

## **Hill-Stead Museum Appoints New Executive Director and CEO**

October 29, 2008

**FARMINGTON, CT:** The Trustees of Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, Connecticut and Margaret Darby, President of the Museum's Board of Governors, today announced the appointment of a new Executive Director and CEO, Dr. Sue Sturtevant, of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Dr. Sturtevant will assume leadership of the Museum effective January 12, 2009.

Sturtevant currently serves as the Director of Statewide Partnerships for the Department of Cultural Affairs for the state of New Mexico. In this role, she works closely with state art and history museums and the state's Historic Preservation Division. From 1993-2002 Sturtevant was Chief of Education at the Museum of New Mexico, a complex of four museums featuring art, history, folk art and Southwest culture. Sturtevant was Chair of the Santa Fe Arts Commission for five years. From 1988-1993 she was Director of the Kohl Children's Museum near Chicago.

Sturtevant, a native of Bath, Maine, holds a B.A. in English from Newton College, (now under Boston College,) as well as an M.A. in Psycholinguistics/Reading and a Doctorate in Education with a specialty in Museum Studies, both from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Dr. Sturtevant said, "I look forward to working with the Board, staff, volunteers, and members of Hill-Stead to make the Hill-Stead Museum better known to the general public and to visitors from around the world. I am eager to work with the renowned collections of French Impressionist paintings, Japanese prints, Chinese ceramics, and the furnishings of the estate and its impressive gardens and grounds. Hill-Stead serves as a place of tranquility and beauty for all who come to know it."

"We are delighted to have attracted such an experienced and qualified chief executive," said Board President, Margaret Darby. "Dr. Sturtevant is a recognized museum leader who has presented widely at professional meetings. She has raised millions in support during her extensive career and believes that museums should engage the broad community. She is passionate about historic sites and education and is an avid gardener and amateur poet. Her

strengths mesh perfectly with our strategic initiatives to reach out to new constituencies and reaffirm our commitment to providing an unsurpassed experience to Hill-Stead visitors.”

The selection of Sturtevant culminates a national search for a successor to former Director Linda Steigleder. Vice President/President-Elect Paul H. Eddy chaired the Search Committee, which retained search consultant Marilyn Hoffman of Museum Search & Reference. For the past ten months, the Museum has been under the accomplished stewardship of Interim Co-Directors Cindy Cormier and Marie Dalton-Meyer.

A **National Historic Landmark** and an Official Project of Save America’s Treasures, Hill-Stead Museum in Farmington, CT, is a member of **Connecticut’s Historic Gardens** and a stop on the **Connecticut Art Trail** ([www.arttrail.org](http://www.arttrail.org)), a partnership of fifteen world-class museums and historic sites across the state. The museum’s 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 to the public daily 7:30 am-5:30 pm.

Hill-Stead is noted for its 1901 33,000-square-foot house filled with art and antiques. Pioneering female architect **Theodate Pope Riddle** designed the Colonial Revival-style house, set on 152 hilltop acres, to showcase the **Impressionist masterpieces** amassed by her father, Cleveland iron industrialist Alfred A. Pope. Collections include original furnishings, paintings by Monet, Degas, Manet, Whistler and Cassatt, as well as numerous works on paper and Japanese woodblock prints. Stately trees, seasonal gardens, over three miles of stone walls and woodland trails accent the grounds. A centerpiece of the property is the c. 1920 sunken garden designed by Beatrix Farrand, today the site of the renowned Sunken Garden Poetry & Music Festival.