

For Immediate Release

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Met President to Speak in Distinguished Lecture Series at John Jay Homestead

Bedford, NY October 12, 2010—Emily Kernan Rafferty, President of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, will deliver a lecture at the John Jay Homestead State Historic Site as part of the Annual Goodhue Lecture Series on October 22 at 7 p.m. Mrs. Rafferty's speech, entitled "The Met and Museums: Mainstreaming in a Morphing World," will address the Met today and the future of cultural institutions in a rapidly evolving society.

Mrs. Rafferty has served as President of the Metropolitan since 2005. She is the first woman elected to that post in the Museum's history, and now in her thirty-second year of continuous service to the institution. She previously acted as Senior Vice President for External Affairs, and Vice President for Development.

In her current role as chief administrative officer for the nation's largest and most comprehensive art museum, Mrs. Rafferty supervises more than 1,500 museum employees in such areas as development, membership, technology and information services, human resources, merchandising, external affairs, legal affairs, government relations, finance, security, and construction. She also operates as Chairman of NYC & Company, New York City's tourism organization, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the National September 11 Memorial & Museum.

The seeds for the Metropolitan were planted on July 4, 1866 when John Jay II, a prominent New York lawyer and the grandson of founding father John Jay, gave a speech proposing that he and his compatriots create a "national institution and gallery of art." Over the next four years, American civic leaders, art collectors, and philanthropists came to support the project.

Today, the Museum's collections of more than two million works of art spanning 5,000 years of world culture from around the globe draw millions of visitor's each year. The Met is currently completing construction and installation on two major capital projects that will transform its exhibition space: new galleries for the Department of Islamic Art and American paintings—both collections considered among the finest in the western hemisphere.

The Annual Goodhue Lecture is dedicated to the memory of Mary B. Goodhue in recognition of a generous donation made by the Goodhue family in support of education programming at John Jay Homestead. A former state legislator and longtime supporter of the New York State historic site, Mrs. Goodhue procured government funding for the purchase of over 4,000 volumes of John Jay's personal manuscripts, which now reside at the Homestead.

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The series has hosted numerous prominent speakers since its inaugural lecture in 2004 by Cokie Roberts. Past speakers include Henry Louis Gates, Jr., Lucia Stanton, Chief Judge Judith Kaye, and Mark Malloch-Brown.

The reception and presentation will take place in the Iselin Wing at the John Jay Homestead State Historic Site at 6:15 p.m. This lecture is a Friends' members-only event with limited seating. Interested persons are urged to make reservations by contacting the Friends office at (914) 232-8119; email friends@johnjayhomestead.org; or visiting the website at www.johnjayhomestead.org.

About the Friends

Friends of John Jay Homestead is a non-profit, educational organization founded in 1977 by local Bedford residents. It is New York State's day-to-day partner in providing volunteer assistance and critical funding for the purpose of: increasing public appreciation and awareness of the history of our nation, our region, and John Jay's contribution to the founding of our nation; encouraging use of the site for both educational and recreational purposes; and restoring and interpreting the Main House and 62-acre landscape.

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