

**For Immediate Release**

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### **Friends of Connetquot Receives Grant Funding**

Oakdale, NY, June 8, 2010—Robert Labuski, president of the Friends of Connetquot is pleased to announce the receipt of a Get Set grant of \$3000 in support of developing a strategic plan that will set the course for the Friends' organizational growth and the future use of the Oakdale Grist Mill after it is restored. The funds will be used to secure the services of Susan Mathisen, president of SAM Fundraising Solutions Corp., who will help guide the planning process.

Ms. Mathisen has over ten years experience working throughout the United States and Europe to assist museums and related organizations in capacity-building projects. Her work with the Friends will include focus-group meetings for planning the steps required to build on the organization's strengths and to expand its membership and donor bases as well as its ties with other organizations in the area. The resulting strategic plan will help meet the goal of seeing the Oakdale Grist Mill fully restored and used as a museum dedicated to Long Island history. This plan will also serve to generate new audiences for the museum, its exhibitions and programs.

The Get Set grant, from the New York State Council on the Arts, is administered by the Upstate History Alliance (whose name was recently changed to Museumwise) and is one of a series of grants offered to help museums and organizations such as the Friends of Connetquot strengthen their institutions and work with their communities. These grants are designed to make it easy for organizations to access professional help and improve their effectiveness. To learn more about these grant programs, eligibility requirements and deadlines, visit UHA's website at [www.upstatehistory.org](http://www.upstatehistory.org) or contact them by email at [info@upstatehistor.org](mailto:info@upstatehistor.org) and by phone at 1-800-895-1648.

The Oakdale Grist Mill is part of the historical complex of Connetquot River State Park Preserve, located in Oakdale, New York. For more information about the Preserve, visit their website <http://nysparks.state.ny.us/parks/8/details.aspx> or call 631-581-1005.

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