

June 8, 2010

Rosenthal named Executive Director of Waterworks Museum

Beryl Rosenthal has been named Executive Director of the Metropolitan Waterworks Museum in Boston.

The Waterworks Museum is expected to open to the public in March of 2011. The Museum project led by Rosenthal will present the historic High Service Pumping Station, a magnificent 19th century cathedral-like Romanesque building on the Chestnut Hill Reservoir as a museum centered upon three massive steam pumps that provided the rapidly growing metropolitan Boston region with clean, potable water.

Originally from New York City, Dr. Rosenthal received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Parsons School of Design/the New School for Social Research, and holds a PhD. in anthropology from SUNY/Buffalo. Prior to becoming Executive Director at the Waterworks Museum, she served as the Director of the Tsongas Industrial History Center in Lowell, Massachusetts, as the Director of Exhibitions and Public Programs for the MIT Museum, as the Director of Education at the Robert S. Peabody Museum at Phillips Academy, and as the Director of Science and Galleries at the St. Louis Science Center.

The Museum's Board of Directors is drawn from its three surrounding communities; Brighton, Newton and Brookline. Dennis DeWitt, President of the Museum's Board of Directors, said "Beryl's strong background in museum education programs will be a key element of the Museum's efforts to become an integral part of our local community and of greater Boston."

The effort to preserve the High Service station and its historic steam pumps started over 15 years ago when a group of local residents petitioned the Commonwealth to turn it into a museum rather than tear it down. The Waterworks building and site is a designated Boston Landmark and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"We have some extraordinary stories to tell concerning public health, social history, architecture and engineering," Rosenthal observed. "The late-19th century was a pivotal time--it witnessed much of the industrialization of the region and the nation."

Dr. Rosenthal lives with her husband, Neal Trubowitz, and her two sons Bernard and Elliot in Andover, Massachusetts.