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MEDIA CONTACT: KELLY BISHOP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS & BRANDING
KBISHOP@BOWERS.ORG OR 714-567-3628

Dr. Peter C. Keller Celebrates 30-Year Anniversary as President and CEO of the Bowers Museum

Updated June 19* June 21, 2021 (Santa Ana, California) – On June 15, 2021 the Bowers Museum Board of Governors gathered for their annual dinner with many things to be thankful for. Spring 2021 not only marked the reopening of the Museum after a year of closure, but also the 30-year anniversary of Dr. Peter C. Keller's Presidency.



“After a such a difficult year for the Bowers staff, our loyal visitors, and our global community, I’m humbled to look back at the 30 years that led us to the unified family we are today. In a lot of ways, we came out of the pandemic stronger than we’ve ever been.” – Dr. Peter C. Keller

The evening was emceed by long-time friend of the Bowers Maria Hall Brown of PBS So-Cal and attended by over a 100 guests, including former and current Board members as well as close friends and Museum supporters such as philanthropists Charlie & Ling Zhang, Mr. Louis and Madame Huang of Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in Los Angeles (TECO), and Emmy Yang of TECO; and Board members including Chairwoman Anne Shih, Vice Chair John H. Lee, Secretary Alan Burns, Board Member Ed Roski, and Board Treasurer Robert Ronus who was given the Anne Shih Award in recognition for his outstanding contributions to the museum over the past year.

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2002 NORTH MAIN STREET, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92706
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Celebrations kicked off with the reveal of a new name above the Bowers Museum entrance off the Margaret and Cleo Key Courtyard, honoring Dr. Keller. The moment was shared with Bowers Chairwoman Anne Shih, who has herself served on the Board for a remarkable 25 years. Together, the dynamic duo have ushered in a new era of success for the Museum, attracting attention with blockbuster exhibitions including *Terra Cotta Warriors*, *Mummies: Treasures from the British Museum*, *Guo Pei: Couture Beyond*, and most recently *Inside the Walt Disney Archives: 50 Years of Preserving the Magic*.

“I would hope the seeds that I helped plant with cultures around the world would take root and grow as the years go by, establishing much greater cultural understanding between our many diverse cultures – here in the country and beyond.”

-Anne Shih in an interview for Orange Coast Magazine

Festivities continued with special presentations by graduates of the Bowers’ Junior Ambassadors Program, who used their unique skills to present gifts to Dr. Keller: Ian Shih created a stunning portrait of the President with a remarkable likeness and Ayden Chi, now a musician in LA Orchestra, gave a moving live violin performance that delighted attendees. Founded by Anne Shih 21 years ago, the Junior Ambassador program starts with onsite training at the Bowers and then enables students to travel to Shanghai and work as interns at the world-famous Shanghai Museum. Well over 100 students have had their lives changed by working side by side with Shanghai Museum staff to gain confidence in public speaking by touring English speaking visitors in the museum. Bowers has enjoyed watching the Junior Ambassadors grow as they are often admitted to important Universities around the U.S.

A year to date after closing due to the global pandemic, the Bowers Museum reopened to the public on March 17, 2021 and has enjoyed record-breaking attendance since being permitted to move back to 100% capacity. With the closing of *Inside the Walt Disney Archives* on June 20, Dr. Keller and the Museum staff now turn their attention to the summer’s featured exhibitions which will include two watercolor painting exhibitions from two dynamic woman who are both collectors and artists in their own right: Gayle Garner Roski and Ann Cullen.

The Gift of Los Angeles: Memories in Watercolor by Gayle Garner Roski runs July 24, 2021 - November 14, 2021 and *Artistic Legacy: The Ann and Bill Cullen Collection* runs August 28, 2021 - December 19, 2021. Both are free with general admission. Currently on view at the Bowers Museum, *Treasures in Gold & Jade: Masterworks from Taiwan* has been extended through September 5. Details and tickets at bowers.org.

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