



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**FRIENDS OF THE HIGH LINE ANNOUNCES \$20 MILLION COMMITMENT FROM THE DILLER – VON FURSTENBERG FAMILY TO THE HIGH LINE**

*\$20 Million Commitment is Largest Contribution to a Public Park in New York City's History, Brings the Family's Total Giving to \$35 Million*

*New Commitment Will Support Construction of the High Line at the West Side Rail Yards, Add to the High Line's Endowment for Long-Term Maintenance and Operations*

**New York, NY ( October 27, 2011 )** – Friends of the High Line today announced a \$20 million commitment from the Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation to the High Line, the largest contribution to a public park in New York City's history. The unprecedented pledge made by Barry Diller and Diane von Furstenberg will support a fundraising effort by Friends of the High Line to transform the final, undeveloped section of the High Line at the West Side Rail Yards between West 30th and West 34th Streets and 10th and 12th Avenues, and help build an endowment for the park's long-term maintenance and operations. To date, Friends of the High Line has raised \$85 million toward its \$150 million goal. With this pledge, the Diller – von Furstenberg family has donated a total of \$35 million to the High Line, demonstrating their visionary leadership in saving the once-abandoned elevated freight rail line from demolition and transforming it into a public park to be enjoyed by all New Yorkers for generations to come.

“From the very beginning, the High Line's private sector leadership has been personified by the legendary generosity of Barry Diller and Diane von Furstenberg,” said Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. “On behalf of all New Yorkers, I would like to thank the Diller – von Furstenberg family for their vision and investment in our city's future. The impact of their gift will be felt for decades.”

“New York City's parks have long benefited from the generous philanthropy of New Yorkers and this \$20 million commitment is a stunning and unprecedented investment in our future,” said Parks & Recreation Commissioner Adrian Benepe. “I salute the Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation for their extraordinary pledge to the High Line. With the help of contributions from all New Yorkers who donate their time, energy, and resources toward public parks, we will ensure that this city's unparalleled public spaces will remain beautiful, clean, and green for generations to come.”

“Barry and Diane have been the High Line's strongest supporters from the start, and once again have demonstrated an unparalleled commitment to our goal of preserving the entire High Line,” said Robert Hammond, Co-Founder, Friends of the High Line. “We extend our deepest thanks and gratitude for their support, without which we would have been unable to transform the first two-thirds of the High Line into one of New York's most innovative public spaces – one that reminds us of our city's industrial past, provides New Yorkers with a unique urban landscape, and offers people a new way of experiencing our city. We are now closer to our

goal of building an endowment and finishing what we started by securing the much needed support for future design and construction of the final section at the rail yards.”

*\$20 Million Commitment Will Support Construction of the High Line at the West Side Rail Yards*

The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation’s \$20 million commitment will help finance the transformation of the final section of the High Line, which is still owned by CSX Transportation, Inc. The City of New York recently completed a land-use review process that paves the way for public acquisition. Friends of the High Line is now actively working with the City of New York and other property owners – the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the Empire State Development Corporation, Convention Center Development Corporation, and The Related Companies – for the City of New York to move forward with the acquisition.

This pledge supports the Campaign for the High Line, a fundraising effort by Friends of the High Line, which was recently advanced by \$10 million in pledges announced by Mayor Bloomberg during the new section’s opening earlier this year. At that announcement, The Tiffany & Co. Foundation pledged \$5 million to launch the Rail Yards Challenge, and two long-time supporters of the High Line, Donald Pels and Wendy Keys, pledged an additional \$5 million to double the challenge grant.

Friends of the High Line is the non-profit conservancy working with the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation to make sure the High Line is maintained as an extraordinary public space for all visitors to enjoy. In addition to overseeing maintenance, operations, and public programming for the park, Friends of the High Line works to raise the essential private funds to support more than 90 percent of the park’s annual operating budget, and to advocate for the preservation and transformation of the High Line at the West Side Rail Yards.

###

**Media Contacts**

Mayor’s Press Office:	Stu Loeser / Julie Wood (212) 788-2958 <a href="mailto:sloeser@cityhall.nyc.gov">sloeser@cityhall.nyc.gov</a> / <a href="mailto:jwood@cityhall.nyc.gov">jwood@cityhall.nyc.gov</a>
IAC:	Stacy Simpson (212) 314-7470 <a href="mailto:stacy.simpson@iac.com">stacy.simpson@iac.com</a>
Friends of the High Line:	Kate Lindquist (212) 206-9922 <a href="mailto:kate.lindquist@thehighline.org">kate.lindquist@thehighline.org</a>