

PRESS RELEASE

Manhattan Beach, June 11, 2018 – The Manhattan Beach Education Foundation sets the bar high this year, netting \$1.3M at the 24th Annual Manhattan Wine Auction.

On Saturday, June 9, the Manhattan Country Club hosted 2,000 guests for the 24th Annual Manhattan Wine Auction, one of the South Bay's most celebrated fundraisers. For over two decades, the event has provided an opportunity for the community to come together to raise critical funding for Manhattan Beach public schools. Guests enjoyed culinary delights from over 40 local restaurants and beverages served by more than 80 wineries, breweries and distilleries. Top sponsors included The Bay Club, Chevron, Belkin, Moss Adams, and Sherry-Lehmann. The Manhattan Country Club, under new ownership from The Bay Club, was a key partner and provided significant support.

This year the Silent Auction opened to the community prior to the event, leading to a new high of \$260,000. The Live Auction raised \$400,00 and featured spectacular packages including: Private dinner and tour at the House of Louis XIII in Cognac, France; a VIP trip to the 2019 Masters Tournament; In-home dinners with local famed chefs David LeFevre and Anne Conness; All-inclusive VIP trip to New York for the 50th Annual US Open; A stunning ruby ring from 23rd Street Jewelers, and much more. The Bay Club donated 6 experiences for a combined 40 people to New York and San Francisco that brought in over \$150,000 of the total raised.

One of the evening's highlights was the Fund-a-Need Paddle Raise to fund visual arts education, a growing parent priority in the District. "The approval of the parcel tax in Manhattan Beach allows us to continue to strive for academic excellence in all areas and create a powerful, integrated, visual arts education curriculum throughout the District," shared MBEF Executive Director Hilary Mahan. Research shows that arts education has the power to foster healthy social-emotional learning, reduce absenteeism, increase student engagement, and foster a positive school community.

Former Executive Director, Farnaz Flechner, an avid arts education advocate herself, helped kick off the Paddle Raise by introducing Angie Silverman and a donation from her arts education foundation, FOLA (Foundation of Local Arts), in honor of her late husband, Les Silverman. Guests at the Wine Auction continued the momentum, donating over \$165,000 towards the Visual Arts Initiative, including Chevron's generous \$50,000 contribution. "The incredible show of support reflects how passionate the Manhattan Beach community is about art in our schools and reinforces the impact MBEF has on the caliber of teaching and learning in the District," said Remco Waller, MBEF President.

Wine Auction Chair, Roger Spencer, celebrated the success of an altogether inspiring evening, giving much credit to the entire Wine Auction Committee and the new partnership with the Bay Club. "We have achieved new heights this year through our partnership with the Bay Club. The tremendous generosity of Matthew Stevens, Anne Wharton and the entire Bay Club team helped make this one of the most memorable of all the Wine Auctions." It was announced that this would be Spencer's last year as Wine Auction Chair, as his family is relocating to Chicago.

Spencer has been praised by many for his innovative ideas and passion for the continued cultivation of the Wine Auction.

The success of the Wine Auction each year is always highly anticipated – and this year did not disappoint. Guests wandered from court to court sampling provisions from the best South Bay restaurants and sipped wines from around the globe. This year, additional space was added to the footprint of the event, making it feel less crowded despite the fact there were more guests than ever. A live band on Center Court kept the guests chanting for “one more song”, while a DJ drew guests to the Atrium for dancing in a lounge-like setting. The positive energy and excitement could not be missed.

MBEF Executive Director, Hilary Mahan, explained, “Our community is committed to building stronger schools together – first with the passage of Measure MB last Tuesday, and now another incredible success with the 24th Annual Wine Auction. This is why we all love Manhattan Beach – it’s our common passion for education and the willingness to step up or lend a hand – and have a great time doing it.”

ABOUT MANHATTAN BEACH EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Manhattan Beach Education Foundation is a community driven fundraising organization, which supplements state funding for programs that inspire learning, enrich teaching, and promote innovation and academic excellence in the public schools of Manhattan Beach. MBEF funds programs that engage students in learning, spark their creativity, and help them discover their passions. In the 2018/19 school year, MBEF will fund \$6.2 Million to MBUSD.

MBEF helps fill the gap between what the state provides to our District, and what it costs to provide a well-rounded, high quality education. State funding for education in California is inadequate for many basic programs, and certainly insufficient to fund enrichment programs, electives, and counseling services. California is 44th in the country in per pupil funding and 50th in student-to-teacher ratio and student-to-counselor ratio. MBUSD receives about \$9,600 per pupil from the state, while states like New York, Alaska and New Jersey spend more than \$20,000 per pupil. The additional funding from the parcel tax will help bring the also A large part of why our schools continue to thrive and succeed is because of the community’s support of MBEF.

For more information, please visit www.mbef.org and <http://endowment.mbef.org/>
For more information about the Manhattan Wine Auction, please visit manhattanwineauction.com.

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