MAYMONT, ONE OF AMERICA’S GRANDEST ESTATES, ANNOUNCES MAJOR GIFT

ANNOUNCEMENT OF “SPIRIT OF GENEROSITY” CAMPAIGN AND MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS

Maymont, an American estate that has been listed as one of America’s 10 Great Public Spaces, is embarking on a campaign to make major improvements, fueled by the generosity of local philanthropists. Today, Maymont announces a lead gift of $5 million from Kathie and Steve Markel adding to additional fundraising and recent grants from local and national sources that total more than $14 million dollars. These gifts will allow the estate to begin upgrading Maymont’s facilities, creating a more welcoming experience for guests, improving parking and traffic flows, enhancing the landscaping and natural beauty, opening more historical spaces to the public and providing better habitats for animals.

“In 1925, Maymont was given to the people by James and Sallie Dooley, with the request that it remain accessible “for all to enjoy,”” said Maymont Executive Director, Norman Burns. “Today, as Maymont prepares for its second century as a public treasure, local philanthropists are coming together in that same spirit of generosity to protect and improve the estate for generations to come. During this season of giving, we are humbled by the spirit of generosity displayed by these local leaders. Their gifts will touch millions of lives and make a local treasure even more precious.”

The “Spirit of Generosity” Campaign will allow for:

• Improvements to guest amenities including a new estate-wide informational signage program.
• A major renovation of the Children’s Farm that will provide an improved space for animals and a much better guest experience for children and families.
• The acquisition of property on Spottswood and Westover roads adjacent to Maymont, securing the estate’s public border.
• Exhibit improvements at the Nature Center and outdoor wildlife exhibits.
• Renovations to historic structures and infrastructure improvements.
• Major improvements to the entrance off Park Drive.
• Enhanced landscaping and entryways.
• Significant improvements to the parking and traffic flow.
• Better storm water management for reduced environmental impact.
• Increased sustainability through new endowment funds.

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Maymont is maintained and operated by the private nonprofit Maymont Foundation. Fundraised dollars account for 80% of the organization’s annual operating budget and help keep the estate open to the public.

Maymont is moving forward with the strategic phase of its capital and endowment campaign, inviting others to participate in this important effort. This fall, Maymont announced additional campaign commitments including $100,000 from the Windsor Foundation Trust, $150,000 from Dominion Foundation, a new $500,000 challenge grant from The Cabell Foundation and the successful completion of a $500,000 2011 challenge grant from The Mary Morton Parsons Foundation.

For more information on the “Spirit of Generosity” Campaign, contact Bob Halbruner, Director of Development, at 804-358-7166, ext. 321 or bhalbruner@maymont.org.

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