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## Witte Museum Honors Mays Family at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Trailblazers Luncheon For Transformational Support

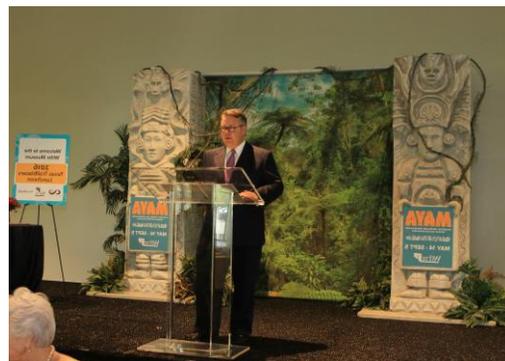


Courtesy Overstreet Photography

**SAN ANTONIO** – The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Witte Museum Texas Trailblazers Luncheon welcomed a record turnout on April 12, 2016 at the first daytime event held in the Mays Family Center at the Witte Museum. Peggy and Lowry Mays were honored at this year’s Texas Trailblazers by the Witte, in partnership with the Will Smith Foundation and *Texas Monthly*, for their incomparable vision and leadership in imagining the potential for – and completing their dream of – the Mays Family Center for exhibitions and special events.

The Mays Family gave a gift of \$5 million and asked the Witte to find matching donors, which the Museum accomplished with generous and enthusiastic supporters. The Mays Family Center is a \$15 million, state-of-the-art space spanning 19,000 square-feet, and a critical phase of the \$100 million dollar, 174,000 square-foot reshaping and revisioning of the 10-acre campus of the Witte Museum.

In preparation for the opening of *Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed* this May, the inaugural exhibition in the Mays Family Center, Dr. David Stuart of the University of Texas at Austin give the keynote address. Dr. Stuart’s world-renowned breakthroughs in decoding Mayan hieroglyphs continue to transform our understanding of Mesoamerican history and culture. Dr. Stuart revealed groundbreaking work in archeology and linguistics, that places scholars “on the cusp” of piecing together the complex stories of the Mayan culture. He spoke to a sold-out crowd of more than 500 people, sharing tantalizing evidence of ongoing work on the Maya throughout Central America.



Dr. David Stuart

The annual luncheon honors Texas Trailblazers for their continued focus on improving natural history and education for all Texans. The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Trailblazers Luncheon raised more than \$200,000 to provide valuable support for the programs, exhibits and collections of the Witte. The co-chairs of the 2016 Texas Trailblazers Luncheon were Tracee and JJ Feik, who also co-chaired

last year, and Jill and Mark Metcalfe. The Witte team is grateful to them and the entire Luncheon committee for their unending support and leadership throughout the year.

**About the Witte Museum:**

Founded in 1926, the Witte Museum is located on the banks of the San Antonio River in Brackenridge Park and is San Antonio's premier museum promoting lifelong learning through innovative exhibition, programs and collections in natural history, science and South Texas heritage.

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