



The Wyck Association

Preserving a National Historic Landmark House and Garden

For Immediate Release, Please

JPEGS Attached

Contact: Barbara Overholser

215-848-1690 or boverholser@wyck.org

Wyck and Mastery Charter School Dig in to Create a Production Garden

May 4, 2009, Phila., PA – **Mastery Charter school, Pickett Campus, located at 5700 Wayne Avenue in Germantown**, has a new production garden, thanks to the hard work of its students, teachers, and administrators, as well as community members, sorority sisters from the University of Pennsylvania, and the staff at **Wyck**.

On Saturday, April 25, more than one hundred people donned garden gloves, picked up hoes and towels, and began to transform what was once a concrete expanse into a 120 x 40 garden. Mulch pathways were laid, garden beds were constructed and compost bins were built. Strawberries, asparagus, broccoli, kale, and collards were planted that day. In the week since, more than 75% percent of the planting has been completed.

Mastery Charter is Wyck's first satellite site for garden-based education. With assistance and guidance from Wyck's Home Farm Manager and Outdoor Educator, as well as experienced community gardeners, middle school students will plan, maintain, and harvest a chemical-free vegetable garden. This garden will provide a unique opportunity for hands-on learning for students that will complement classroom curriculum, particularly in math and science. The project will also be designed to provide stewardship and leadership training for children that participate in Mastery's after school program. In addition, three Head Start classes for preschool age children will enjoy outdoor education classes in the garden. Students will be able to pursue several opportunities for selling their garden's produce, including to the nearby Urban Café and at Wyck's weekly farmers' market where Mastery will be invited to run their own stand.

About Wyck:

Wyck tells the story of the Wistar-Haines family and the Germantown house where they lived for nearly three centuries. Wyck is filled with the objects they used, collected and saved, while thousands of manuscripts give voice to the family's interests and simple daily lives. The sturdy stone house, remodeled by architect William Strickland in 1824, is the place that defined home and family identity for nine generations. Roses blooming in a 175-year old garden show the family's deeply rooted love of horticulture. The family library and natural history collections demonstrate their love of learning. Simplicity of style reveals the family's devotion to their Quaker faith and way of life. Wyck's window on the past offers perspective on the present and future. Wyck is regularly open for tours and for educational programs.

For more information about Wyck and its programming please call 215-848-1690 or boverholser@wyck.org .

###

