

# PRESS RELEASE

## **McCoRD AND STEWART MUSEUMS ANNOUNCE MERGER**

**Montreal, August 14, 2013** – The McCord Museum and the Stewart Museum are pleased to announce that a merger agreement between the two Museums was signed on July 1, 2013. The agreement represents the first step towards a new future for these two institutions.

As a result of the agreement, a new entity known as the McCord Stewart Museum has been formed. Over the short term, both institutions will continue to operate publicly under their respective names of the McCord Museum and Stewart Museum, and each will continue with their activities as before. However, initiatives have already begun to consolidate their administrations, integrate their collections and share knowledge in order to maximize synergies.

Liliane Stewart, Chair of the McDonald Stewart Foundation, and Derek Price, Member of the Board of Directors of the McCord Museum Foundation, have been named Honorary Chairs of the new McCord Stewart Museum Board of Directors, while Monique Jérôme-Forget becomes Chair of the Board and Suzanne Sauvage President and Chief Executive Officer.

“I am delighted that our two Museums, which have long enjoyed a close relationship, are joining forces to enrich and showcase their two outstanding, important collections, which document in quite an exceptional way the history of Montreal from the earliest days of New France to the 20<sup>th</sup> century,” declared Ms. Stewart.

“I am very pleased to see this merger take place, as it will lead to a promising future for our two institutions, which over the years have so successfully collected and preserved the invaluable historical heritage of Montreal,” added Mr. Price.

The McCord Museum is home to one of the largest historical collections in North America, which notably documents the history of Montreal through more than 1,440,000 artefacts. The Stewart Museum collections, which contain more than 27,000 artefacts, celebrate the influence of European civilization on the history of New France and North America. The complementarity of these collections will enable the history of Montreal and Quebec to be documented in a highly unique way and will result in one of the largest historical collections in North America.

“This agreement marks an historic moment for our two Museums; it will assure their sustainability and offer new opportunities for their development and the promotion of their collections,” concluded Ms. Jérôme-Forget.

### **About the McCord Museum**

The McCord Museum is dedicated to the preservation, study and appreciation of Montreal’s history, as recounted by its people, artists and communities living in the city’s past and present. The McCord Museum is home to one of the largest historical collections in North America, consisting of First Peoples objects, costumes and textiles, photographs, decorative and visual artworks, and textual archives, totalling

more than 1,440,000 artefacts. The McCord Museum produces exciting exhibitions that engage visitors from Montreal, Canada, and beyond by offering them a contemporary look at the world. The McCord Museum also offers educational and cultural activities, as well as innovative projects on the Internet. **McCord Museum: Our People, Our Stories.**

#### **About the Stewart Museum**

The Stewart Museum, a private, non-profit history museum, was founded in 1955 by philanthropist David M. Stewart. The institution holds a unique collection of nearly 27,000 artefacts, archival documents and rare books that show the European presence in New France and North America up to the present. The Museum's main mission: to conserve and exhibit these objects, which relate to the voyages, scientific advances, feats of arms, beliefs and daily life of our ancestors. This Montréal organization is located in the arsenal of the British fortified depot on *Île Sainte-Hélène*, a 19<sup>th</sup> century military construction registered in the *Répertoire du patrimoine culturel du Québec*.

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Interviews can be arranged with Suzanne Sauvage, President and Chief Executive Officer of the McCord Stewart Museum.

#### **Source and information:**

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