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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE NEW YORK ART COMMISSION AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARE THE
SUBJECTS OF A BENEFIT PROGRAM FEATURING MICHELE BOGART

Michele H. Bogart will present a talk entitled *New York City's Art Commission: Art "Police" and Keeper of the Treasure* at the New York Preservation Archive Project's 4th Annual BARD BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST BENEFIT on December 19, 2007. Bogart, author of *The Politics of Urban Beauty: New York and Its Art Commission* (University of Chicago Press, 2006) will reflect upon the history of the Art Commission of the City of New York—the city's design review board—to offer perspective upon its importance in the present day. To that end, the talk will also discuss the Commission's extraordinary archive and its significance for historic preservation.

The BARD BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST BENEFIT celebrates the legacy of Albert S. Bard. For over half a century, Bard (1866-1963) was a leading national advocate for city beautiful concerns ranging from municipal art to zoning. He was also a major figure in New York City's civic community as a vocal member of the Citizen's Union, the Fine Arts Federation, and the Municipal Art Society. A lawyer by trade, he drafted the New York State authorizing legislation for the Landmarks Law and secured its passage in 1956, at the age of 89. He believed that the government had the ability to conserve aesthetic values as part of the "patrimony of the people."

The BARD BIRTHDAY BREAKFAST BENEFIT will take place on Wednesday, December 19, 2007, from 8:30 am to 10:00 am at The Harvard Club of New York City, 27 West 44th Street. A full hot breakfast will be served starting at 8:30 a.m. and the lecture will begin at 8:45 a.m.

Tickets: \$250 - Benefit Committee Ticket; \$125 - Bard Booster Ticket; \$75 - Student Ticket (with valid id).

Proceeds from ticket sales will benefit the New York Preservation Archive Project, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to presenting and protecting the narratives of historic preservation in New York City. RSVP 212-861-4993 x246 or

rsvp@nypap.org, visit www.nypap.org for a printable reply form.

About the Speaker: Michele H. Bogart is Professor of Art History and Director of Graduate Studies at Stony Brook University. Her areas of expertise are urban design and commercial culture, and she has published on public art, memorials, animation, parks, landscape and garden history, photography, illustration, and advertising. Bogart received her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. In addition to *The Politics of Urban Beauty*, she is also the author of *Artists, Advertising, and the Borders of Art* (University of Chicago Press, 1995) and *Public Sculpture and the Civic Ideal in New York City, 1890-1930* (University of Chicago Press, 1989), which received the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Charles C. Eldredge Prize in 1991. Bogart has been the recipient of fellowships from the Smithsonian Institution, National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. From 1998 through 2003 she was a member of the Art Commission of the City of New York, and for four years was its Vice President. Presently she is Vice President of the Fine Arts Federation of New York, and serves as well on the Art Commission's Conservation Advisory Group.