WINTERTHUR ANNOUNCES NEW ENDOWMENT FOR DIRECTOR OF GARDEN AND ESTATE

Position Will Be Named the Brown Harrington Director of Garden and Estate

WINTERTHUR, DELAWARE—Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library announces a new endowment for the Director of Garden and Estate. The endowed position will be named the Brown Harrington Director of Garden and Estate in honor of gifts from Winterthur Trustee Alice Cary Brown and from the late Elinore “Ellie” Harrington.

Chris Strand serves as Winterthur’s Director of Garden and Estate and will assume the endowed leadership position immediately.

“Winterthur’s 60-acre naturalistic garden was designed by Henry Francis du Pont and is considered one of the finest in the nation. We know that with Chris Strand, the Brown Harrington Director of Garden and Estate will help to preserve the horticultural vision and legacy of H. F. du Pont through continuing excellence and beauty for generations to come,” said Winterthur Trustee Alice Cary Brown. “We are delighted that the Brown and Harrington names are linked through this position, as Ellie Harrington was a fellow garden advocate and a dear friend.”

Alice Cary Brown has been a member of the Board of Trustees since 2007 and has served as Chairman of Winterthur’s Garden Committee and been an annual member of Winterthur’s Garden and Landscape Society. She was a Vice President of the Garden Club of America and a GCA Horticulture Judge. In 2012, Alice Cary and her husband, W. L. Lyons Brown, a Chairman Emeritus of Winterthur, provided the funds necessary to create the Brown Horticulture Learning Center at the heart of Winterthur’s state-of-the-art horticulture education and programming campus.

The late Elinore Harrington was a resident of Wilmington, Delaware, for many years and was a longstanding member of the Garden Club of Wilmington. She returned to Greenwich, Connecticut, after the death of her husband, Charles, in 1996. She was an award-winning member of the Greenwich Garden Club.

“Winterthur is deeply grateful to Alice Cary Brown and the late Elinore Harrington for their generous gifts, which have made possible the endowed Brown Harrington Director of Garden and Estate,” said Winterthur Director Dr. David P. Roselle. “We congratulate Chris Strand for his appointment to this newly endowed post, which will serve as a lasting tribute to both Alice Cary Brown and the late Elinore Harrington while forging a solid bedrock for Winterthur to continue the exceptional horticultural legacy of Henry Francis du Pont.”

At Winterthur, H.F. du Pont created a garden of extraordinary beauty, complexity, and coherence. A master gardener, H.F. du Pont received the two highest awards given to non-professional horticulturists in the United States, the Gold Medal of the National Association of Gardeners, and the Garden Club of America’s Medal of Honor. In presenting their award in 1956, the Garden Club of America proclaimed H.F. du Pont “One of the best, even the best, gardener this country has ever produced.”

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An alumnus of the University of Delaware’s Longwood Graduate Program, Chris Strand has led Winterthur’s Garden and Estate operations for 10 years. His distinguished service also includes work with Harvard University’s Arnold Arboretum, Callaway Gardens in Georgia, Denver Botanic Gardens, and Green Spring Gardens in Virginia. He was one of three co-curators of Winterthur’s 2014 blockbuster exhibition *Costumes of Downton Abbey*. 

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