John Calamos Receives THI's Hellenic Lifetime Achievement Award

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Chief of Staff of Calamos Investments, then welcomed guests as they sat down.

Opening remarks then followed by the Co-Founder and President of The Hellenic Initiative, George P. Stamas, and then the President and Chief Executive Officer of Calamos Investments, John S. Koudounis took over to say a few words as the official host of the evening.

In a comment made to Greek media, he shared what it meant to him personally to give this award to the honoree, John P. Calamos Sr. "Well, I'm so proud to be John Calamos' partner," he told Greek media.

"He's an incredible human being, he's established an incredible company, and no words can show what a great person he is, what he's done philanthropically, not just for Greece, but for a lot of different causes."

In response to a question asked by The National Herald regarding what Calamos Sr.'s legacy represents for the next generation, he shared "I think John Calamos' legacy is the epitome of the American dream."

"Like a lot of us, we come from humble beginnings, yet he's been able to use America and be part of America and the great things that it gives us to become extremely successful," Koudounis said in response to TNH's question.

"And it's not just proved by the money he has, but what he gives back to society, so I am very proud to call him my partner, and I think he's done an incredible job. I'm very proud to follow in his footsteps."

Following his speech, Koudounis then presented the Hellenic Lifetime Achievement Award to John P Calamos Sr. – the Founder, Chairman and Global Chief Investments Officer of Calamos Investments, who founded the company back in 1977, and has successfully led its growth into a global asset management firm that manages more than $40 billion in assets.

In his speech, he thanked everyone who attended the special private event to honor him and his contributions to the community.

In a comment made to TNH, Calamos Sr. revealed what receiving this award from The Hellenic Initiative meant to him.

"It is very important. It's been a lot of years since I've been involved in it, so having this recognition has been very personal, and I appreciate it very much," Calamos Sr. told TNH.

As someone proud of his Greek heritage and achievements within the Greek-American community, Calamos Sr. reflected on what he wishes is one thing everyone takes away from the evening.

"I think it's the importance of earning your history," he expressed. "People need to understand the history of Greece, and its importance… and we have to inspire the next generation."

Reflecting on his contributions to his community, Calamos Sr. shared what he hopes people remember him by as a successful businessman and leader in the Greek-American investment and financial market.

"I've been involved in a lot of things, and it's just really about making sure you're following your passion and that what you want to do is follow your passion, and that's living the American dream."

The formal proceedings then concluded with Mike Manatos, The Hellenic Initiative's executive director, who also touched on the impact of John Calamos Sr.'s work and its impact on Greek-Americans today. He also discussed the mission of The Hellenic Initiative and its ongoing efforts to preserve Hellenism and constantly give back to Greece. He further emphasized how funds raised through events such as the Black Tie Dinner honoring John Calamos Sr., allow Greeks in the U.S. to support their homeland.

In a comment made to The National Herald, he expressed what it meant to honor such a successful and influential Greek-American [John P. Calamos Sr.] in Chicago. "This is such a blessing that we have so many wonderful philanthropic and caring people in the community, and that one evening can raise a million dollars for the people of Greece," he told TNH.

"In Chicago, I've got to say, I've been blessed to travel all around the country to meet with different Greek-American communities, but the Chicago community is really remarkable."



PHOTOS BY EVELYN KARATZAS



ABOVE: Left to right: Mike Manatos, John S. Koudounis, and George P. Stamas. RIGHT: Honoree John Calamos. LEFT: Guests in the United Center during the cocktail reception at THI's Chicago Gala.

Up Next: Konstantinos Argiros' Sold Out Concert

Following The Hellenic Initiative's Black Tie Dinner event, all those in attendance were then ushered to the United Center stadium to watch as the Greek superstar Konstantinos Argiros brought his legendary talents and catchy hit songs to the Chicago stage, for a benefit concert in the historic home of the Chicago Bulls.



COURTESY OF THE HELLENIC INITIATIVE

Konstantinos Argiros performed in Chicago on March 7.



His performance, presented by New York's Dream Hospitality Group, blew everyone away – crowds were brought to their feet as they danced, waved white 'mandilia' (napkins), and sang every word by heart with endless pride and passion.

The evening's finale was a successful gathering of the Greek diaspora from across the United States, who came together to experience and embrace a shared love for music, passion, and culture in one space, inside a city heavily populated by Greeks.

Argiros' sold-out concert was officially opened by the beautiful and talented Antigoni, the Cypriot singer and proud 'Kipriopoula' born and raised in London, who is currently set to represent Cyprus in Eurovision 2026. She is most recognized for her hit song, 'Jalla'.

In an interview with Greek media following her incredible performance, she revealed how opening for one of Greece's biggest and most-loved artists at the United Center marked a pivotal moment in her music career, as it was her very first arena show.

"Honestly, I'm honored to be here," Antigoni said.

"It's so amazing to be part of something that's for the culture as well, and for a good cause. Obviously, Konstantinos Argiros is an incredible artist, so I'm really excited. It's my first time playing in an arena, and it's a pretty mad arena to start in, but I had a very great time."

Reflecting on her experience being selected to represent Cyprus on an international stage for Eurovision, she shared "I'm really excited to be doing it."

"Honestly, it's a dream that I've had since I was a little kid," Antigoni expressed.

"I remember watching Elena Papparizou when she won the Eurovision for Greece and it was like fixated in my head from that moment that one day, I want to do that, so I feel like it's literally a dream come true and I'm really grateful."

In an interview with The National Herald, George Karavias, the CEO of Dream Hospitality revealed how it felt to bring Konstantinos Argiros back to the U.S. for a third time, following previous successful sold-out shows.

"It feels great and it's something we're very proud of, " Karavias told TNH.

