

## **Henry T. Segerstrom Founding Chairman**

Henry Segerstrom (1923-2015) was a Managing Partner of C.J. Segerstrom & Sons, a diversified real estate development and management firm in Costa Mesa, California, which developed and owns the SouthCoast Plaza retail center. Over a course of more than 33 years of community leadership and philanthropy, Mr. Segerstrom built up the cultural landscape of Orange County through gifts of land and funds, together with commissions of stunning architecture and works of environmental sculpture for public enjoyment.

Mr. Segerstrom was the founding chairman of the Orange County Performing Arts Center, which was renamed Segerstrom Center for the Arts in January 2011, and was a board member since 1980. He was also the driving force behind the creation of the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, designed by Cesar Pelli. In 2004, Mr. Segerstrom and his wife Elizabeth commissioned Richard Serra to create a new symbol for the Arts Plaza at Segerstrom Center for the Arts. The 65-foot-high sculpture, Connector, has taken its place among the artworks by Isamu Noguchi, Henry Moore, Alexander Calder, Joan Miró and Jean Dubuffet that Mr. Segerstrom has donated for public display in Orange County.

In 2006, Mr. and Mrs. Segerstrom orchestrated the three-week Mariinsky Festival to celebrate the opening of the new Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. The Festival featured the North American premiere of the Mariinsky Opera Company's critically acclaimed production of Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen conducted by Valery Gergiev. In 2007, the Segerstroms launched the new Elizabeth and Henry Segerstrom Select Series, an artistic collaboration with the Philharmonic Society of Orange County that brings internationally acclaimed performers to Segerstrom Center for the Arts.

Mr. Segerstrom was instrumental in bringing together Carnegie Hall and the Philharmonic Society of Orange County to establish a programming partnership, presenting a festival of Chinese culture, Ancient Paths, Modern Voices in 2009 and JapanNYC/JapanOC in 2010/11. This marked the first time that Carnegie Hall's live festival programming has reached audiences outside New York City. For this work and in recognition of his outstanding leadership in arts philanthropy and dedication to championing the arts, Mr. Segerstrom was awarded the Carnegie Hall Medal of Excellence in June 2010.

Among his other activities, Mr. Segerstrom played a vital role in establishing the Center for Social Innovation at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business. In 1988, the King of Sweden awarded him the title of Commander and bestowed on him the Order of the Polar Star; and in 1995 he received the Tree of Life Award of the Jewish National Fund, presented by Margaret Thatcher. He contributed his time, resources and leadership as a board member of numerous institutions, including the White Nights Foundation of America, the American Friends of Versailles, The Museum of Modern Art, MOCA LA and the Huntington Library. He served as the National Chairman of the Business Committee for the Arts. In 2007, Mr. Segerstrom was inducted into Sigma Chi's Hall of Fame at Stanford University, and in 2008 Stanford presented him with the prestigious Ernest C. Arbuckle Award for lifetime achievement. A World War II veteran, Mr. Segerstrom was awarded the Purple Heart Medal and the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with Battle Star.