

## **PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM MOURNS PASSING OF JACKIE LEE HOUSTON**

### *Philanthropist Played Pivotal Role in Museum's Development*



September 14, 2011 (Palm Springs, CA) – The Palm Springs Art Museum wishes to express its mourning over the passing of beloved museum Trustee and long-time patron Jackie Lee Houston. The noted philanthropist and her husband Jim provided outstanding support to the museum for more than twenty years.

In addition to her unwavering financial support of the museum, Mrs. Houston was also directly involved in the success of many of the museum's activities. Over the years she chaired the museum's annual Gala three times and played a significant role in many other major events, including The Art of Shopping, Day in the Garden, The Annenberg Theater Opening Night. She was an active member of the President's Circle, Museum Associates Council and Western Art Council. Mrs. Houston presented a special award to Donna and Cargill MacMillan at the 2010 museum gala, and most recently was one of the Founders of the museum's new location in Palm Desert. In 1994-95, the museum named in their honor, the James and Jackie Lee Houston Atrium, on the main floor.

"We are very saddened by the loss of Jackie Lee Houston," said Harold J. Meyerman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Palm Springs Art Museum. "Over many years Mrs. Houston and her husband Jim have provided wise counsel and advice in addition to leaving an extraordinary legacy to the museum, which has helped make it a cultural cornerstone for the desert communities. Jim and Jackie Lee became legends in their time. Their unparalleled philanthropic support and Jackie Lee's personal commitment to actively guiding some of our most important events enabled the museum to fulfill a vital educational and cultural role in the community. We have lost a great friend. Our deepest sympathies extend to her husband, Jim and the Houston family for this great loss."

Mrs. Houston's legacy at the museum dates back to the 1980's. During her many years of service, she served as a Trustee from 1997 to the present and until her passing, Mrs. Houston served as the Vice Chair of the museum's Board of Trustees and was a member of the Executive Committee. Over the last 22 years, the Houstons contributed in excess of \$5,000,000 to the museum, and they are amongst the museum's Grand Benefactors.

The Palm Springs Art Museum deeply mourns her passing and will cherish her many years of contribution and service.

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