"The first two times we brought Konstantinos to the U.S. were in New York, and the response from the community was incredible. Being able to bring him back for a third time, this time in Chicago, shows how much Greek music continues to grow internationally and how strong the support is from the Greek diaspora across the country."

Reflecting on what made this concert performance in Chicago so significant, Karavias revealed that Chicago has one of the largest and most passionate Greek communities in the world.

"What made this night truly special is that Chicago has never hosted a Greek artist for an arena show before," he said.

"To bring a sold-out concert to the United Center made this a historic moment not just for the city, but for Greek music in the United States."

He shared how the energy in the United Center was incredible from the minute people arrived.

"You could feel the excitement building throughout the arena. When Konstantinos stepped on stage, the entire crowd was singing along, and the atmosphere became electric. It was one of those nights that reminds you how powerful music can be in bringing people together," he concluded.

bbf:

Land of Tomorrow – Larnaca:

At the easternmost edge of the European Union, Larnaca is redefining its investment footprint through sustainable, large-scale coastal developments. Thanks to a dynamic combination of private investment, local government, and cultural initiatives, the city is experiencing strong momentum, opening new growth prospects of historic significance for both the city itself and the wider region.

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A City Maturing as an Investment Destination

Larnaca's transformation from a city of mild development into a vibrant hub of innovation, quality of life, and sustainability marks a new major chapter in its history. Leveraging its strategic position in the Eastern Mediterranean, its rich cultural heritage, and its emerging role on Cyprus's economic map, the city is creating a model of urban development that connects culture, innovation, and international visibility.

With dynamic large-scale residential developments, new cultural infrastructure, and significant upgrades to public spaces, Larnaca is attracting business capital and investments, while simultaneously enhancing residents' quality of life and its appeal as a destination for visitors and tourists. Capitalizing on the title of European Capital of Culture 2030 acts as a catalyst for economic, social, and urban development, creating a new urban model with a lasting imprint on the city.

Culture and Economy: A Provenly Effective Duo

The European Capitals of Culture initiative is assessed by the European Commission as one of the most effective tools for urban and economic regeneration in Europe. Cities holding the title record tourism increases of up to 40%, strengthening cultural and creative industry ecosystems, and significant investment attraction—often extending well beyond the duration of the title itself. At the same time, increased visibility and recognition at a European and international level open new business opportunities, positioning Larnaca as a magnet for investors and innovative initiatives.

The development strategy includes both the upgrade of existing infrastructure and the creation of new facilities. The renovation of the historic REX, the operation of the Museum of Humankind as a dynamic memory bank, and the establishment of the Centre for Arts and Creative Design form a contemporary cultural map that links tradition with innovation. Larnaca 2030 lays the foundations for cultural tourism growth, extension of the tourist season, and increased average visitor spending. Strategic investments already underway are placing the city on a path of sustainable economic growth.

Land of Tomorrow – The Bridge Connecting Larnaca with the Future

At the heart of Larnaca's development transformation lies the Oroklini area, where Land of Tomorrow, one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects, is being implemented. The project creates modern mixed-use communities, combining residences, workspaces, leisure facilities, and public spaces. With a strong emphasis on sustainability, it includes natural, eco-identity beaches, green spaces, cultural infrastructure, and entertainment facilities, proposing a new seaside lifestyle. A key design feature is the planting of approximately 20,000 trees, aimed at transforming the area into a green paradise. The project also includes sustainable infrastructure to ensure long-term environmental benefits.

The first phase of Land of Tomorrow, designed as part of the strategic collaboration between the Lefkaritis Group, bbf:, and Foster + Partners, has already begun. This phase includes a residential complex of four buildings, offering impressive amenities for residents such as swimming pools, gyms, children's playgrounds, and more, covering a total area of over 32,000 sq.m. It will also provide leisure services and public spaces for residents and visitors alike, offering a unique shopping and gastronomic experience.

This phase includes two buildings with 150–200 apartments, targeted for completion in 2028–2029. Construction of the buildings, which will not exceed 12 floors, is expected to commence very soon.

As Mr. Artem Burtsev, Chief Marketing Officer of bbf., notes:

"At bbf., our vision is to create spaces that combine innovation, quality of life, and respect for the environment—communities that thrive today and shape tomorrow. Land of Tomorrow is an exciting project that has inspired us immensely. Through this project, the area will be transformed into one of the most attractive coastal communities in the Mediterranean. We are absolutely confident that this sustainable and forward-thinking development will have a positive impact on the wider area, the economy, and the evolution of the city in the years to come. For investors, Larnaca will no longer be an emerging option, but a mature market with vision."

Mr. Kikis Ioannou, Assistant Marketing Manager, Petrolina (Holdings) Public Limited, also commented on the project:

"With Land of Tomorrow, Petrolina, in collaboration with the Lefkaritis Group, is strategically expanding into the land development sector. The project is part of our broader business vision for sustainable urban development, the creation of modern infrastructure, and strengthening Larnaca's competitiveness as an investment and tourism destination with an international outlook.

A City Redefining Its Future

Beyond growth indicators and investment prospects, the true imprint of this period for Larnaca lies in the everyday lives of the people who will live in the city over the coming decades. The current momentum lays the foundations for a more functional, greener, and more human-centered city—one that is finally claiming its fair share of development and prosperity.

Thus, as Larnaca moves toward 2030, it is not merely accelerating its pace of growth, but entering a phase of substantive progress, gradually establishing a new urban narrative with depth and longevity. Through this evolution, the value created is not temporary, but cumulative—the result of consistency, vision, and collective effort. In such paths of maturation, tomorrow is not treated as a promise, but as a clear and meaningful direction.

ΕΘΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΗΡΥΞ