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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum Begins Garden Rehabilitation *Landscape Architect Presents Plans on April 16th*

Bronx, NY, April 7, 2013— After a hard-won social media voting campaign in the spring of 2012, Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum was awarded \$155,000 grant from Partners in Preservation (American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation) to restore the mansion’s terraced 1916 Delano and Aldrich garden and adjacent areas.

At a talk on **Tuesday, April 16th at 7:30 pm**, Bartow-Pell’s executive director Ellen Bruzelius and landscape architect Mark Morrison, founder and president of Mark K. Morrison Landscape Architecture, PC (“MKM”) will present the plans and share the process that led to the final design. Registration is requested (718.885.1461 or info@bpmm.org). The event is free.

Not a Garden Restoration, a Rehabilitation

“We are following the recommendation of the Cultural Landscape Report, completed by Quennell Rothschild & Partners in April 2010, that the work we are doing in the garden is properly called a rehabilitation rather than a restoration,” says Bruzelius. “The original plans for the garden have never been located, so we are working with historic photographs to interpret the garden as closely as possible to its original intent, keeping in mind the current-day constraints of limited staffing, funding, climate change, and an exploding deer population.”

Developing the Plans

MKM has conceived and implemented projects throughout the Northeast—as well as in Asia and Africa—for almost thirty years. The firm has worked with complex municipal and ecological systems to develop master plans and site designs for large park systems and public open spaces, including over 100 projects for NYC Parks. As such, they are well qualified for the BPMM garden rehabilitation.

The firm was selected in September 2012 by a steering committee of Bartow-Pell Conservancy board members and Ellen Bruzelius. Over the ensuing months, MKM has worked closely with the garden rehabilitation steering committee on the development of the plans for the garden. Also closely involved in the process were Jonathan Mellon, senior architectural conservator at the Historic House Trust of New York City of which BPMM is a member; NYC Parks & Recreation preservation landscape architect Joe Disponzio, and Pelham Bay Park Administrator Marianne Anderson.

The Rehabilitation

The plans for the Bartow-Pell rehabilitation call for restoring the essential symmetry of the formal garden; regrading the terracing to bring back its original crisp lines, and installing a badly needed irrigation system. Historic garden beds will be reintroduced and planted and leveled lawn areas will incorporate new places for visitors to sit.

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In addition, a horse chestnut grove south of the formal garden will be pruned and expanded. And the Pell family cemetery, with headstones dating back to the mid-1700s, will undergo conservation work, with two damaged headstones that are not currently in the cemetery restored and returned to their rightful place.

Bartow-Pell, both a New York City and National Landmark, is one of the most beautifully situated historic houses in the city. It welcomes thousands of visitors annually for guided and group tours of its elegant mansion, formal gardens, and woodland trails. The garden rehabilitation will enhance enjoyment of the Bartow-Pell gardens year-round.

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Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum is located at 895 Shore Road, Pelham Bay Park, Bronx, New York. To reach us by public transportation, take the #6 Lexington Avenue Local subway to Pelham Bay Park station, followed by the Westchester Bee-Line #45 bus direct to the mansion gate. For driving directions, please visit www.bpmm.org. The mansion and carriage house are open to the public for guided tours on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. The gardens and grounds are open daily from 8:30 a.m. to dusk. Mansion admission is \$5 adults, \$3 seniors and students; free for children under six. Visiting the garden and grounds is free.