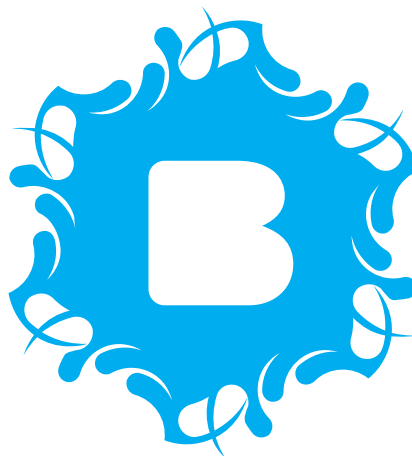


## Press Release



March, 2004

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Annual Brooklyn Museum Gala Inaugurates New Entrance Pavilion and Public Plaza**

##### **One of the Nation's Great Museums Invites Friends and Supporters to Be First to Explore the Architectural Transformation of Its Landmark Building**

On Thursday, April 15, the Brooklyn Museum will host the annual Brooklyn Ball, this year celebrating the opening of its new multi-storied glass entrance pavilion and public plaza. One of the most dramatic public interiors ever created in New York, the new pavilion has been designed by Polshek Partnership for the Museum's landmark McKim, Mead & White building. Its soaring canopy of sheer glass will provide a jewel box like setting for this year's gala dinner. The official ribbon cutting ceremony will take place the next day, April 16.

"This bold and embracing design embodies the Museum's commitment of welcome to all of its visitors. The Museum physically opens up to its surrounding neighborhood, providing Brooklyn with its newest civic space and grandest 'front stoop,'" says Museum Director Arnold L. Lehman.

The Brooklyn Museum will honor its longtime Chairman, Robert S. Rubin, at this milestone in its history. Mr. Rubin has been a Museum Trustee since 1968 and Chairman of the Museum's Board for the last 15 years and has played a major leadership role in the creation of the \$63 million capital project, the focal point of which is the soon-to-be unveiled enclosed glass entrance pavilion, Grand Lobby, and adjacent Public Plaza.

Co-chairing the gala, which is considered one of the major fundraising events in New York City, are Board members Constance L. Christensen, Constance R. Roosevelt, and Henry Luce III. Board member John S. Tamagni, Managing Director of Lazard Freres & Co., will serve as Corporate Chair.

Patron tables are designated for contributions ranging from \$5,000 to \$50,000. Patron tickets are \$500, \$1,000, and \$1,500. Individual tickets for the gala are \$500. Junior tickets for \$350 are available for those 30 years of age and under. Proceeds from the evening will help provide support for the Museum's public and education

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programs, which serve thousands of schoolchildren, families, teachers and other Museum visitors each year. Those interested in further information may call (718) 501-6327.

This year's black-tie event will begin at 6:30 p.m. with cocktails in the colonnaded Hall of the Americas, completely redesigned for the first time in more than four decades and newly installed with selections from the Museum's extraordinary holdings of the art of North, Central, and South America. Guests will also be able to preview *Patrick Kelly: A Retrospective*, the first survey of the career of the late, innovative African American fashion designer, which will be on view in the adjacent Blum gallery. *Open House: Working in Brooklyn*, the most comprehensive examination to date of contemporary art being produced in the borough, and *Alexis Rockman: Manifest Destiny*, an apocalyptic vision of Brooklyn hundreds of years in the future, will also be open for advance viewing as part of this celebration of the Museum's new Eastern Parkway entrance.

Dinner will follow at 8 p.m. in the shining new Entrance Pavilion and Grand Lobby, comprised in part of glass especially fabricated to create a glowing effect at night, like a beacon of radiating light. During the evening, Museum Chair Robert S. Rubin will receive the Augustus Graham Medal, named for a nineteenth-century founder of the Museum and awarded each year in recognition of outstanding commitment to the arts and support of the Brooklyn Museum.

Mr. Rubin has deep roots in both New York's financial industry and in Brooklyn. After earning a bachelor of arts degree from Yale University and a master's degree in business administration from Harvard University, he served in the U.S. Army Finance Corps for three years before joining Lehman Brothers, where in 1967 he became a partner. A managing director at Salomon Smith Barney for 12 years, Mr. Rubin is now a senior vice president at Bank One Corporation.

A founding member of the board of St. Ann's School in Brooklyn Heights, Mr. Rubin is also a trustee of the Brooklyn Hospital Center and a former chairman of the board of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, where he oversaw the building of the Museum's new facility in Brower Park. He served on the New York City Art Commission from 1998 to 2001, and also has served on the boards of the Municipal Art Society of New York and Polytechnic University.

Mr. Rubin and his wife, Martha A. Rubin, have lived in Brooklyn Heights since 1958, raising four children, two of whom still reside in Brooklyn. Mrs. Rubin is a director of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden and played a major leadership role in the creation of the Brooklyn Cultural Adventures Program, a summer day camp for young Brooklyn children that uses the facilities of Prospect Park, the Botanic Garden, the Brooklyn Public Library, the Brooklyn Children's Museum, Prospect Park Zoo, and the Brooklyn Museum.

**Note:** The press wishing to cover the event must make advance arrangements. Contact information is above.

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