

# BOWERS MUSEUM

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Bowers Museum Presents the Life of an American Visionary

**Santa Ana, Calif. (Feb. 16, 2018)** - A new exhibition celebrating the life, political career and extraordinary vision of one of the country's most admired and charismatic presidents will be on view at the Bowers Museum from March 10 – June 3. *American Visionary: John F. Kennedy's Life and Times* is one of the most exhaustively researched collections of Kennedy photos ever assembled including both iconic images and some rarely seen pictures.

"John F. Kennedy is still seen as a symbol around the world, representing and espousing the best and most universal elements of the American character," said Stephen Kennedy Smith, Kennedy's nephew and co-editor of *JFK: A Vision for America*, the exhibition's companion publication and basis for the exhibition. "We hope that the compelling images of President Kennedy's life and work on view in this exhibition will remind visitors not only of the values that defined his presidency, but also will introduce him to new audiences and future leaders."

Coinciding with America's golden age of photojournalism, no single politician was photographed more than Kennedy. Relive the life of an American Visionary from his direct congressional bid as a decorated war hero in 1948 to his fairytale marriage to Jacqueline Bouvier in 1953 to his run for the White House, his role as Commander-in-Chief and the final tragedy in Dallas. *American Visionary* captures the dramatic scope of Kennedy's life through the presentation of over 70 photographs and a one-of-a-kind experience that will transport visitors back to when as Jackie Kennedy said, "there was a spot, for one brief shining moment that was known as Camelot."

To celebrate this exciting exhibition, the Bowers Museum will also present lectures, panels, films, and performances each month to educate and inspire a new generation of Americans. We will explore Kennedy's legacy as a World War II hero, his inauguration, the Civil Rights movement, his passion for the arts and how his influence was helping to ease Cold War tensions when he met his tragic demise. Celebrate the opening day on March 10 at 1:30pm with special lecture with curator, acclaimed photojournalist and Emmy-award winning producer Lawrence Schiller on the stage of the beautiful Norma Kershaw Auditorium.

The museum's presentation of *American Visionary* is part of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum's yearlong, nationwide celebration that commemorates Kennedy's centennial year. *American Visionary: John F. Kennedy's Life and Times* was produced by Wiener Schiller Productions and presented by the Bowers Museum in cooperation with the John F. Kennedy Library foundation with support from Stephen Kennedy Smith and GETTY Images.

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The **Bowers Museum** has earned an international reputation through its world-class exhibitions, including *A Quest for Beauty: Van Cleef & Arpels*; *Warriors, Tombs and Temples: China's Enduring Legacy*; *Terra Cotta Warriors: Guardians of China's First Emperor*; *Secrets of the Silk Road*; and *Mummies—Death and the Afterlife: Treasures from the British Museum*, as well as its own extensive art collections from the Americas and the South Pacific. Additionally, the **Bowers' Kidseum**, located one block south of the main museum, offers a high-tech and interactive focus on its new mission of “Igniting Imagination through Exploration” spotlighting the excitement of art and archaeology.

Enjoy a leisurely luncheon at our award-winning restaurant, **Tangata**. Outdoor seating is also available, overlooking the Bowers' historic mission-style courtyard from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Browse the rare and exotic at the **Bowers Museum Gallery Store**. It's more than just a shopping trip—it's a cultural experience.

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