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America's First Climate Museum Chartered by NYS Board of Regents New museum will seek to stimulate community engagement

NEW YORK, N.Y., (July 20, 2015) - Today the New York State Board of Regents approved the provisional charter application of The Climate Museum, paving the way for the opening of the first American museum devoted to building climate awareness.

With participatory, interactive programming focused on climate solutions and emotionally resonant issues like human health and social justice, the Museum will seek to engage a broad audience and to encourage climate dialogue, initiative and collaboration.

"The Climate Museum will be a great resource for Environmental Justice communities in New York City and beyond," said Eddie Bautista, Executive Director of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance and a member of the Museum's advisory board.

The Regents' approval of The Climate Museum comes at a moment of expanding public interest in climate, spurred in part by Pope Francis's Encyclical "Laudate Si."

Reverend Dr. Serene Jones, Museum advisory board member and President of Union Theological Seminary, said, "Creating a climate-safe world is a moral imperative. Faith communities--and all communities--need institutions like The Climate Museum to learn and move forward together."

In its start-up phase the Museum has attracted attention from [The New Yorker](#) and [The New York Times](#), as well as from prominent artists and architects, including Olafur Eliasson, who donated visionary sketches for the Museum's use, and Shantell Martin, Eve Mosher, Joel Towers (also Executive Dean of Parsons The New School for Design) and Peter Gluck, all of whom serve on the advisory board.

Said James Stewart Polshek, former Dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture and a Trustee of the Museum, "The Climate Museum presents the exciting challenge of creating responsive public design to serve an imperative cause: fostering community and responsibility on a grave global challenge."

The Museum has received the support of highly respected scientists, as well.

"Climate scientists will continue to play our critical role, but we need the public at large to participate, too," said Cynthia Rosenzweig, a senior research scientist at Columbia University's Earth Institute. "That's the well-strategized aim of the Climate Museum--and why I'm proud to be a founding Trustee."

"The goal is to get the public talking, thinking and acting on climate. The Regents' vote is a critical step towards reaching that goal," said Miranda Massie, the Museum's Director.

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