For Immediate Release

Staten Island Museum awarded prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for upcoming suffrage centennial exhibition

‘Arise Women of the Nation’ to open in March 2020

(Staten Island, NY – August 15, 2019) The National Endowment for the Humanities announced yesterday that the Staten Island Museum will receive a $40,000 grant to support planning activities for a new exhibition. Set to open in March 2020, Arise Women of the Nation: Staten Islanders in the Fight for Women’s Right to Vote will mark the centennial of the passage of the 19th Constitutional Amendment. The grant enables the Staten Island Museum to engage an advisory panel of experts who will contribute their perspectives in analyzing how local efforts contributed to the broader national movement.

“We are thrilled to receive funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities for planning this major exhibition that will bring to light local efforts in a national story and to connect today’s audiences with significant history,” stated Janice Monger, Staten Island Museum President and CEO. “The input of the incredible advisory team will deepen understanding of a complex movement that we look forward to sharing in the exhibition and a public panel discussion with the scholars.”

Arise Women of the Nation will present Staten Island’s unique place in the history of the suffrage movement by recounting stories of local suffragists, their contributions to the national effort, and the tactics they employed to win the vote. The exhibition will connect visitors to the history of earning women’s right to vote, as well as the relevance to present-day considerations of civic engagement and voter participation.

“The Staten Island Museum is an absolute treasure that ensures we can all learn and appreciate our Island’s rich history. I’m proud to see the Museum receive this federal funding to help tell the amazing and trailblazing stories of Staten Island Women who played such a critical role in the suffragist movement that led to the passage of the 19th Amendment. I’m looking forward to seeing the exhibit next year,” shared Congressman Max Rose.

More About the Exhibition

Arise Women of the Nation: Staten Islanders in the Fight for Women’s Right to Vote presents Staten Island’s role in the fight for women’s political equality that was both innovative on a national level and uniquely suited to the community from which it came. Visitors will learn about the tactics suffragists employed to bring attention and garner support for the movement, including a radical act by Rosalie Gardiner Jones, who became the first suffragist to fly for the cause when she dropped ‘votes for women’ leaflets from a bi-plane over Staten Island in 1913. Highlighted in the exhibition will be Drusilla Poole, a prominent reform activist who formed an organization to encourage and instruct African-American women about civic engagement, and the ardent suffrage activist Reverend Florence Spearing Randolph of Rossville AME Zion Church. The exhibition will explore the intersection of race, class, and gender in the Suffrage Era, as well as racism and exclusion within the Suffrage Movement. Despite their ingenuity and dedicated involvement in the New York State Women’s Suffrage Party, the stories of Staten Island Suffragists are lesser known and this exhibition brings them to light.
**Arise Women of the Nation** has been in development for more than three years with research spearheaded by the Museum’s archives manager Gabriella Leone, drawing upon the Museum’s collections, original research, and loaned items from Historic Richmond Town and other repositories. This exhibition ties to the Staten Island Museum’s institutional history since Museum Founder Arthur Hollick and his wife Adeline were active Suffragists and collected related periodicals at the time for the Museum’s collection. The Woman Voter and The Suffragist have been digitized and made publicly available online: [https://archive.org/details/statenislandmuseum](https://archive.org/details/statenislandmuseum).

**Arise Women of the Nation** will open in March 2020 to commemorate the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which was ratified in 1920, and in celebration of Women’s History Month.

**Exhibition Advisory Panel**

**Susan Goodier** is a Lecturer of History at SUNY Oneonta and specializes in U.S. Public Policy History, International Gender and Culture, and Black Women’s History. She is the author of No Votes for Women: The New York State Anti-Suffrage Movement and co-author with Karen Pastorello of Women Will Vote: Winning Suffrage in New York State.

**Catherine Gray** is Co-President of the League of Women Voters of the City of New York since 2016 after being a member for more than a decade. She is retired from her job as a librarian with Brooklyn Public Library for over thirty years.

**Sarah Litvin** is a doctoral candidate in U.S. History at the CUNY Graduate Center with a minor in gender and women’s history and Director of the Reher Center for Immigrant Culture and History in Kingston, NY. She was previously an Andrew J. Mellon Predoctoral Fellow at the New-York Historical Society’s Center for Women’s History, where she contributed to the exhibition, Hotbed, which explored the New York State campaign for women’s suffrage.

**Margaret Middleton** is a designer and developer of exhibitions and graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design. She is passionate about the intersection of museum work and social justice movements. She has received a number of awards for excellence and diversity.

**Debbie-Ann Paige** is a public historian specializing in African American history, co-president of the newly chartered Richard B. Dickenson Chapter of the Afro-American Historical and Genealogical Society (AAGHS) and professional genealogist.
Drusilla Poole
Print, ca. 1980
Published in Shiloh A.M.E. Zion Church
Women’s Day Historical Journal
by Evelyn M. King
On loan from Debbie-Ann Paige

Ladies Tabling at Richmond
town
Postcard, ca. 1915
Gift of Hugh Powell
Staten Island Museum | L 84.75.69

Contact:
Rachel Somma
Communications Manager, Staten Island Museum
1000 Richmond Terrace, Staten Island, NY 10301
P: 718.483.7117
RSomma@StatenIslandMuseum.org

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About the Staten Island Museum
Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 138th year, the Staten Island 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. Staten Island Museum is owned by the City of New York and benefits from public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. For current exhibits, visit StatenIslandMuseum.org.