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MAYOR BLOOMBERG PRESENTS 2010 DORIS C. FREEDMAN AWARD TO FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg today presented the 2010 Doris C. Freedman Award to the Friends of the High Line for its dedication to preserving an essential piece of New York's industrial history and for transforming the High Line into an innovative public space. The Doris C. Freedman Award was established in 1982 by Executive Order by Mayor Edward I. Koch to recognize an individual or organization for a contribution to the people of the City of New York that greatly enriches the public environment. It is dedicated to the memory and vision of Doris Chanin Freedman (1928-1981), the City's first Director of Cultural Affairs at the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Administration. Mrs. Freedman also served as President of the Municipal Art Society and Founder of the Public Art Fund, and she worked to establish New York City's Percent for Art legislation. Mayor Bloomberg was joined at the High Line to celebrate the Award by First Deputy Mayor Patricia E. Harris, Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Kate Levin, Department of Parks & Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe, Department of City Planning Commissioner Amanda Burden, Friends of the High Line Board Chair John Alschuler, Friends of the High Line Executive Director Joshua David and members of the Freedman Family including daughters Karen Freedman, Nina Freedman and Public Art Fund President Susan K. Freedman.

"It's an honor to present the Doris C. Freedman Award to Friends of the High Line for its invaluable work in bringing the City's historic High Line back to life," said Mayor Bloomberg. "By transforming an old rail line into an innovative new park with inventive art installations and public programs, Friends of the High Line helped create an iconic attraction that has captured the history of the neighborhood – and given all New Yorkers and our visitors an elevated oasis to enjoy for generations to come."

"Organizations like Friends of the High Line are the life blood of our City, preserving the landscape of our neighborhoods through innovative design and community outreach," said Public Art Fund President, Susan K. Freedman. "My mother, Doris Freedman, would have been thrilled to see Mayor Bloomberg applauding their efforts to reinvent this extraordinary piece of our City's history by creating a unique and inviting public space, changing the cultural landscape of the City forever; and benefiting all New Yorkers and visitors to the City."

"The High Line began as a seemingly impossible dream more than ten years ago," said Joshua David, Co-Founder of Friends of the High Line. At that time, many found it difficult to believe that this neglected piece of urban infrastructure had any future. It is thanks to the dedication and vision of our friends that the High Line stands today. Artists, business owners, City leaders, elected officials, and

