



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MICHAEL J. GARCIA TO SUCCEED TONY BECHARA AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF EL MUSEO
DEL BARRIO**

NEW YORK, NY March 18, 2015- El Museo del Barrio, the leading Latino and Latin American arts institution, announced today the election of former United States Attorney Michael Garcia as its next Chair of the Board, succeeding Tony Bechara. Mr. Garcia will officially assume his new role on June 3 after El Museo's annual board meeting. Mr. Bechara will continue to lead the board through the June meeting, and will remain on the board with the title of Chairman Emeritus.

Mr. Garcia, a partner with the international law firm Kirkland & Ellis, joined El Museo's board in 2010, became Secretary in 2011, and has served as First Vice Chair of the Board since 2013. He has played a leadership role in the Museum's strategic planning process, and served on the search committee that brought Jorge Daniel Veneciano to El Museo as Director last year.

"Michael is the ideal person to lead our board as El Museo takes the next steps toward realizing the vision we have for its future," said Mr. Bechara. "With dynamic new management and a clear strategic roadmap in place, El Museo is poised to expand the role it plays both in New York and globally. Michael brings experience, energy and commitment to the work ahead."

Mr. Garcia said, "I am honored to succeed Tony Bechara, who has led El Museo through 15 years of transition and growth. Thanks to Tony, El Museo has introduced groundbreaking new exhibitions and programming, has improved and expanded its facilities, and is well positioned for continued growth and success. I admired this institution long before I became a Trustee, and I look forward to working alongside our board leadership, our talented staff and our many constituents. El Museo is a treasure for Latino communities in our city and a source of cultural learning and enjoyment for all New Yorkers."

Jorge Daniel Veneciano, El Museo's Executive Director, commented: "Michael is the perfect choice to see us through the next phase of El Museo's development. I have enjoyed serving as director under Tony Bechara and learning from his leadership, and I anticipate no less in working with Michael. El Museo has benefitted greatly from having such dynamic board leaders as



Tony and Michael. With their leadership, the board is certain to continue bringing smart, daring and fun programming to our growing audiences, and continue attracting highly skilled and passionate Trustees.”

MICHAEL GARCIA, ESQ.

At Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Mr. Garcia leads the Government, Regulatory and Internal Investigations practice. Prior to joining the firm, he served as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 2005 to 2008. He was a member of the President’s Corporate Fraud Task Force and the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee on White Collar Crime. He also chaired the Attorney General’s Advisory Committee on Terrorism and National Security.

Mr. Garcia has been twice awarded the Department of Justice’s Exceptional Service Award, the Department’s highest honor, as well as the Distinguished Service Award. Prior to his appointment as U.S. Attorney, he spent two years as Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Garcia has served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Enforcement in the Bureau of Industry and Security. He was Vice President of the Americas for Interpol, and served on Interpol’s Executive Committee. From 1992 to 2001, he was a prosecutor with the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. During that time, he personally prosecuted a number of high-profile cases, involving national security and complex extraterritorial issues, including the 1993 terrorist bombing of the World Trade Center and the 1998 bombing of U.S. embassies in East Africa.

TONY BECHARA

Mr. Bechara, Chair of the Board of Trustees of El Museo del Barrio, is an acclaimed artist represented in numerous private and public collections. He has served on several cultural nonprofit Boards and is currently a Trustee of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, Studio in a School, in addition to El Museo. He was a member of New York City’s Latino Media and Entertainment Commission. Mr. Bechara joined the Board of El Museo in 1993, became Co-Chair in 1997, and Chairman in 2000.

PRESS MATERIALS

Current and past press releases about El Museo del Barrio’s exhibitions and programs are available for download at: <http://www.elmuseo.org/press/>

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio, New York’s leading Latino cultural institution, welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of Latino, Caribbean, and Latin American cultures. Their richness is represented in El Museo’s wide-ranging collections and critically acclaimed exhibitions,



complemented by film, literary, visual and performing arts series, cultural celebrations, and educational programs.

El Museo del Barrio is located at 1230 Fifth Avenue at 104 Street in New York City. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11am. to 6pm. Admission is suggested.

For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit www.elmuseo.org. To connect with El Museo del Barrio via Social Media, follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/elmuseo](https://www.facebook.com/elmuseo), and using @ElMuseo on Instagram and Twitter.

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