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Wave Hill Garden Gala Honors Kate French's Tenure

Bronx, NY, May 6, 2008 — On Thursday, May 29, 2008, Wave Hill, an internationally acclaimed public garden and cultural center, hosts its annual Spring Garden Gala. This year Wave Hill honors Kate French, who served with distinction as Wave Hill's Executive Director for 17 years. The festive party brings together 250 Wave Hill enthusiasts for a delightful evening of **cocktails-at-sunset, dinner, and entertainment**. Guests will enjoy dinner by **Great Performances** in a decorated party tent on the Lower Lawn.

During Ms. French's tenure, Wave Hill has emerged as a vibrant and welcoming urban destination, with lively, contemporary programming in horticulture, education and the arts amid a spectacular, world-renowned garden landscape. Visitor services also advanced, including the establishment of a café and catering food services, expansion of the gift shop and the creation of tour and event business to generate earned income. Capital improvements, including renovation of Glyndor House and development of the Perkins Visitor Center, have dramatically opened public access to Wave Hill facilities and increased compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities Act*. Wave Hill's first endowment campaign, undertaken in the 1990s, has become a cornerstone of support for the institution. Today, Wave Hill maintains a \$6 million annual operating budget, sustained by a \$20 million endowment.

Proceeds from the Spring Garden Gala help Wave Hill to maintain the excellence of its gardens, provide education programs for people of all ages, and present exciting visual and performing arts series in an unparalleled setting. Special gifts to this year's Campaign to Honor Kate French support landscape and capital projects that ensure Kate's legacy will grow and thrive. **Tables range from \$10,000 to \$100,000. Single tickets begin at \$1,000.** For further information or to reserve your tickets, call the Development Office at 718.549.3200 x310.

What: **Wave Hill Spring Garden Gala
Honoring Former Executive Director Kate French**

Gala Chair: **Janet Mavec**

Date: **Wednesday, May 29, 2008**

Place: **Wave Hill**
 West 249th Street and Independence Avenue in the Riverdale section of the
 Bronx, New York. Cocktails amid the gardens and greenhouses.
 Dinner and entertainment under a tent on the Lower Lawn.

Time: Cocktails: 7:00pm
 Dinner: 8:00pm

Price: Tables: \$10,000-\$100,000
 Individual Tickets: \$1,000

Dress: Black Tie

Benefits: **Proceeds from the Spring Garden Gala** help Wave Hill to maintain the excellence of
 its gardens, provide education programs for people of all ages, and present visual and performing arts
 series in an unparalleled setting.

Information: *Stephanie Ehrlich at 718.549.3200 x310*

Beverages provided by Tuthilltown Spirits of the Hudson Valley and POM Wonderful 100%
 Pomegranate Juice.

Wave Hill is a 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and the Palisades. Its
 mission is to celebrate the artistry and legacy of its gardens and landscapes, to preserve its magnificent views,
 and to explore human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education and the arts.

Wave Hill is an independent, non-profit cultural organization governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The
 buildings and grounds of Wave Hill are owned by the City of New York. With the assistance of the Bronx
 Borough President, and Bronx representatives in the City Council and State Legislature, Wave Hill's operation
 is supported with public funds through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Zoos, Botanical
 Gardens and Aquariums Grant Program administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and
 Historic Preservation, the New York State Council on the Arts—a state agency, and the National Endowment
 for the Arts.

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