HAMMER PRESS RELEASE

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Eric Esrailian Elected Chair, Karen Hillenburg as Vice Chair, of Hammer Museum Board of Directors

Three New Members Join Board of Directors: Leslie McMorrow, Alicia Miñana de Lovelace, and Joan Weinstein

Plus: Five New Members Join Board of Advisors: Robyn Field, Jordan S. Goodman, Allison Gorsuch Corrigan, Ayesha Selden, and Akio Tagawa

(Los Angeles, CA)—The Hammer Museum at UCLA announced today new leadership of its Board of Directors: **Dr. Eric Esrailian** will serve as Chair, and **Karen Hillenburg** will serve as Vice Chair. Dr. Esrailian, who previously served as Vice Chair, succeeds **Marcy Carsey**, who led the board for 12 years. Although she has stepped down from her leadership role, Carsey remains on the Board of Directors.

In addition to these leadership appointments, the museum also welcomes three new members to its Board of Directors: philanthropist **Leslie McMorrow**, attorney **Alicia Miñana de Lovelace**, and **Joan Weinstein**, Vice President of Program Planning at Getty. The Board of Directors is the museum's governing body; the addition of these new members brings the number of board members to 24.

Top Row (L-R): Eric Esrailian and Karen Hillenburg; Bottom Row (L-R): Leslie McMorrow, Alicia Miñana de Lovelace, and Joan Weinstein

At the same time, the Hammer is pleased to announce five new members of its Board of Advisors, which offers guidance on the development of the museum's programs and collections. These new members include **Robyn Field**, **Jordan S. Goodman**, **Allison Gorsuch Corrigan**, **Ayesha Selden**, **Akio Tagawa**. The appointment of these new members brings the Board of Advisors to a total of 34.

Esrailian and Hillenburg's election to their new leadership roles within the Board of Directors follows on the heels new staff leadership appointments at the museum, starting with Ryan's appointment as museum Director in January 2025, and **Michael Wellen** as Chief Curator and **Regan Pro** as Chief of Learning, Engagement and Research, both hired in spring 2026.

Hammer Museum director **Zoë Ryan** said, "From the moment I arrived at the Hammer nearly two years ago, Eric Esrailian and Karen Hillenburg have been passionate and dedicated partners in shaping this institution, and I am thrilled that they have taken on these leadership roles on the Board of Directors. Eric possesses a deep belief in the power of the arts to shape communities, and his role at UCLA offers a strong bond between the museum and the university. Karen has strong relationships with artists and a keen understanding of how the museum's collections and exhibitions are the beating heart of the institution. The addition of three new members of our Board of Directors and five new members of our Board of Advisors is a sure sign of the Hammer's current momentum, and I'm happy to welcome each of these new members into the Hammer fold."

Hammer Board Chair **Dr. Eric Esrailian** said, "I am honored to take on the role of Chair of the Hammer's Board of Directors, and I am beyond grateful to my friend Marcy Carsey, who held this position for the last 12 years and led this board with grace, wit, generosity, and vision. As the museum continues into its new era under the leadership of Zoë Ryan, I am proud to work alongside my fellow members of this extraordinary board as we strive to make the Hammer a keystone of the Los Angeles art world and position UCLA as the flagship global university for the arts."

ABOUT ERIC ESRAILIAN

Dr. Eric Esrailian is a physician, Emmy-nominated film producer, philanthropist, investor, and entrepreneur. He is actively involved in philanthropic efforts connecting health, sciences, human rights, education, and the arts. He is a Health Sciences Professor of Medicine and the Chief of the Vatche and Tamar Manoukian Division of Digestive Diseases at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. He is closely involved in strategic planning efforts for the entire university, and he is the Co-Chair of the university's Second Century Council, a group of UCLA's leading donors and dedicated volunteers.

Dr. Esrailian has served on the board of directors for the Hammer Museum since 2012. He is also a part of the leadership of several philanthropic organizations including the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures Board of Trustees, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative, Harvard-Westlake School, the Motion Picture & Television Fund, and the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy (PICI). Along with Christian Bale, he is one of the co-founders of Together California. He is also one of the co-founders and President of the California Institute for Immunology and Immunotherapy (CIII).

He has also produced films with a focus on human rights issues. Most notably, he produced *The Promise* and the educational companion documentary *Intent to Destroy* which was nominated for an Outstanding Historical Documentary Emmy. These films, and the accompanying social impact campaigns, drew

unprecedented attention to the Armenian Genocide, contributed to U.S. government recognition of the historical facts, and led to the creation of The Promise Institute for Human Rights and The Promise Armenian Institute at UCLA. Hammer public programs are presented online in partnership with the #KeepThePromise campaign — a movement promoting social justice and human rights through the arts. In 2021, he was also honored by Pope Francis at the Vatican with the Benemerenti Medal for his humanitarian activities around the world. In 2025, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

ABOUT KAREN HILLENBURG

Karen Hillenburg is a collector, philanthropist, and active board member of several influential art institutions. A native Angeleno, Hillenburg's early career in the culinary arts in the Bay Area intersected with the rise of many influential visual and performance artists and ignited a lifelong passion for dialogue with artists and support of their work. She joined the Hammer's Board of Advisors in 2022, and subsequently joined the Board of Directors in 2024. In addition to her engagement with the Hammer, Hillenburg serves on the board of The Brick (formerly LAXART), the Fund21 committee at the Museum of Modern Art, New York, and the Art Acquisition Board of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

For bios of the new Board of Directors and Board of Advisors members, visit the **press kit.**

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum is part of the School of the Arts and Architecture at UCLA, and offers exhibitions and collections that span classic to contemporary art. It holds more than 50,000 works in its collection, including one of the finest collections of works on paper in the nation, the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts. Through a wide-ranging, international exhibition program and the Made in L.A. biennial, the Hammer highlights contemporary art since the 1960s, especially the work of emerging and under - recognized artists. Its exhibitions, permanent collections, and public programs—including films, conversations, readings, concerts, and more—are all free to the public.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

Admission to all exhibitions and programs at the Hammer Museum is free. Hours: Tuesday–Sunday 11 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Mondays and national holidays. The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard at Westwood, Los Angeles. Onsite parking is $9 for the first 3 hours with validation (maximum $30), or $9 flat rate after 5 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends. Visit hammer.ucla.edu for details or call 310- 443-7000.

Free Admission at the Hammer Museum is courtesy of Marcy Carsey, the Erika J Glazer Family Foundation, and the Anthony Pritzker Family Foundation.