Hartford, CT (November 1, 2012) – Kate Steinway, Executive Director of the Connecticut Historical Society (CHS) since 2007, has announced that she will be retiring in the summer of 2013. Steinway, 62, started at the Connecticut Historical Society in 1982 as the Curator of Prints and Photographs and has seen the organization through a period of immense change and reinvigoration, despite the economic difficulties of the past few years.

“I’m proud of what we’ve been able to do here and what we’ve achieved for Hartford and the State of Connecticut over the past six years”, states Steinway. “I’ve had lots of fun working here, and the work has been invigorating—at times, truly exciting—but it’s time for me to enjoy my life outside of CHS, and I feel that we are at a natural transition point. CHS is a strong organization with a great staff and board of trustees and generous and supportive members. I will forever remain connected to this wonderful institution and the many relationships I have made along the way.”

Steinway is known for her energy, foresight, and dedication to helping people find points where their own lives connect with the past. She has maintained a financially-sound organization, even through the economic downturn, fostering a strong network of members, donors, and sponsors, as well as securing foundation, community, and governmental grants to support CHS’s mission and vision. Under her leadership, the CHS has undergone extensive interior renovations, installed an award-winning long-term exhibition covering more than four centuries of Connecticut history, served more than 20,000 students, teachers, kids, and adults a year through educational programming, and reached new audiences through off-site public outreach initiatives that bring the CHS—its mission and collections—beyond its walls to more than 6,000 people a year around the state. Steinway will remain at the helm and assist in the transition to a new Executive Director.

Paul Beach, President of the CHS Board, said, “With the greatest sadness we reluctantly accept Kate’s decision to retire. Kate’s 30-year career with CHS culminated in her being appointed Executive Director in December 2006, after a national search. There have only been four Directors in our long history, and Kate is the first woman to hold the position. The Board is initiating a thoughtful and systematic search process on a national scale to select her successor, and we are grateful that Kate has agreed to continue as Executive Director until her successor is in place.”

Walter Woodward, Connecticut’s State Historian and a CHS Board member, said, “Kate Steinway has made the CHS into a vibrant, engaging, modern museum with broad appeal without ever losing sight of the people whose generosity, dedication, interest, and collections built this organization and the history which has made CHS the venerable institution it is. If you haven’t been to CHS to see what Kate has done, go now!”

For all questions concerning the process and selection of the new CHS Executive Director, please contact Paul Beach at 860-728-7812 or chester.beach@utc.com.

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About The Connecticut Historical Society:

Founded in 1825, the Connecticut Historical Society is a non-profit museum, library, research and education center. CHS strives to inspire and foster a life-long interest in history and ignite a passion for learning about history through research assistance, exhibitions, tours and programs for all ages. Visit www.chs.org or call 860.236.5621.