

Remarks by SNF Co-President Andreas Dracopoulos on accepting the ICON of IMPACT award at the Perelman Performing Arts Center (PAC NY)

Thank you to Mike, Patti, Khady, Bill, Cathy, Julie, the PAC NYC board, and the whole PAC team. I wouldn't be here without my colleagues from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF), and we wouldn't be here without my late great-uncle and our founder, Stavros S. Niarchos, toward whom we all feel a special gratitude for giving us upon his death such a special opportunity to try and contribute in a positive manner to society at large.

It is an immense honor to receive the inaugural Icon of Impact award. It is an honor that takes on extra resonance because, especially for those of us who were living in New York back in 2001, this piece of the island is akin to hallowed ground. We pay tribute to the thousands of people who lost their lives here on September 11, as well as those who have been sickened in the ensuing years as a result of being here on that day.

We have watched, and been glad to be able to offer support, as the World Trade Center site has been rebuilt piece by piece. The poetic 9/11 memorial gave our grief a focal point, while the museum provided a chance to go deeper into the stories. The Saint Nicholas National Shrine extended an invitation for interfaith understanding. And finally, the PAC arrived and signaled a new florescence of culture, an invitation for people from New York and beyond to gather and experience something joyful. It is fitting that the arts, with their unsinkable ability to help us appreciate our shared humanity, should figure into the rebirth of this site.

The longer you spend in New York City, the more it is driven home to you that progress like we have seen here is not inevitable. It is thanks to the consistent, dedicated efforts of many people that new life came to this part of the city and that we can enjoy all that the PAC has to offer. But no one deserves more credit for this renaissance than Michael Bloomberg. As mayor, as a philanthropist, as a civic leader in a way that transcends titles, he was instrumental in rebuilding and rejuvenating not only the area of the World Trade Center, but all Southern Manhattan. As a proud New Yorker, I thank him for his unceasing efforts on behalf of this neighborhood, the city, and society at large. Mike, it has been a privilege and an honor to count you as a friend.

In 2026, as the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary and New York City is fresh off its 400th anniversary, we at SNF are gearing up to celebrate our 30th. Next June 21 to 28, in Athens, Greece, at the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC), we will be celebrating with our grantee partners our 30 years of grantmaking and we will be discussing our next 30 years with significant participation of, and focus on, the next generations' needs and dreams. This is an open event, and all are invited to join!

Since 1996, SNF has made more than 5,600 grants totaling almost \$4.0 billion to nonprofit organizations and projects around the world in over 135 countries, collaborating with an incredible community of grantee-partners to help create transformative changes whose benefits

can hopefully multiply and can be shared widely. More than a quarter of our support has gone to projects in the United States, and New York, one of our homes, has been a particular focus.

We support the FDNY firefighters and NYPD officers working to keep us and our neighbors safe by averting disaster and rushing toward danger in moments of crisis.

We support opportunities for young people to grow and thrive, from civic engagement and civil discourse programs at Johns Hopkins, Penn, and the University of Delaware, to the Partnership for Appalachian Girls' Education in North Carolina, to new outdoor play spaces for kids in Texas through KABOOM!, to sports-based whole-life development through Figure Skating in Harlem, to mentorship for young people all across the country through Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America.

We support the doctors and researchers at Rockefeller University, Columbia, Memorial Sloan Kettering, Hospital for Special Surgery, NewYork-Presbyterian, the Child Mind Institute, and beyond working keep us healthy physically and mentally, as well as the dedicated health care providers at organizations like Remote Area Medical, which provides free medical, dental, and vision care at pop-up clinics around the country.

We support the curators and educators working to keep us inspired and informed at, among others, MoMA, the Jewish Museum, and the Statue of Liberty Museum, in New York; the Museum of the American Revolution and the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia; and the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC—as well as the forthcoming Holocaust Museum of Greece in Thessaloniki, which we are very proud to support as a founding donor.

We support relief for people affected by natural disasters, from Hurricane Katrina two decades ago in New Orleans to Hurricanes Helene and Milton last year in North Carolina, Florida, and Tennessee, and recently this summer's flooding in Central Texas. We also support organizations working to meet urgent everyday needs, including the staff at food banks from Bangor to San Antonio and the volunteers at God's Love We Deliver here in New York.

In addition to the PAC, we have supported New York City performing arts venues from the National Black Theatre in Harlem to the People's Theatre Project in Inwood; Ballet Hispanico, and Lincoln Center on the West Side; and Playwrights Horizons further downtown.

During our "lifetime" as a global philanthropic organization, our philosophy is simple and direct: we focus on four areas of activity, Health & Sports, Social Welfare, Education, Arts & Culture....in other words the whole fabric of a productive and healthy society. We have no policy agenda of any kind. We are "open for business" 24/7. We do not try to replace, we are here to complement and to facilitate efforts that we believe can add value to our fellow human beings. In the United States and around the world, SNF's grantmaking is guided by a simple, clear principle: always putting humanity at the core.

In our work, we have seen public-private partnerships like that which helped create the PAC bear fruit in New York and around the world. We've seen it work with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Library (SNFL), the reimagined central circulating branch of the New York Public Library, which shared with the PAC a vision for offering something of value for every New Yorker and visitor, including, critically, a beautiful and inspiring public space open to all. We have seen public-private partnership work in other performing arts and cultural venues, like the new Davis Center

in Central Park. We have seen it work in Greece with the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center (SNFCC) in Athens, and with the three state-of-the-art new public hospitals SNF will give to the people of Greece upon completion beginning of 2027. And we have seen it work through a range of grants across Africa where grantee-partners like Pivot, Amref, and Resolve to Save Lives are working with governments to improve public health.

That is how things work—by working together.

To see PAC NYC illuminated at night is to see, in a very literal sense, an inviting cultural beacon, a first in this part of town.

On behalf of all New Yorkers—a universality that is rare to be able to claim unless you are complaining about traffic during the UN General Assembly—thank you for lighting this beacon. And on my own behalf and all of us at the SNF, thank you very much for this award. We are very appreciative and deeply touched.

Thank you and stay human!