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FREE FIELD TRIPS FOR SULLIVAN SCHOOLS TO BETHEL WOODS MUSEUM IN 2019

BETHEL, NY (April 9, 2019) – Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, a nonprofit cultural center in Bethel, NY located at the historic site of the 1969 Woodstock festival, today announced a philanthropic gift that will allow classes of students from Sullivan County schools to visit **The Museum at Bethel Woods** free of charge for the **Explore the '60s** program throughout 2019.

School visits take place as one part of Explore the '60s, which focuses on deepening students' understanding of the decade and its relevance today. The program begins in classrooms with items sent by Bethel Woods, continues with a school trip to The Museum and concludes with curriculum materials sent home with teachers for follow-up lessons.

While a reduced per-student museum admission fee is generally charged for school visits, a gift of funds made by Bethel Woods donor **Robyn Gerry** will cover those fees for Sullivan County students in 2019 in recognition of the historic anniversary this year – the semi-centennial of the 1969 Woodstock festival.

In 2019, students will be able to visit the 50th Anniversary Special Exhibit, "We Are Golden," which displays a rich array of authentic Woodstock artifacts and historic items. The Special Exhibit also features an interactive section that encourages young people from all over to post their aspirations for a better future; it's a nod to the hopes and dreams of the 500,000 young people who thronged to Max Yasgur's alfalfa field 50 years ago to take part in the Woodstock festival at a time of great national and global strife.

"I understand that families are often asked to cover those fees for their children. And in this anniversary year with so much history being discussed, I wanted to clear the way for local classes to attend and expose their students to the tremendous educational resource that Bethel Woods and The Museum represent," said Ms. Gerry. A native of Sullivan County, Ms. Gerry is the retired Vice President of Marketing for Bethel Woods and has been a supporter of Bethel Woods since its opening.

Darlene Fedun, Chief Executive Officer at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts said that the organization is extremely thankful for the gift of free admission for local students. "It's too often that schools and families lack the resources for cultural enrichment activities," she said. "This gift opens the door that much wider to local students, many of whom might not otherwise get the chance to visit and learn about the history that happened here and to understand why that history remains so important today," Fedun continued.

Explore the '60s is one of the many programs offered through Bethel Woods. For 2019 and going

forward, the program has been expanded to include kindergarten through 2nd grade students in age-appropriate experiences at The Museum. The program extends to all grades through 12th grade and includes private school students and home-schooled students as well.

For more information contact education@bethelwoodscenter.org or call 845-583-2036. For general information about Bethel Woods, please visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.Org.

In addition to the free admissions gift made by Robyn Gerry, funding for Explore the '60s has been provided by RBC Foundation USA, the AT&T Aspire program and by Bethel Woods Center for the Arts members and donors. Overall funding for Museum Education and Creative Programs is provided by major funders including: The American Gift Fund, Annelise Gerry and Family, Robyn Gerry, Nellie and Robert Gipson of the Tianaderrah Foundation, the William and Elaine Kaplan Family Foundations, and the Rhulen Loughlin Family in memory of Trevor John Loughlin.

View a copy of our annual report or visit our website at BethelWoodsCenter.Org for a more comprehensive list of supporters.

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DISCLAIMER

The Bethel Woods Center for the Arts' celebrations marking the 50th Anniversary of the greatest festival of all time, planned for the Summer of 2019, are not produced, sponsored by, or affiliated with Woodstock Ventures LC, the organizer of the 1969 Festival and its other reunion festivals, and are not WOODSTOCK® events.

About Bethel Woods Center for the Arts

Bethel Woods Center for the Arts inspires, educates, and empowers individuals through the arts and humanities by presenting a diverse selection of culturally-rich performances, popular artists, and community and educational programming. Located 90 miles from New York City at the site of the 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY, the lush 800-acre campus includes a Pavilion Stage amphitheater with seating for 15,000, an intimate 440-seat indoor Event Gallery, the award-winning Museum at Bethel Woods, and a Conservatory for arts education programming.

Through the in-depth study and exhibition of the social, political, and cultural events of the 1960s, as well as the preservation of the historic site of the Woodstock Music and Art Fair, Bethel Woods educates individuals about the issues and lessons of the decade while inspiring a new generation to contribute positively to the world around them. The not-for-profit organization relies on the generous support of individuals, corporations, and foundations to develop and sustain programs that improve the quality of life in the region and beyond.

For more information please visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.org.