

## Hill-Stead Museum

35 Mountain Road  
Farmington, CT  
[www.hillstead.org](http://www.hillstead.org)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Subject:** Hill-Stead Museum to receive \$250,000 HUD grant

**Place:** Hill-Stead Museum, 35 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT 06032

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### **HILL-STEAD MUSEUM TO RECEIVE MAJOR FUNDING**

*Congresswoman Nancy Johnson Secures \$250,000 in HUD Funding for Upgrades*

Congresswoman Nancy Johnson has arranged for Hill-Stead Museum, Farmington, CT, to receive a \$250,000 Federal HUD grant earmarked for its multi-year \$1 million Security and Protection Master Plan and Upgrade. In consultation with Steve Keller & Associates, Ormond Beach, Florida, Hill-Stead has undertaken an assessment of security conditions and outlined plans for improvements. Upgrades to the fire suppression and other systems, along with new construction, will complement improvements resulting from the museum's \$2.5 million Exterior Restoration and Visitor Access project, an undertaking which has encompassed restoring landscape and structural features while addressing such practical needs as site protection and visitor access and safety.

According to Linda Steigleder, Hill-Stead's Director and CEO, "The Earmark Funds so generously arranged by Congresswoman Johnson will allow Hill-Stead to make major progress with improvements to its visitor protection, collections, site security and risk management."

Combined with the HUD grant, funding from the Farmington Savings Bank Foundation and the Sorenson-Pearson Family Foundation will take Hill-Stead one-third of the way to its goal of \$1 million. Steigleder describes the funding as "essential," and

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adds: “Visitors and volunteers are among Hill- Stead’s greatest assets. This Security Upgrade not only will protect our historic buildings and rare art, but also will ensure the safety and enjoyment of thousands of adults and school children drawn to our exhibitions, grounds and public programs every year.”

A **National Historic Landmark** and a **Save America’s Treasure**, Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT, is a stop on the **Connecticut Art Trail** and a member of **Connecticut’s Historic Gardens**. The period rooms are open for tours Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am – 4 pm, November - April, and 10 am – 5 pm May - October. Grounds are open daily 7:30 am-5:30 pm. For tour and program information, browse [www.hillstead.org](http://www.hillstead.org) or call 860.677.4787.

Hill-Stead is noted for its 1901 33,000-square-foot house filled with art and antiques. Pioneering architect **Theodate Pope Riddle** designed the Colonial Revival-style house, set on 152 hilltop acres, as a country estate for her parents, Cleveland iron industrialist Alfred A. Pope and Ada Brooks Pope. Collections include paintings by **Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Édouard Manet, James M. Whistler** and **Mary Cassatt**, as well as numerous works on paper and Japanese woodblock prints. Hill-Stead is one of the nation’s few remaining representations of **early-20th-century Country Place Estates**. Stately trees, seasonal gardens, over three miles of stone walls and woodland trails for walks or cross-country skiing accent the grounds. A centerpiece of the property is the c. 1920 sunken garden designed by landscape architect Beatrix Jones Farrand, and today the site of the **Sunken Garden Poetry Festival**.

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