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For Immediate Release

Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor sets opening date! THE DOORS WILL OPEN - SEPTEMBER 19, 2015

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2015

Time: 10:00am – 5:00pm (Ribbon Cutting at 10:00am)

Location: Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor, Building A, 1000 Richmond Terrace, SI, NY 10301

Cost: FREE

(Staten Island, NY – May 29, 2015) After 4 years of construction, the \$26.8 million City-funded renovation of Building A into the new home of the Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor is complete. The Museum is currently in the process of outfitting the space with its inaugural exhibitions which will open to the public with much fanfare on **Saturday, September 19, 2015 at 10:00am.**

Opening day festivities will include FREE admission, the ribbon cutting ceremony, lawn games for the whole family, food, live music, crafts for kids, and some special surprises. The day (10:00am – 5:00pm) will be a full festival of art, science, and history celebrating all things Staten Island!

The merriment will continue on Sunday, September 20, with a Members-only preview from 10:00am to noon, followed by FREE admission (12:00pm – 5:00pm), Museum led tours, music, food, and special guests. All are welcome.

The Museum will also host an invitation only preview opening for Founding Members and major donors on Friday, September 18th. For information on how to receive an invitation, please contact Amanda Straniere at AStraniere@StatenIslandMuseum.org or 718.483.7119.

"We are ecstatic to be opening the doors to our new Museum on the grounds of Snug Harbor this fall. We have been working so hard in preparation for this moment and are elated to share our extensive collection with the public," said Interim President & CEO, Cheryl Adolph.

Ms. Adolph continued, *"Staten Island is going through a major transformation right now as people are exploring their neighborhoods, their city, their histories and discovering how truly incredible this borough is. We welcome the curious doers and thinkers from all over New York City and beyond, to find those dynamic connections between natural science, art, and history that we have been collecting for them since 1881."*

The Staten Island Museum's expansion is a dream 50 years in the making which began when Snug Harbor, the nationally significant historic site was saved from demolition through the leadership and efforts of Museum Members in 1965.

Regular admission and hours for the Staten Island Museum at Snug Harbor will be the same as the Staten Island Museum in St. George (which will remain open to the public) and allows access to both locations on the same day: \$5 for adults/\$3 for seniors and students/Free for members and children under 12, Monday – Friday

11:00am – 5:00pm, Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm, and Sunday 12:00pm – 5:00pm. (On October 1, admission will increase to \$8 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, and \$2 for children under 12. Free for members.)

Inaugural Exhibitions

- ***Remember the Mastodon: A Richmond County Savings Foundation Signature Exhibition*** with additional funding from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). *Remember the Mastodon* is about the hard facts of extinction, the wonder of enduring species, the importance of biodiversity and the challenge of preservation. Includes fossils, lost bird species, and a full-size replica of a Mastodon emerging through the wall!
- ***Opening the Treasure Box: Bringing the World Home*** (South Gallery, 2nd Floor)
Presenting art objects spanning 5,000 years of artistic endeavor gathered from five continents: Africa, Asia, Europe, North and South America. Countries represented include Germany, Greece, India, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, and the United States. The oldest piece is an Egyptian funerary statuette of a striding man, dating from 2,000 BCE.
- ***Staten Island SEEN: Parts I & II***
(The Staten Island Foundation Gallery, 1st Floor & North Gallery, 2nd Floor)
The exhibition traces this borough's unique history and landscape from the 17th century to the present. These works are made by amateur and professional artists, working in a broad range of styles and materials from ink drawing to anaglyph 3-D video. Artists include the masters of the Hudson River School such as Edward Moran and Jasper Cropsey, a native Staten Islander, Cecil C. Bell, who lived on Staten Island and current talents like Sara Yuster and Bill Murphy.
- ***From Farm to City: A Legacy Exhibition*** (Auditorium – Ground Floor)
A glimpse into Staten Island's unique history, its people, and the themes that resonate as collective truths on this unusual island using images and historic documents, audio interviews, and digital collections. This exhibition strives to reunite Islanders with their past and share the evolving story of New York City's *Borough of Parks* with visitors. *From Farm to City: Staten Island 1661-2012* was created by the Museum of the City of New York. The exhibition focused on land-use on Staten Island. This legacy exhibition focuses on the people and themes that define the Island throughout history.

