



Explore • Experience • Engage

Contact: Rachel Somma  
Communication Coordinator  
75 Stuyvesant Place, Staten Island, NY 10301  
P: 718-483-7117  
Email: [RSomma@StatenIslandMuseum.org](mailto:RSomma@StatenIslandMuseum.org)

## For Immediate Release

### Con Edison Contributes \$3,500 to Staten Island Museum

*Con Edison's latest contribution to the Teen Environmental Club helps raise environmental awareness among teens*

(Staten Island, NY – November 2011) Since its inception in April 2010, Con Edison has been an unwavering supporter of the Staten Island Museum's **Teen Environmental Club**. Through a recent grant of \$3,500 towards the program, youngsters can continue to learn and care about the environment for the coming year. The check was presented by Juliet Lewis, Manager of Public Affairs for Con Edison to Elizabeth Egbert, President & CEO of the Staten Island Museum and Ralph Branca, Chair of the Museum's Board of Trustees.



*Photo credit: Juliet Lewis, Con Edison's Manager of Public Affairs (center) presents Elizabeth Egbert, Staten Island Museum President & CEO, and Ralph Branca, the Museum's Chair and President & CEO of Victory State Bank, with the \$3,500 check that brought Con Edison's total contributions to well over \$60,000. Photo by Henryk J. Behnke, Staten Island Museum.*

Con Edison also supports the Museum's educational programs as a major sponsor of the education brochures and has supported many of the Museum's events over the past 30 years including the recent 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala and the Summer Soiree honoring African-American leaders on Staten Island. Con Edison is a corporate member of the museum.

"We are pleased to contribute to a generation that will learn about global environmental issues and to preserve and protect the land locally. We believe the program will enable them

to make long-life decisions and take actions that will benefit their community and the environment,” says Ms. Lewis.

Ralph Branca, the Museum’s Chair and President & CEO of Victory State Bank, commented: “Con Edison have been a loyal partner of the Staten Island Museum for many years and has helped us provide topnotch programs and exhibitions for all Staten Islanders. By supporting the Teen Environmental Club, Con Edison follows the spirit of our founders, who back in 1881 helped young people better understand and care for the world around them.”

### **About the Teen Environmental Club**

The Teen Environmental Club was created for teenagers 13 to 18, an age group that would benefit from environmental education on Staten Island. The club’s main goal is help teenagers develop a healthy sense of land stewardship, environmental action, and encourage youngsters to continue their environmental education and enthusiasm for nature into college, and beyond. The club is looking to grow its membership to at least 25 students during current academic year.

From November 2011 through June 2012, students in a series of monthly activities to get their hands dirty and involved in environmental action. Activities will include beach and woodland clean-ups; assist in fall leaf collection with the SI Compost Project; help with the upkeep of the Purple Martin Colony at Lemon Creek Park; present “Beautify Out Beaches” outreach materials at local festivals/fairs; learn about the threat of invasive species to our island; tour Fresh Kills Park; participate in Horseshoe Crab Monitoring as part of the state wide effort coordinated by Cornell University and the D.E.C. They will also be involved in investigating birds, dragonflies and other local wildlife. All activities will count towards community service hours to satisfy school requirements.

Teens interested in joining the Teen Environmental Club, should visit the Club’s website at <http://sim-teenenvironmentalclub.ning.com/> or contact **Seth Wollney at (718) 483-7105** and join us for one of our upcoming meetings.

This engaging environmental program is made available to Staten Island teens free, thanks to the outstanding support from Con Edison, the Verizon Foundation and the New York City Environmental Fund administered by the Hudson River Foundation, who have all contributed significant funds to help the Staten Island Museum raise environmental awareness among teens.

###

**Con Edison’s Strategic Partnerships Program:** Con Edison has a long-established tradition of contributing to and maintaining the social, cultural, and economic vitality of our service areas throughout New York City and Westchester County. To do this, they have committed themselves to providing financial or in-kind support to organizations whose activities

advance strong, vibrant, and stable communities. They choose these groups carefully, looking to their ability to utilize education, training, and special programs and events, to enrich the quality of life of all New Yorkers. In addition to providing funding to institutions both large and small, established and emerging, Con Edison has a large and loyal corps of volunteers who give of their time and energy to a wide array of educational, health, senior citizen, sports, mentoring, and civic programs and organizations.

### **About the Staten Island Museum**

Founded in 1881, the Staten Island Museum, New York City's only general interest museum, engages visitors with interdisciplinary exhibitions and educational programs that explore the dynamic connections between natural science, art and history based on its diverse collections. The Museum is dedicated to making its current and future collections broadly accessible for educators, students, researchers and the general public by providing authentic experiences in the field and at the Museum. Located two blocks from the Ferry Terminal, visitors can embark on a voyage through time in the Staten Island Ferry exhibit; see rocks glow in the dark along with oddities in the Hall of Natural Sciences and experience the life of Staten Island's first inhabitants. For current exhibitions, visit [www.StatenIslandMuseum.org](http://www.StatenIslandMuseum.org).

### **Staten Island Museum (St. George)**

75 Stuyvesant Pl.  
Staten Island, NY 10301

### **Museum Hours:**

Monday – Friday: 11am– 5pm  
Saturday 10am–5pm  
Sunday 12pm – 5pm

### **Main number: (718) 727-1135**

The museum building is wheelchair accessible. Call (718) 727-1135 for assistance.

### **Admission**

Adults \$3.  
Students and Seniors: \$2.  
FREE to members and children under 12.  
FREE Lunchtime Break: Every Tuesday between 12–2pm

### **Staten Island History Center & Archives \*New Location\***

1000 Richmond Terrace  
Snug Harbor Campus, Building H  
Staten Island, NY 10301  
Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 10am – 4pm by appointment  
Please contact Cara Dellatte at (718) 727-1135, ext. 122