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**FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE: JANUARY 17,  
2017**

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## **Segerstrom Center for the Arts Begins Construction on Julianne and George Argyros Plaza and Center for Dance and Innovation**

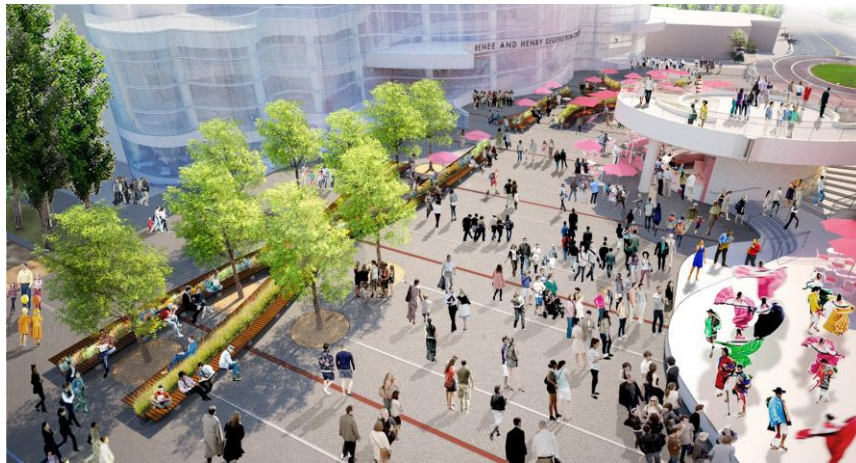


### **Groundbreaking Marks Milestone in Realizing Three Bold Projects to Fulfill Center’s Vision for Future of Artistic Achievement and Civic Impact**

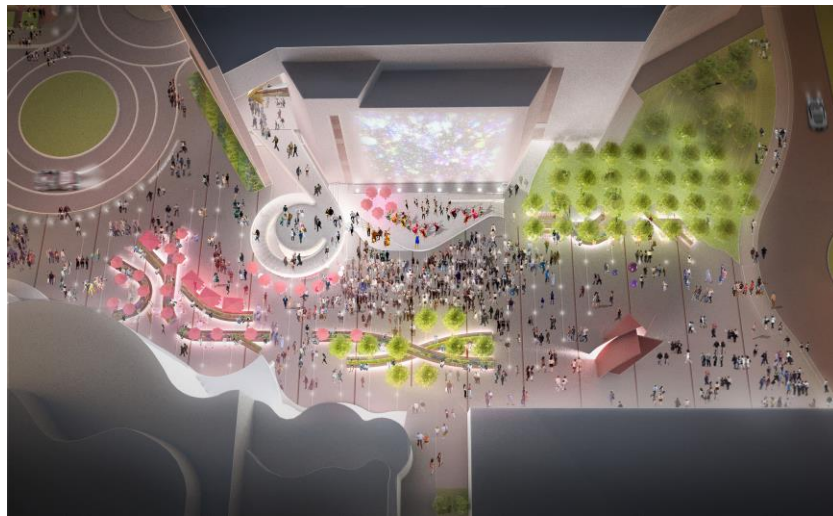
**COSTA MESA, CA** – Construction has begun on Segerstrom Center for the Arts’ new Julianne and George Argyros Plaza and the Center for Dance and Innovation. The plaza has been named in recognition of Julia and George Argyros’ long-time support of the Center and a generous \$13.5 million lead gift to the Center’s *Next Act* campaign. The many new features and amenities of the Argyros Plaza and Center for Dance and Innovation (CDI) will help to support an array of programs and performances offered on the plaza and by the CDI and Center Without Boundaries. These will enable the Center to significantly enhance its artistic programs, performances and venues while responding to the growing needs of a rapidly changing Orange County.

John L. Ginger, Chairman of the Board, said, “We are so grateful that Julia and George believe in the importance of this plaza to the quality of life in our community. The Argyros Plaza will make an enormous impact on the way we serve and engage with our community and will offer new opportunities

for the people from throughout Orange County to enjoy the Center. We are so grateful that Julia and George believe in the importance of this plaza and the performances, programs that people will enjoy here. We cannot thank them enough for supporting us and helping us to be the arts center of the future.”



Center President Terrence W. Dwyer noted: “The Center has always been dedicated to providing the community with world-class performing arts and invaluable education programs. Now, with our three initiatives moving forward – the Julianne and George Arggyros Plaza, the Center for Dance and Innovation and our Center Without Boundaries – we will leverage the arts in new and innovative ways to make a real difference to the future of our wonderfully diverse community. We are honored that Julia and George support the Center’s goals and are helping to make them happen.”



