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**THE MUSEUM AT BETHEL WOODS HOSTS
ARTS AND EDUCATION CONFERENCE**

(April 4, 2008) BETHEL, NY – On Thursday, April 3, 2008 The Museum at Bethel Woods hosted an Arts and Education Conference jointly sponsored by Sullivan County BOCES' Arts and Education Program.

The Museum welcomed arts administrators and educators from Sullivan and Orange Counties. Highlights included workshops and keynote speakers including John J. Cimino, founding president and CEO of Creative Leaps International, and Carol Fineberg, former chair for the New York State Alliance for Arts Education.

Arts in Education, is an area that is continually evolving and becoming a major area of focus in changing the teaching strategies of teachers by integrating the Arts into all levels of instruction for K-12 education.

The Arts in Education Program at BOCES, works with local school districts, colleges, arts agencies and alliances, and various districts in the surrounding counties to integrate visual thinking strategies, create high-quality art-rich programs and environments for the districts, as well as opening the students up to the world of the Arts.

"The big picture of the arts is changing," John J. Cimino says, "scholars and thought leaders in education and business are speaking more confidently and assertively about the value of arts, creativity and imagination, not just in learning but in leadership and entrepreneurship."

"John was very inspirational" stated Elena Coogan, K-6 grade Art teacher, Chester School District. "He really reinforced what we have been trying to do in incorporating the arts into all aspects of education, particularly when he spoke about how important it is in the workforce and how businesses are looking for people to think out of the box. Students need to collaborate, be creative, and enjoy what they are doing. Unfortunately, with the focus being on the test scores, ELA and Math are taking precedence over the arts."

According to Linda Holmes, 4th grade teacher at Monticello School District, "John Cimino, was extremely insightful and inspirational as to what the arts can do for the other aspects of instruction. Our school is currently looking at how culture, social and political events, music and arts all inter-twine and become very meaningful and drive each other across time."

Wade Lawrence, Director of The Museum at Bethel Woods, facilitated a workshop focused on creating engaging student tours and programs within The Museum, that support state curriculum standards. In addition the following agencies had an opportunity to share information and materials with attendees: The New York Foundation for the Arts, New York State Council on the Arts, NYSA, NYSAAE, ATA, DVA and CIS during the event.

Peter Lane, CEO of Bethel Woods Center for the Arts said, "Bethel Woods is delighted to join with Sullivan BOCES to host this Arts and Education Conference. We look forward to building broad education and community outreach programs and hosting many more events of this type in the future."

Situated at the site of the original 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, New York, The Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is entering its third exciting season. The Museum at Bethel Woods, which explores the legacy of the Sixties and Woodstock, will open to the public in June. The Museum will be a true cultural landmark, serving as an educational institution and tourist destination which explores the unique American experiences of the 1960s and the role of the Woodstock festival through a multimedia extrasensory kaleidoscope of music, images, exhibits and artifacts. It invites the world to celebrate and explore the rich legacy of one of the most remarkable decades in American history and preserves the historic site of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, made instantly famous in 1969. For a more information about Bethel Woods Center for the Arts and The Museum at Bethel Woods, please visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.org.

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About Bethel Woods Center for the Arts:

The mission of Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is to present compelling programs from the arts that educate, entertain and engage audiences of all ages, to institute community outreach and education and improve the quality of life and vitality of the Sullivan County region. Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is located approximately 90 minutes from New York City at the site of the original 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY. The 15,000-seat outdoor performing arts venue and the soon-to-be-opened Museum at Bethel Woods are set within 2,000 bucolic acres. The main pavilion covers 4,500 seats with another 10,000 on a natural sloping lawn while offering unique backdrops including the original festival site and the majesty of the surrounding Sullivan County countryside. The venue presents a diverse selection of popular artists, a range of orchestral performances, community events and music and arts educational opportunities. By providing artists with the opportunity to perform on one of music's most legendary grounds, Bethel Woods Center for the Arts is committed to being a world-class cultural destination. In addition, The Museum at Bethel Woods slated to open in June 2008 will further embed this arts campus as one of the premier sites in New York State. www.bethelwoodscenter.org

About Sullivan County BOCES:

The mission of Sullivan County BOCES is to increase student performance in all component districts and communities. The Sullivan County Board of Cooperative Educational Services will accomplish this mission through leadership, cooperative services and collaborative efforts in an economic and efficient manner. Sullivan BOCES is typically known for its career and technical education programs, alterative education programs and special education programs offered to students K-12. BOCES also offers a whole host of programs for individuals and community members including: Adult and continuing education, community and family services, curriculum development for teachers, instructional support services for school districts, and management services for school districts. For more information regarding the services and programs Sullivan BOCES has to offer log onto www.scboces.org