DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DeCordova is the only American Art Museum to host a pre-school

Lincoln, MA, August 3, 2010—DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum announces it will be the new, on-site home of Lincoln Nursery School’s 4–5 year old class from September 13, 2010–June 9, 2011. The parent cooperative school, based in Lincoln, MA, will broaden its hands-on, experiential philosophy at deCordova’s campus, utilizing all the Sculpture Park and Museum have to offer. This innovative program is the first of its kind for deCordova, and is the only pre-school program currently hosted by art museums nationwide. The partnership between deCordova and Lincoln Nursery speaks to deCordova’s commitment to serving its community and its dedication to integrating education and art. DeCordova is thrilled to be a part of such a progressive collaboration.

Erica Mason, a member of deCordova’s Education Committee says, “As a member of the deCordova Board of Trustees, deCordova’s Education Committee, and a citizen of Lincoln I am honored to support this groundbreaking endeavor. The partnership between deCordova and the Lincoln Nursery School celebrates deCordova's mission to engage children at an early age with the arts, and to cultivate and support the relationship between art and education. This is truly a positive venture for the art world—one that deCordova is proud to take on.”

The relationship between deCordova and Lincoln Nursery School continues to grow with this new endeavor. In the past, Lincoln Nursery School has taken advantage of deCordova’s campus by exploring, discovering, and learning about the sculpture, art, and landscape. For example, in the fall of 2009, Lincoln Nursery School students visited the Sculpture Park for a field trip and soon after, created their own sculpture at the Lincoln Nursery School, inspired by Steven Siegel’s environmentally-friendly newspaper installation, Big, with rift. This fall a class of 15 students, ages 4–5, will occupy the deCordova Museum School’s Studio 4 space weekday mornings, becoming an integral part of the activity on deCordova’s expansive campus. The studio will be updated and refurnished to fit the needs of the class this summer. Following this move, the class will be able to actively participate and benefit from the activities and exhibitions at deCordova.

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Nancy Fincke, Director of Lincoln Nursery School, is committed to developing programming that is inspired by the schools of Reggio Emilia, Italy which encourage children to plan and determine activities based on their individual and collective experiences with their surroundings. Fincke says, “I am so excited about our joint endeavor with deCordova as I believe environments influence our thinking. The opportunity to experience the Sculpture Park, nature, the studio classroom, and the Museum at large on a daily basis will inspire children and adults to observe, ask questions, and express their stories through movement and materials. We (the faculty) will in turn make visible to the community the children’s expressions of their experiences. Listening to children is our most important work.”

It is the School’s mission to nurture and inspire learning through play and discovery. The 2010–2011 class at deCordova will be led by Lincoln Nursery School’s Mary Hopkins who will be assisted by Ursula Nowak, Karen Prince, and Lincoln Nursery School parents who volunteer throughout the school year. Lauri Bounty will be the studio teacher, collaborating with teachers in reviewing documentation of children’s play and offering materials to children to express and extend their thinking. It is the goal of this institution to support experience-based learning; deCordova strives to provide an environment that encourages education and exploration. This exciting, new partnership continues to allow deCordova to better engage audiences, especially children and families, with the contemporary art exhibited in the Sculpture Park and Museum.

**About DeCordova**

DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum was established in 1950 to educate the public about American contemporary art. DeCordova’s unique campus features both indoor and outdoor venues, allowing its visitors to celebrate and explore contemporary art across 35 acres. Inside, the Museum features a robust slate of rotating exhibitions and innovative interpretive programming. Outside, deCordova’s Sculpture Park hosts more than 60 works, the majority of which are on loan to the Museum. DeCordova also offers the largest non-degree granting studio art program in New England. DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum attracts more than 100,000 visitors from New England and tourists from around the world to its campus each year and enrolls more than 3,000 students of all ages in its studio art program.

**General Information**

DeCordova is open Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 am to 5 pm and on selected Monday holidays. General admission during Museum hours is $12 for adults; $8 for senior citizens, students, and youth ages 6–12. Children age 5 and under, Lincoln residents, and Active Duty Military Personnel and their dependents are admitted free. The Sculpture Park is open year-round during daylight hours.

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Guided public tours of the Museum’s main galleries take place every Thursday at 1 pm and Sunday at 2 pm. Tours of the Sculpture Park are given on Saturday and Sunday at 1 pm from April to November. All guided tours are free with Campus admission. Visit www.decordova.org or call 781.259.8355 for further information.

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