About Building A at Snug Harbor – History and Future

Originally built in 1879, Building A was one of over 50 structures that comprised Sailors' Snug Harbor; an 83-acre site founded by Robert Richard Randall as a "haven for aged, decrepit and worn out sailors." In its day, Sailors' Snug Harbor was the richest charitable institution in the United States and a self-sustaining community composed of a working farm, dairy, bakery, chapel, sanatorium, hospital, music hall and cemetery. In the mid-20th century, however, the institution experienced serious financial difficulties and declining number of residents which led to many of the once magnificent buildings falling into disrepair and later being demolished. In the 1960s, the Staten Island Museum led the fight to preserve Sailors' Snug Harbor and ultimately gave up its city allocated funding to help purchase the site and to designate it a New York City landmark. In the original master plan for the "saved" Snug Harbor site, Buildings A and B were designated as the future home of the Staten Island Museum. The historic Greek Revival building (Building A) will become the nexus of the Museum's activities and will exemplify the goals of preservation, history and respect for the natural environment that are the core of the Museum's mission.

Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, a Smithsonian Affiliate, is Staten Island's premier destination for culture and entertainment. Set within an 83-acre park-like setting, Snug Harbor presents a blend of gardens, museums, theaters, educational opportunities, and seasonal festivals.

Funding for the Project

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York City Council and Office of the Staten Island Borough committed \$26,775,000 million to the \$31 million renovation project. Major private support comes from the

Achelis and Bodman Foundations, The Barker Welfare Foundation, American Express, Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Booth Ferris Foundation, C & L Construction Corp., Deutsche Bank, Institute for Museum and Library Services, Henry Luce Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Grid, National Trust for Historic Preservation, The New York Community Trust, New York Council for the Arts, Northfield Bank Foundation, Richmond County Savings Foundation, Samuel H. Kress Foundation, Staten Island Advance, The Staten Island Foundation and Victory State Bank as well as the Museum's trustees and individual supporters. In total, some \$3.7 million have been raised for the new exhibitions. A community campaign is being launched to raise the remaining \$300,000, including \$250,000 towards the Elizabeth Egbert gallery, named in honor of the Museum's former President & CEO, who passed away last August after 12 years of leadership at the Museum.

About the Design

The expanded Museum will provide over 18,000 square feet in usable space, including an auditorium/performance venue, open for use by the public, as well as a multipurpose room that can host community exhibitions. The building will be the first historical landmark building on Staten Island to earn a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification, and meet the stringent environmental standards of the American Museum Association. The new facility will utilize a closed loop geothermal system which uses the earth and a series of circulating pumps to heat and cool the building which will boost efficiency and reduce the operational costs of the building's heating and cooling systems.

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About the Staten Island Museum

Founded in 1881 and celebrating its 134th 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 serves over 219,000 adults and school children at the Museum and in the community. 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 exhibits, visit StatenIslandMuseum.org.

Visitor Information

Staten Island Museum (St. George)

75 Stuyvesant Place

Hours:

Monday – Friday: 11:00am – 5:00pm

Saturday: 10:00am – 5:00pm

Sunday: 12:00pm – 5:00pm

Universal Accessibility

Recommended Admission

Adults \$5.

Students & Seniors \$3.

Members & Children under 12 FREE

History Center & Archives

1000 Richmond Terrace, Snug Harbor, Bldg H

Hours:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 10:00pm – 4:00pm

By appointment only.

Contact Cara Dellatte at 718.483.7122

History Gallery Hours

Tuesday – Friday: 1:00pm – 4:00pm

FREE