For Immediate Release

Center for Curatorial Leadership is Awarded $4 Million in Multi-Year Grants to Continue and Expand its Impact on the Museum Field

New York, NY, APRIL 30, 2013 — Agnes Gund and Elizabeth W. Easton, co-founders of the Center for Curatorial Leadership (CCL), today announced that major foundations and private individuals have contributed almost $4 million in new funding to CCL, enabling the organization to move beyond its initial five-year pilot phase and establish itself as a long-term, transformational force in art museums both here and abroad.

Founded in 2007, CCL is the only national organization that identifies and trains curators to assume the duties of executive leadership at art museums. From 2008 through 2013, sixty-two curators from museums around the United States have participated in a rigorous program of management and leadership training, which includes advanced coursework taught by the faculty of Columbia Business School, and residencies and interactions with distinguished mentors. In the past five years, over 60% of CCL alumni have advanced to new positions, including ten directorial appointments. In its short history, the CCL has transformed the lives of dozens of participants, created a nationwide network of alumni, and proved that effective museum leadership can be developed from within the curatorial ranks. It is now poised to enter the second phase of its existence, taking on a more permanent role in the field.

With the continued support of Agnes Gund and a lead grant of $1 million from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the CCL will extend its training program for another five years and expand its capacity to spearhead innovative projects in arts leadership. Other major funding for the second phase of CCL has come from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Ford Foundation, The Lauder Foundation – Leonard and Evelyn Lauder Fund, the Pierre and Tana Matisse Foundation, the Leon Levy Foundation, Vital Projects Fund and Charina Endowment Fund, and the Neubauer Family Foundation. Additional funding has been awarded by the Alice & Thomas Tisch Foundation, the Scully Peretsman Foundation, and the Marlene and Spencer Hays Foundation.

“We are encouraged by the recognition that these institutions and individuals have given to our pioneering work,” Elizabeth Easton, co-founder and Director stated. “With deep gratitude, we accept these funds as confirmation that our alumni have already made a difference, and that America’s cultural leaders are looking to us to do more.”

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