



WORLD MONUMENTS FUND AND WOODLAWN CONSERVANCY ANNOUNCE PRESERVATION TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE WOODLAWN CEMETERY

In Collaboration with the International Masonry Institute, Pilot Program Aims to Provide Training and Job Opportunities in the Preservation Trades to Students Recruited from Area Schools

New York, NY, July 1, 2015—**World Monuments Fund (WMF)** and **Woodlawn Conservancy, Inc.**, in collaboration with the **International Masonry Institute (IMI)**, have partnered to create **The Woodlawn Cemetery Preservation Training Program**, a two year pilot program offering job training opportunities in stone masonry and stone conservation methodology for 12 student interns recruited from area schools that focus on the preservation trades. The students will work on select monuments at The Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, receiving hands-on technical training needed to succeed in the conservation field. Woodlawn Conservancy and IMI will seek job placements for all interns who successfully complete the program. Woodlawn Conservancy and WMF hope that this pilot program will serve as a national model for other historic cemeteries in the United States that often struggle to find the resources and help to conserve and preserve their monuments and mausoleums.

The program is supported with funds from World Monuments Fund and **the Heckscher Foundation for Children**. The program model aligns with the Heckscher Foundation's focus on creating pathways to economic stability for disconnected older youth in New York City.

The interns will be taught by Robert Cappiello, Resident Craftsman at The Woodlawn Cemetery, a position specifically created for this program with the help of IMI. All participants will learn about the different stones used in the cemetery, from granites and limestone, to all the different types of marble, and how to analyze each stone and the best methods of cleaning and repairing them. In addition, they will attend classes about historic preservation, as well as safety procedures, which would be conducted by IMI. All participants who successfully complete the program will receive a certificate from IMI and WMF. The

project will be executed in collaboration with the social services organization **Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT)**, who will provide valuable support to the students for the duration of the program.

Bonnie Burnham, President of World Monuments Fund, said, “WMF has a longstanding interest in establishing craftsman training programs at the sites we work on around the world, from the ancient city of Angkor in Cambodia, to the George Nakashima House in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and the Taos Pueblo in New Mexico. There is a growing need for craftspeople experienced in the preservation arts, and we are excited that this program will provide the training needed for these students to succeed in this field.”

Mitch Rose, President of The Woodlawn Cemetery & Conservancy, said, “With over 1,300 mausoleums and monuments in our care, we are thrilled to have The Woodlawn Cemetery serve as a unique laboratory for aspiring preservationists to receive hands-on training in stonework restoration. We envision a role for historic cemeteries across the country to play in workforce development of this kind that will also benefit their preservation needs, and are proud that Woodlawn Conservancy can be a pioneer in these synergistic efforts.”

Joan Calambokidis, President of International Masonry Institute, said, “IMI, along with the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union Local 1 NY, is honored to be a collaborator in this pilot program. Training programs like this bring young people into the trade, and help provide job readiness and stable careers. There is much work available in this field, whether at a cemetery or at other sites, both in the public or private sector.”

The training program consists of two parts. The first begins on July 6 and is a nine week summer program for 12 interns. These interns will spend eight weeks at The Woodlawn Cemetery, and one of their projects will be to work on the Archibald Gracie lot that includes headstones that are in need of repairs and maintenance. The interns will spend one week at the IMI facilities in Long Island City to complete OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) training.

The second part of the program is a 19-month apprenticeship in masonry conservation and maintenance at The Woodlawn Cemetery for two interns who will be competitively selected from the initial group of 12. The first project for the two apprentices will be restoring the Webb family mausoleum.

Interns have been recruited from a pool of high school students going to schools that focus on the preservation trades, with a primary focus on the Bronx International High School and the Williamsburg High School for Architecture and Design in Brooklyn. The social services agency, The Door, also helped with recruiting students for the program.

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About World Monuments Fund:

From America's Route 66 to China's Forbidden City, World Monuments Fund's mission is to protect against the loss of the world's architectural heritage, including the built environment, the artistic elements that enhance it, and the cultural traditions that it sustains. WMF builds global partnerships to conserve key cultural sites in response to urgent threats and broadens public understanding about the central importance of heritage in our lives. Its work makes historic places accessible and sustainable, builds and replenishes skills needed to care for our common heritage, and communicates the benefits to the global public. Headquartered in the iconic Empire State Building in New York City, WMF has offices and affiliates worldwide. Visit www.wmf.org, or follow WMF on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

About Woodlawn Conservancy, Inc.:

The Woodlawn Conservancy enhances the Woodlawn Cemetery as a natural, historic, and cultural landmark, creates a superior experience for visitors to the Cemetery, and builds a community of supporters dedicated to preserving Woodlawn for the enjoyment of present and future generations and sustaining the legacies of those who are interred here. Visit www.woodlawnconservancy.org to learn more, and follow the Woodlawn Conservancy on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

About International Masonry Institute:

The International Masonry Institute is a labor-management organization created by the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers and the contractors who employ them. Visit www.imiweb.org to learn more.

About the Heckscher Foundation for Children:

The Heckscher Foundation for Children was founded in 1921 with a mission of leveling the playing field for underserved youth. The foundation's venture philanthropy approach focuses on catalytic giving, strategic partnerships, and targeted problem solving. Its grants serve youth in New York City and nationally through support of education, college success, employment access, health, recreation, social services, juvenile justice, and the arts. Visit www.heckscherfoundation.org to learn more.

About Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow:

Opportunities for a Better Tomorrow (OBT) is one of New York City's leading youth workforce development providers. Since 1983, OBT has helped youth and adults recognize their own self-worth, and advance towards self-sufficiency and financial security through job training, academic reinforcement, improved life skills, job placement, and support services. Currently OBT offers educational programming, job training, and job placement assistance as well as immigration services in the neighborhoods of Sunset Park, Williamsburg, Bushwick, and Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn; Jamaica, Queens; and Mott Haven, Bronx. Visit www.obtjobs.org to learn more.

About The Door:

The Door's mission is to empower young people to reach their potential by providing comprehensive youth development services in a diverse and caring environment. Since 1972, The Door has helped a diverse and rapidly growing population of disconnected youth in New York City gain the tools they need to become successful, in school, work and in life. Each year The Door serves more than 11,000 young people from all over New York City, with a wide range of services including reproductive health care and education, mental health counseling and crisis assistance, legal assistance, high school equivalency classes, tutoring and homework help, college preparation services, career development, job training and placement, supportive housing, sports and recreational activities, arts, and nutritious meals - all for free, completely confidentially, and under one roof. While we pride ourselves on offering all of our services under one roof, The Door is also focused on impacting the lives of young people throughout the city - and the world - and, as such, has served as a model for other, similar organizations locally, nationally and internationally. As the needs of New York City youth continue to shift and change, we work hard to shift our services in response. Visit www.door.org to learn more.

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