



## **Kathy Maher Appointed President of Connecticut Preservation Action**

(Bridgeport, CT) – Last month, Kathleen Maher, Executive Director and Curator of The Barnum Museum, was elected President of Connecticut Preservation Action (CPA), the state’s most accomplished historic preservation legislative advocacy organization. During 2006, Ms. Maher served as Vice President of CPA.

Connecticut Preservation Action, founded in 1980, focuses its efforts on local, state and national policy issues related to historic preservation. Created as a unifying voice for preservation issues at the State Capitol, CPA has a long track record of success at the Connecticut General Assembly. Many organizations, including the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, the State of Connecticut Historical Commission, local historic district commissions and, often, interested individuals, advocate through CPA’s efforts.

“Kathy brings enthusiasm and great ideas to everything she undertakes,” commented Anita Mielert, out going President and now Secretary for the Connecticut Preservation Action. “We are delighted to have her leadership at this crucial time for development in our state and to help preserve our place in national heritage.”

This year’s efforts for CPA will focus on the “Face of Connecticut” \$1 billion ten year campaign, a coalition effort to plan responsibly for growth and conservation, preserve our most critical watershed and open space lands, farmlands, and historic properties, restore historic buildings, neighborhoods and brownfields and protect and maintain these resources once they have been preserved or restored.

"We are pleased that Kathy has agreed to lead Connecticut Preservation Action," explained Helen Higgins, Executive Director of Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation. “Kathy has a strong grasp of the political process as it relates to preservation and cultural heritage advocacy. As Connecticut Preservation Action is building partnerships with farmland and land conservation groups and is strengthening its partnership with the cultural heritage community, Kathy faces an exciting time for leadership."

Last year, Maher was appointed by Governor Rell to the board for the Museum of the State of Connecticut in Hartford. Maher serves as the Chairman of the Museum Advisory Committee. She will also continue to serve as a state delegate to Preservation Action in Washington, D.C.

Ms. Maher received a B.A. in Art, with a minor in Psychology, from the State University of New York, College at Cortland and an M.A. from the New York University - Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY Collaborative program. She also attended sessions at the Women’s Campaign School at Yale University from 2000 to 2004.

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Maher became full-time Curator of The Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, CT in 1999 after a brief period as part-time Curator. She became Executive Director in May of 2005. Maher has received numerous awards and national recognition for her exhibitions and programs from the *American Association of State and Local History* and the *Connecticut League of History Organizations*. Maher also received an *Award of Excellence* from New York's *Lower Hudson Conference*, and a *State of Connecticut General Assembly Official Citation* from the *CT House of Representatives*.

Kathy resides in Trumbull, CT.

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