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Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies' 2016 Annual Events

Frank Gehry Honored with the *Leonore and Walter Annenberg Award for Diplomacy through the Arts*

Donations by Frank Gehry, Ellen Phelan, Wayne Thiebaud and Diana Walker Unveiled

**Related Public Panel Discussion presented in partnership with the National Gallery of Art,
*Frank Gehry and Paul Goldberger in Conversation***



FAPE Chairman Jo Carole Lauder, FAPE Board member and Executive Director of the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation Jack Shear, architect Frank Gehry, 2016 Annenberg Award honoree, and Secretary of State John Kerry.

Washington, D.C. – May 3, 2016

The Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies (FAPE) celebrated its 30th Anniversary Annual Events on April 18, honoring architect **Frank Gehry** with the ***Leonore and Walter Annenberg Award for Diplomacy through the Arts***. **Secretary of State John Kerry** hosted FAPE's members at the U.S. Department of State's Diplomatic Reception Rooms, and **FAPE Chairman Jo Carole Lauder** presented the award to Mr. Gehry.

The 2016 contributions to FAPE's Original Print and Photography Collections by artists **Frank Gehry, Ellen Phelan, Wayne Thiebaud** and **Diana Walker** were also unveiled in a presentation to Secretary Kerry. Nearly 250 guests, including FAPE's Board, members, artists, current and former

U.S. and foreign ambassadors, as well as government officials, gathered in the State Department's Benjamin Franklin Dining Room for the dinner. Secretary Kerry spoke in support of FAPE and the generosity of its artists.

"The works of art that FAPE provides to our diplomatic posts contribute immeasurably to the State Department's fundamental mission. In dramatic ways, they help us to communicate the story of who we are and what we stand for – the universal values of liberty, civility, reason, and law," said Secretary Kerry. "I have been a supporter of FAPE for many years. Since becoming Secretary, my appreciation has only grown. Public diplomacy and cultural diplomacy are central to our mission at the State Department, and art provides a unique means to reach and teach people everywhere about our country."

A new endowment – ***The Ellsworth Kelly Fund for Preservation*** – was also announced. Thanks to the artist, FAPE's Collection will be maintained in perpetuity at no cost to the government. **Jack Shear**, Executive Director of the Ellsworth Kelly Foundation and a FAPE Board member, was recognized by Secretary Kerry for this important gift.

In the spirit of the Annenberg Award's mission, FAPE coordinated a related public panel discussion presented by the National Gallery of Art entitled, ***Frank Gehry and Paul Goldberger in Conversation***. The discussion focused on Mr. Gehry's remarkable impact both on the world of design and architecture, as well as on the global cultural landscape. Mr. Gehry was joined by Paul Goldberger, architecture critic and author of *Building Art: The Life and Work of Frank Gehry*, and moderator Harry Cooper, curator and head, department of modern art at the Gallery.

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About the Foundation for Art and Preservation in Embassies

FAPE is the public-private partnership dedicated to providing permanent works of American art for U.S. embassies worldwide through site-specific commissions, original print and photography collections, preservation projects and other arts and education initiatives. FAPE contributes to the U.S. Department of State's mission of cultural diplomacy by partnering with American artists whose gifts encourage cross-cultural understanding within the diplomatic community and the international public. All artworks commissioned or placed by FAPE are gifts, representing the generosity and patriotism of some of the country's greatest artists and donors. As of 2016, FAPE's contributions include permanent works by more than 200 preeminent American artists placed in more than 140 countries.

FAPE was founded in 1986 by Leonore Annenberg, Wendy W. Luers, Lee Kimche McGrath and Carol Price. Its current leadership includes Chairman Jo Carole Lauder, President Eden Rafshoon, Vice President Darren Walker, and Director Jennifer A. Duncan. A volunteer advisory committee chaired by Robert Storr, Dean of the Yale School of Art, selects and commissions all FAPE artists. FAPE underwrites the fabrication and installation, and is exclusively funded through individual, foundation and corporate donations. Additional information about FAPE can be found at www.fapeglobal.org.

PRESS CONTACT:

Sacha Cohen, Grassfed Media
202.251.9417, sacha@grassfedmediadc.com