For Immediate Release

DeCordova Announces Creation of Sculpture Park Endowment Fund

$1M Contributed to the Fund from the Parker Family Foundation

Lincoln, MA, May 15, 2009: Dennis Kois, Executive Director of the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, announced the creation of a new Sculpture Park Endowment using a lead gift of $1,000,000 from the Parker Family Foundation of Lexington, Massachusetts. The announcement came at the annual meeting of the DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum, during which Kois announced several initiatives highlighting a renewed emphasis on the importance and value of the Sculpture Park.

“This generous gift by The Parker Family Foundation is a critical start towards DeCordova’s goal of becoming one of the top sculpture parks nationally within a decade,” said Kois in announcing the gift. “Since 2002, the Parker Family Foundation has been a strong supporter of the DeCordova, funding initiatives to improve the landscape of the park and the museum’s education programs.”

“We are excited by the DeCordova’s decision to focus on the Sculpture Park,” noted Glenn Parker, Trustee of the Parker Family Foundation. “The Sculpture Park is a defining feature of the DeCordova, and visitors always expect to find something special there.”

Other new initiatives include the establishment of a Sculpture Park Committee and the recent appointment of Nick Capasso, PhD, as Senior Curator to oversee the transformation of the Park. “DeCordova’s Sculpture Park is our most unique asset,” said Kois. “The newly established Sculpture Endowment will allow us to begin to activate the park with site specific projects, new loans, and allow us to care for and conserve the works and landscape that make DeCordova so unique.”
In addition to the establishment of the Sculpture Park endowment, Kois also announced that DeCordova would henceforth be identifying itself as the ‘DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum,’ to reflect the primacy of the Park to visitor experience and DeCordova’s identity. Additionally, Kois noted that the recently established Sculpture Park Advisory Committee, still in formation, will include well-known gallerists, sculptors, curators, and foundations amongst its members—and hence be the first in DeCordova’s history to include outside advisors. A full roster of members will be announced at a later date.

Four new works are being installed in the Sculpture Park this summer, including a sculpture by Douglas Kornfeld, a never-before realized iteration in Sol LeWitt’s concrete block sculpture series which will be constructed in July, an environmentally responsive site-specific work by Steven Siegel that will make use of an antique barn foundation in the Park, and a “research station” built by the artist team of Bartow + Metzgar, who will begin a year-long residency interacting with Park visitors that will culminate in a 2010 gallery installation.

About DeCordova
Founded in 1950, DeCordova Sculpture Park and Museum was established to educate as broad and diverse a public as possible about modern and contemporary American Art. With a 35-acre Sculpture Park that features 80 works, a robust slate of exhibitions, the largest non-degree granting studio art program in the state, and innovative interpretive programming, DeCordova is at the forefront of arts education as well as an exciting contemporary art destination.

DeCordova attracts more than 100,000 visitors from New England and tourists from around the world to its campus each year; trains 200 teachers in arts education; and enrolls 4,000 students of all ages in studio art classes in the Museum School. Known as an accessible contemporary arts museum, visitors engage Museum Guides in conversation about artwork on display, the artistic process, and other issues in contemporary art. DeCordova has 3,500 members, and a unique Corporate Art Program which loans work by regional contemporary artists to more than 100 businesses in Massachusetts for public display.

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. 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 May to October. All guided public tours are free with Campus admission. Visit www.decordova.org or call 781/259-8355 for further information.

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