

MEDIA CONTACT:
Slatkow & Husak Public Relations
Heather Vidulich
Heather@SlatkowHusak.com or (561) 278-0850

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KRAVIS CENTER 2018 GALA ‘NIGHT OF STARS’ KICKS OFF AT VIP RECEPTION

Gala Chair Monika Preston opens her Palm Beach home for Gala leadership, sponsors and supporters

(PALM BEACH, Fla.) – A private reception to kick off the Kravis Center for the Performing Arts’ highly anticipated Gala “Night of Stars” A Broadway Celebration! on Friday, January 12, 2018, was held in honor of Gala Chairs, committee members and sponsors. Long-time friends and supporters of the Kravis Center, Gala Chairs Monika Preston and Kathryn Vecellio warmly greeted guests at Mrs. Preston’s Palm Beach home on Friday, December 1.

Upon arrival, guests were offered champagne and were invited to walk through the magical gardens, decorated with thousands of white twinkling lights for the holidays. The party flowed through the historic estate and its expansive loggia, where guests gathered under a full moon and star-studded sky to hear more about the 2018 Kravis Gala.

“Our sincerest thanks to Monika and John Preston for opening their lovely home to us this evening, and to Monika for graciously being our Gala ‘Night of Stars’ A Broadway Celebration! Chair alongside Kathryn Vecellio,” said Kravis Center CEO Judith Mitchell. “Our Gala wouldn’t be the success that it is without these two ladies’ support and leadership.” Ms. Mitchell then introduced Kravis Center Senior Director of Development Diane Bergner.

“I want to personally thank Monika and Katie for everything you do.” said Mrs. Bergner. “Tonight is also a celebration of our Gala supporters, and I would like to give special thanks to our Gala Vice Chair, Irene Karp; Honorary Gala Grand Broadway Chairs, Sondra and David Mack; and Honorary Gala Chair and Kravis Center Board Chairman, Michael Bracci. Thank you to the Gala committee and our generous sponsors for all your efforts to ensure that the 2018 benefit will be a wonderful success.”

Ms. Mitchell continued by noting that the black-tie Gala is almost sold-out but seats were still available for the spectacular ensemble performance. The entertainment for the evening will include Oscar and Tony Award-winning artist Angela Lansbury; two-time Tony Award winners Brian Stokes Mitchell and Chita Rivera; Claybourne Elder from Broadway’s *Sunday in the Park With George*; multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Kate Davis; Helen Hayes Award recipient Nova Y. Payton, singer and trumpeter Bria Skonberg; Kravis Center Pops Orchestra; Conductor Luke Frazier and Director Robert Pullen. The Gala continues with dinner and dancing in the Kravis Center’s Gimelstob Ballroom, located in the Cohen Pavilion.

Gala sponsors include Sondra and David S. Mack; NetJets, Inc.; Stephen Brown and Jamie Stern, Marjorie and Stephen Fiverson, Sharyn and Stuart Frankel, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Irene and Jim Karp, Henni and John Kessler, Dorothy and Sidney Kohl, Jane M. Mitchell, Monika and John Preston, SBA Communications Corporation, Susan and Dom Telesco, Kathryn and Leo Vecellio; The Breakers Palm Beach, Laurie Silvers and Mitchell Rubenstein; Dr. Nettie Birnbach, The Miriam and Alec Flamm

Charitable Fund, Ingrid and David Kosowsky; Tom and Sherry Barrat, Kay and Peter Bernon, Braman Motorcars, Sherry and Ken Endelson, Lori and Bruce Gendelman, Harless & Associates, Jack and Goldie Wolfe Miller Fund, Publix Super Markets Charities, Martin and Toni Sosnoff and Lois Silverman Yashar and Dr. James Yashar. Special support provided by Tiffany & Co. and media support provided by *Palm Beach Illustrated*.

The Kravis Center is a not-for-profit performing arts center whose mission is to enhance the quality of life in Palm Beach County by presenting a diverse schedule of national and international artists and companies of the highest quality, by offering comprehensive arts education programs, by providing a Palm Beach County home for local and regional arts organizations to showcase their work and by providing an economic catalyst and community leadership in West Palm Beach, supporting efforts to increase travel and tourism to Palm Beach County.

The Kravis Center is located at 701 Okeechobee Blvd. in West Palm Beach, FL. For more information about the Gala, please visit kravis.org/gala or call 561.651.4320. To purchase tickets for the "Night of Stars" performance call the Box Office at 561.832.7469 or visit kravis.org. Follow the Kravis Center on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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