



Queens Historical Society
143-35 37th Avenue Flushing, NY 11354

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Daniela Addamo

daddamo@queenshistoricalsociety.org

Sport of Kings in Queens Exhibition Opening

Flushing, Queens, August 28, 2017: On Sunday October 8th at 2:30pm the Queens Historical Society will host the opening of the newest exhibit *The Sport of Kings in Queens* curated by Richard Hourahan. The press conference for the exhibit will also be held at the Kingsland Homestead location on Tuesday, September 26 at 11:00AM.

Queens has been a major center of thoroughbred horse racing since 1667. King Charles II of England established here the first race course in his North American Possessions. This exhibition details the history of this amazing sport in Queens from those early days 350 years ago to the present and its concomitant cultural, social and economic dimensions and impact. It relates stories of the sport's legends--horses, jockeys, trainers, and iconic races—as well as those of the numerous, largely anonymous people behind the scene who have made it possible—grooms, exercise, riders, outriders, farriers, blacksmiths, jockey agents, clockers, charters, veterinarians, stewards, hot-walkers, handicappers—to name just a few!

The exhibition traces the many “firsts”, “seconds” and “thirds” which took place at the racetracks of Queens. Visitors will meet four centuries of the culture of horse racing. Rare photographs, films, paintings and horse racing paraphernalia are being gathered together for the first time for presentation in this ground-breaking exhibition. Special thanks go to the New York Racing Association and the Jockey Club—without their close collaboration and collegiality this exhibition wouldn't be possible.

The key speaker on September 26th and October 8th will be the exhibition curator, Richard Hourahan. Event moderators will be Patricia Sherwood, QHS Board President and Branka Duknic, Executive Director. Both events will take place at the Kingsland Homestead location, 143-35 37th Avenue Flushing, NY 11354.

Our Mission at the Queens Historical Society

In an ever-changing borough that continues to undergo widespread development, the Queens Historical Society researches, records, and showcases issues that have had a profound impact on the history of Queens. As a repository of collections on the history of Queens and Long Island, the Society documents, preserves, and presents rich and diverse aspects of the history of the Borough of Queens for the education and enlightenment of its more than two million people.

###