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THE LEGACY OF THE 1960s COMES TO LIFE AT THE MUSEUM AT BETHEL WOODS
Local Schools Invited to Special Inauguration Day Program

(January 9, 2009) BETHEL, NY – On Tuesday, January 20, 2009 The Museum at Bethel Woods will kick off its 2009 Education Program and bring history to life through a special Inauguration Day event for local school groups. Over 500 students grades 5 through 12 will gather at The Museum at Bethel Woods for this free event to watch and discuss President Obama's inauguration and the surrounding ceremonies.

In this historic year, Bethel Woods' education programs are poised to grow substantially, fulfilling The Museum's role as an important educational resource in the community. Inauguration Day at Bethel Woods will celebrate the very foundation of our country and recognize, in the election of Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States, the culmination of the social and political change made possible by the struggles of the 1960s examined within the museum.

The event begins at 10:00am with a performance by the Liberty High School Band and Liberty Middle School Choral Group, followed by a lecture on presidential inaugurations and the historic significance of Barak Obama's election, led by special guest Amy Colón, Assistant Professor of American History at Sullivan County Community College. Students will screen President John F. Kennedy's inaugural address, and then watch the inauguration of President Obama and Vice President Joe Biden live. Professor Colón will lead a final discussion with students following the ceremonies. Classes may also tour The Museum at Bethel Woods at the regular \$5 school group admission price, further connecting the messages and themes of the 1960s with today.

The following schools will attend Inauguration Day at Bethel Woods: Duggan Elementary, Liberty Middle School, Liberty High School, Light and Life Christian School, Middletown High School, Monticello High School, Sullivan West, Tri-Valley, and Youngsville School, as well as White Sulfur Methodist Church Youth Group and Sullivan County BOCES.

Additionally, at least four schools will also participate in The Museum's in-class lesson program on Presidential inaugurations. Margaret Hughes, Museum Education Manager, will visit Damascus Area School (PA), Tri-Valley School, Light and Life Christian School and Sullivan West to address at least 12 different classes, reaching over 500 students including 200 additional students who cannot attend the Inauguration Day program itself.

During these grade-appropriate lessons, students will learn about the key players in an inauguration, its location and traditions, and will read and discuss excerpts from John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln's inaugural addresses. The lesson will conclude with a writing assignment, maximizing the learning opportunity afforded by Inauguration Day at Bethel Woods.

Throughout the school year The Museum at Bethel Woods offers educational programs geared to middle and high school students. School programs support teachers and engage students through interactive and thought-provoking explorations of the history, music, and social issues of the 1960s. All programs align with the Learning Standards of New York State. To learn more about school programs or to book a visit for your school, contact Margaret Hughes, Museum Education Manager, at 845-583-2097 or mhughes@BethelWoodsCenter.org.