Designed by the firm of Michael Maltzan Architecture, the Arggyros Plaza will be a new public gathering place, welcoming and attractive to all of the county’s diverse communities, offering exceptional year-

round programs and performances as well as guest amenities that include a café, public stage, shaded seating areas, WiFi and enhanced lighting and sound. A visually striking grand staircase will connect Segerstrom Hall to the Argyros Plaza below. The Center for Dance and Innovation, which includes the Judy Morr Theater, studios of the American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School and new school for children with physical and cognitive disabilities, will feature its own sweeping entranceway and public patio for socializing.



Entrance to Center for Dance and Innovation

Michael Maltzan said, "Architecture is at its best when it's creating a spirited, inclusive place for community. The Argyros Plaza, complemented by the spaces of the Center for Dance and Innovation, is poised to do just that. To create a flexible, inviting, beautiful, and utterly unique gathering space for the entire community of Orange County. I am honored to be working with Segerstrom Center for the Arts and Julia Argyros on this extraordinary project."

The Center's three key initiatives launched in August 2015 – the **Julianne and George Argyros Plaza**, the **Center for Dance and Innovation** and the **Center without Boundaries** – complement and enhance Segerstrom Center for the Arts' annual seasons of world-class performances in the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, Segerstrom Hall, Samueli Theater and the Judy Morr Theater.

- **Julianne and George Argyros Plaza**, designed by the renowned firm of Michael Maltzan Architecture, reimagines the existing Arts Plaza as a welcoming public gathering place and dynamic town square deeply engrained in the community offering a host of new guest amenities, a public stage and free events and performances. Programs and new amenities will make the Argyros Plaza accessible and attractive to all residents of Orange County. Many of the programs will be initiated by and support the goals of the county's diverse communities and complement the dynamic new Center Without Boundaries programs;
- **Center Without Boundaries** program, an innovative model for civic engagement that focuses on responding to needs of individual and diverse communities by forging strategic partnerships

between the Center and non-cultural groups throughout the county. Among the organizations with whom the Center is already partnering in its plans to become a 'center for the future' include El Centro Cultural de Mexico, The Wooden Floor, Alzheimer's OC, CHOC Hospital, Chapman University, University of California Irvine, United Cerebral Palsy and The KIDA School and Oranewood's Samueli Academy;

- **Center for Dance and Innovation** supports Segerstrom Center's flagship artistic programs, while acting as a catalyst for initiatives that celebrate innovation and creativity. In addition to the American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School, the Center's programs include a dance and music school for children with physical and cognitive disabilities, the commissioning of new ballets, dance training in multiple genres, Center partnerships with the high-tech, bio-tech/entrepreneur community and others, offering the community new ways of engaging with the performing arts through a broad array of on-site, off-campus and online programs.

"These programs are being made possible through the generous support of many individuals such as Julia and George Argyros," said Dwyer. "They are making it possible for the Center to offer not only world class performances, but also innovative programs such as technology-based initiatives, residencies by renowned dance companies and beneficial partnerships with other not-for-profit groups focused on engaging with the community. Through this trio of projects, the Center is expanding its ability to contribute positively to the future of Orange County. "

**Segerstrom Center for the Arts** is an acclaimed arts institution as well as a beautiful multi-disciplinary cultural campus. It is committed to supporting artistic excellence on all of its stages, offering unsurpassed experiences, and to engaging the entire community in new and exciting ways through the unique power of live performance and a diverse array of inspiring programs. Previously called the Orange County Performing Arts Center, Segerstrom Center is Orange County's largest non-profit arts organization. In addition to its six performance venues, Segerstrom Center is also home to the American Ballet Theatre William J. Gillespie School, where students ages 3 – 14 are taught by acclaimed teachers utilizing the renowned ABT National Training Curriculum in studios utilized by the world's greatest dancers and choreographers.

The Center presents a broad range of programming for audiences of all ages, including international ballet and dance, national tours of top Broadway shows, intimate performances of jazz and cabaret, contemporary artists, classical music performed by renowned chamber orchestras and ensembles, family-friendly programming, free performances open to the public from outdoor movie screenings to dancing on the plaza and many other special events.

The Center's education programs are designed to inspire young people through the arts and reach hundreds of thousands of students each year. In addition to the presenting and producing institution Segerstrom Center for the Arts, the 14-acre campus also embraces the facilities of two independently acclaimed organizations: Tony Award®-winning **South Coast Repertory** and

a site designated as the future home of the **Orange County Museum of Art**.

Segerstrom Center for the Arts is also proud to serve as the artistic home to three of the region's major performing arts organizations: **Pacific Symphony**, the **Philharmonic Society of Orange County** and the **Pacific Chorale**, who contribute greatly to the artistic life of the region with annual seasons at Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

*Information provided is accurate at the time of printing, but is subject to change. Segerstrom Center for the Arts is a private, non-profit organization. "Seegerstrom Center for the Arts" is a registered trademark.*

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