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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Centennial Celebrations Commence

Bartow-Pell Opens New Exhibition and Hosts Winter Lecture Series

Bronx, NY, February 14 2014— In 1914, the International Garden Club, today known as the Bartow-Pell Conservancy, was established in New York and, with permission from the city, restored the Bartow mansion to serve as its headquarters. In 2014, the Bartow-Pell Conservancy celebrates the centennial of its farsighted founders and the legacy they preserved for future generations with a variety of special programs and events to be offered throughout the year.

Coming up on Saturday, March 1—just in time for Women’s History Month— is the opening of a new exhibition, ***Grandes Dames and Grand Plans: 100 Years of History at Bartow-Pell***, curated by longtime member Barbara Bartlett, editor and Bartow-Pell Conservancy Board Member Barbara Burn Dolensek, and Education Director and Curator Margaret Highland. The highlight of the exhibition is a majestic portrait (ca. 1930) of Mrs. Charles Frederick Hoffman (née Zelia Krumbhaar Preston) by British artist Sydney Percy Kendrick. Prominent in New York, Newport, and English society, Zelia Hoffman was a founder and president of both the International Garden Club and the Newport Garden Club. She became a British citizen in 1919 and a Liberal candidate for Parliament in 1928. (She did not win.)

The winter lecture series, ***Ambitious Design: Architecture, Preservation, and the Garden in the Early 20th Century***, features topics relating to the early years of the Bartow-Pell Conservancy. On Thursday, March 6, at 7:30 p.m. Amy Freitag, Executive Director of the New York Restoration Project and former Executive Director of the Historic House Trust, will give a talk on “Extraordinary Women: Power, Influence, and the Conservation of the American Landscape,” touching on the critical role played by early 20th-century garden club members.

On Thursday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m., well-known architect and author Peter Pennoyer, together with architectural historian Anne Walker, will delve into “The Architecture of Delano & Aldrich” based on their book published by W.W.Norton & Company in 2009. The architectural firm of Delano & Aldrich was responsible for the mansion restoration in 1914–15 and in 1916 created the formal garden behind the mansion which was restored last year in preparation for the Centennial.

At the final lecture, on Tuesday, March 18, at 7:30 p.m., Mac Griswold, a cultural landscape historian and the author of many books on early twentieth-century gardens, will discuss her latest work, *The Manor: Three Centuries at a Slave Plantation on Long Island* (Farrar, Strauss and Giroux,

July 2013) in a talk entitled “Cornelia Horsford: Early Preservationist in America’s Golden Age of Gardens.”

Each talk will be followed by a reception in the mansion’s Orangerie and, as appropriate, an opportunity to purchase books and have them signed by the author.

The exhibition is on view through November during public hours, Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday, 12 to 4 p.m. Free with admission: \$5 adults; \$3 seniors and students. The lectures are \$10 adults; \$8 for seniors and students; free for members. Registration is requested for the lectures: info@bpmm.org or 718.885.1461.

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About Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum

*A National Historic Landmark located in New York City’s largest park, **Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum**, an 1840s Greek Revival mansion, is the last of the country estates in the Pelham Bay area. BPMM is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. For more information about Bartow-Pell, visit www.bpmm.org.*