



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

For immediate release

Staten Island Museum in the running for prestigious Partners in Preservation restoration grant

(Staten Island, NY – April 26, 2012) American Express, partnering with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is committing \$3 million in preservation grants to historic places in New York City through its community-based program, Partners in Preservation. Today at a press conference in the Grace Rainey Rogers Auditorium at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Manhattan with American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, it was announced that the Staten Island Museum was among the 40 New York City institutions vying for the prestigious Partners in Preservation grant.

From April 26th through May 21st, the public will be invited to vote on Facebook and through www.PartnersinPreservation.com for its favorite historic places from a diverse slate of 40 sites in the New York City area. Everyone is invited to vote (one vote per person per day). The three historic places that receive the most votes are guaranteed funding. Additional grants will be awarded to a number of the other sites after review by American Express, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and an advisory committee composed of New York civic and preservation leaders.

The Staten Island Museum is in the running to receive a quarter of a million dollars for the renovation and conservation of the cast iron staircase contained in Building A, a 19th century historic landmark located on the campus of Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island, NYC.

“We are so proud to be among these important, vibrant New York City cultural organizations, helping spread the word about the importance of historic preservation,” said Staten Island Museum President & CEO Elizabeth Egbert.

As a kick-off initiative to spread the word and introduce the public to their future home at Snug Harbor, the Staten Island Museum will be hosting an **Open House weekend on May 5th and 6th, 12pm – 5pm, at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden** as a part of the Harbor in Bloom Festival. The 2-day free, family friendly festival will include an interactive *Treasure Wall* where participants will get to erect larger than life puzzles of the Museum’s collection onto the construction wall, a Mad Scientist Experiment table, Lenape fire-making demonstrations, live music by Allergic to B’s, the Headlocks, the Wahoo Skiffle Crazyes and Blues Ball, Nature Walks, Archives Tours and more! All are welcome. For a full schedule of festival events, please visit the Museum’s website at StatenIslandMuseum.org

About the Staten Island Museum’s Expansion to Building A at Snug Harbor

The Staten Island Museum, which serves over 80,000 people each year, is realizing a dream 40 years in the making: the expansion to Snug Harbor Cultural Center, a nationally significant historic site that was saved from demolition through the leadership and efforts of Museum and community members in 1965. In June 2011, the

Museum broke ground and began the construction of a 21st century fully climate-controlled museum facility, housed within the interior of a landmarked structure that had been built in 1879 to serve as a dormitory for “aged, worn out and retired seamen.” This will be the first climate-controlled art museum on Staten Island. The Museum and its design team are challenged with restoring the historic exterior and cast iron staircase, while gutting the entire interior and building a completely new structure, within the walls of the exterior “skin.” In addition, the “new” Museum building will employ a geothermal heating and cooling system and meet the requirements to be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified; another first of its kind on Staten Island. The current expansion project was preceded by the renovation of an adjacent building into a new home for the Museum’s History Archives and Library (2009), the establishment of the Staten Island History Center and the creation of Staten Island’s first Art Conservation Studio (2008). With the new building comes an additional 10,000 square feet of public space filled with art works and scientific objects that have been out of the public eye for many decades. The interdisciplinary nature of the Museum’s collections enables it to create exhibitions and programs that will appeal to a wide range of visitors.

About the Staten Island Museum

Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 130th year, 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 welcomes about 80,000 adults and school children to a comprehensive array of programs every year. 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 in the Hall of Natural Sciences; and experience the lives of Staten Island’s first inhabitants. In Building H on the Snug Harbor Campus, visitors can explore the latest exhibitions in the History Center Gallery, or make a research appointment for the History Archives & Library. 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 exhibitions, visit Statenislandmuseum.org

Image: Historic Staircase, Building A at Snug Harbor & Rendering of Restored Historic Staircase

VISITOR INFORMATION

Staten Island Museum (St. George)

75 Stuyvesant Pl., SI, NY 10301

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 11am– 5pm

Saturday: 10am–5pm

Sunday: 12pm-5pm

Universal Accessibility

Recommended Admission

Adults \$3.

Students and Seniors: \$2.

FREE to members and children under 12.

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 only.

Contact Cara Dellatte at 718.483.7122.

History Gallery Hours:

Tuesday – Friday: 1pm – 4pm

Free