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### **Making History for All People**

(NEW BERN, NC) ---  
Developing in historic New Bern (NC), the North Carolina History Education Center is joining a town full of notable buildings and landmarks. The burgeoning construction on the waterfront is the next giant step for Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens in its mission to teach North Carolina history.



(L) Olivia Holding, Bill and Ann Cannon

The final segment of the project is scheduled for completion in mid-2010 during New Bern's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

At the same time, the \$60.6 million *Making History Capital Campaign* for the Center is also in progress. With just over \$3 million left to raise, the Campaign is now in its public phase, "Making History for all People." Named to campaign leadership roles are Olivia Holding of Raleigh and Bill and Ann Cannon of Concord, NC. The three represent

families that have for decades been at the forefront of the growth and success of Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

Ms. Holding, a graduate of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and George Washington University, is president of E & F Properties, Inc. and Twin States Farming, Inc. of Smithfield, and of Ella Ann L. & Frank B. Holding

Foundation and North State Foundation. She was Capital Campaign Chair for the North Carolina Coastal Federation and serves on UNC Institute for the Environment and NC Aquarium Society. She is currently on the Tryon Palace Commission, maintaining a continual family presence on the Commission for more than 40 years. Her family made available a \$1 million lead gift to the *Making History Campaign* from the Robert P. Holding Foundation and First Citizens Bank that will be used in perpetuity to fund programming in the North Carolina History Education Center. First Citizens Bank, founded by the Holding family and originally based in Smithfield, has for decades been a strong force in North Carolina's economy.

Mr. Cannon's grandmother, Ruth Coltrane Cannon, was a 1945 charter member of the Tryon Palace Commission. Her husband was president of Cannon Mills Company in Concord, NC, and she used her influence across the state for historic preservation, including her personal effort to raise funds for the main gates at the Palace. Bill, a member of the Tryon Palace Commission, is a graduate of Wake Forest University and president of The Cannon Foundation, Inc. Ann is past chair and current member of the CMC NorthEast Medical Center Foundation. Their children are Leslie Ann and Will, who is serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Bill and Ann enjoy "lots of dogs and retired show horses." The Cannon Foundation and family have generously donated more than \$1.5 million to the *Making History Campaign*, which is funding the "Ruth and Charles A. Cannon Gateway to History", the orientation area of the History Education Center, and other construction needs.

The North Carolina History Education Center is a 60,000-square-foot facility that will contain two major museums – one with historic NC artifacts and the other, the Pepsi Family Center, an 1835 village with interactive activities for children; the 202-seat Cullman Performance Hall; the Mattocks Great Hall; the Minnette Chapman Duffy Exhibit Gallery; a museum shop; a café; and an expansive administrative area. It will become the new portal for all visitors to Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens.

Encompassing the restored colonial and first state capitol of North Carolina, Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens represents nearly a century of dedication to preserving the state's history. An effort that began in the early 1900s across the state by a group of devoted, generous and fearless women convinced Governor R. Gregg Cherry to charter the Tryon Palace Commission in 1945 to rebuild and furnish the Palace. “Impossible, impractical, and undesirable” was the opinion of a National Park Service official, but the seeming obstacles faded as the Commission methodically set out to achieve the impossible. In 1959, the restored North Carolina capitol and its expansive gardens opened to public acclaim. Over the years more than 3 million people have visited.

For the next 50 years, the Palace leaders were inspired to continue the quest of their visionary and tireless predecessors. Additional historic properties were acquired, more gardens were developed, new programs were implemented – always with a focus on accurate historic interpretation and education. As heritage tourism and museum culture evolved, the Commission set out to achieve another improbable goal by acquiring a six-acre industrial site adjacent to the Palace. The arduous tasks of site remediation, wetlands and environmental compliance, and facility and exhibit design proceeded.

Today, on a substantial footing of 602 pilings in a location rich with history, the Center is emerging in a commanding reminder of New Bern's earlier riverside. At the scenic confluence of the Neuse and Trent rivers, the Center will tell stories that have made North Carolina great.

The *Making History Campaign* for the Center has raised \$57.6 million with \$44.5 million in government funding and \$13 million from individuals, corporations and foundations. The \$3 million public phase will be focused on local and state wide fund-raising initiatives over the next months that will provide gift and naming opportunities from a few dollars to millions.

For information about the North Carolina History Education Center or other sites at Tryon Palace Historic Sites & Gardens please contact the Development Office at 252-514-4956 or [ckite@tryonpalace.org](mailto:ckite@tryonpalace.org).