment@kravis.org or visit kravis.org/giftplanning.
See the Impact of Your Generosity Today
Make a Tax-Free Gift From Your IRA

If you are 70½ years old or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to help the Kravis Center and receive tax benefits in return. You can give up to $100,000 from your IRA directly to a qualified charity such as ours without having to pay income taxes on the money.

This law no longer has any expiration date so you are free to make annual gifts to the Kravis Center this year and well into the future.

Why Consider This Gift?

- Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
- You pay no income taxes on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

We’d be happy to work with you to find the options that work best. Contact us at endowment@kravis.org to learn more or visit kravis.org/giftplanning to get more information about this tax-smart way to make an impact today at the Kravis Center.

Weigh Your Choices

We can help find the right giving option for you. Learn more about how you can meet your charitable goals with our FREE guide 12 Ways to Make a Meaningful Difference. Simply return the enclosed reply card today!

MISSION STATEMENT

The Kravis Center’s mission is to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County by:

1. Presenting a diverse schedule of national and international artists and companies of the highest quality.
2. Offering comprehensive arts education programs.
3. Providing a Palm Beach County home for local and regional arts organizations in which to showcase their work.
4. Providing economic catalyst and community leadership in West Palm Beach, supporting efforts to increase travel and tourism in Palm Beach County.

The Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and all gifts made to the Center are tax-deductible to the extent provided by state and federal law. 100% of such gifts are retained by the Center to support its operations. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE RAYMOND F. KRAVIS CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, INC., A FLORIDA BASED NONPROFIT CORPORATION (REGISTRATION NO. CH3470), MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL FREE 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE OR VISITING THEIR WEB SITE AT (www.freshfromflorida.com or https://csapp.800helpfla.com/cspublicapp/giftgiversquery/giftgiversquery.aspx.) REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. Federal Tax ID Number: 59-2245054

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Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
701 Okeechobee Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
561-651-4320 • Fax: 561-833-3901
donation@kravis.org
kravis.org/giftplanning