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## **MERCER MUSEUM RECEIVES \$2 MILLION RCAP GRANT**

*Money will go towards its \$10 Million Capital Campaign*

Coatesville, PA (August 7, 2008) –The Mercer Museum was among the recipients of a Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program (RCAP) grant from the Commonwealth, designed to invigorate the state’s economy. Governor Edward G. Rendell presented a check for \$2 million to the Bucks County Historical Society’s Executive Director, Douglas Dolan at the Keystone Helicopter Factory (another RCAP grant recipient). Attending the presentation with Dolan was Former Board Chair, Rob Loughery, and BCHS Treasurer, Bill Maeglin, Senior Vice President of Univest. “The gift from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania recognizes how valuable the Mercer Museum is within the cultural community and it’s a testament to the importance Governor Rendell places on arts and culture,” stated Dolan.

The \$2 million represents the Society’s largest gift to date for its \$10 million “Making History” Campaign, an expansion and improvement program that will allow the museum to meet the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century visitors by creating a re-imagined environment worthy of its unique collection. Planned improvements will be a 9,400 square-foot expansion that will include a new, 3,000 square-foot climate-controlled, state-of-the-art Exhibition Gallery; a new 1,500 square-foot Changing Experiences Gallery to accommodate interactive programs and exhibits, enhanced educational programs, and events; enhanced visitor services and amenities along with improvements to the Museum’s central core, including renovated education spaces offering innovative and interactive methods for exploring the Museum’s collections; as well as a refurbished and expanded 70-car parking facility.

Now closing in on \$7 million raised, the “Making History” Campaign is doing just that—with construction on the Doylestown museum planned for mid-year 2009.

### **About the Mercer Museum**

The Mercer Museum, one of Bucks County’s premier tourist attractions, offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life. The Museum’s collection includes more than 40,000 objects exhibiting the tools of more than 60 different crafts and trades, providing one of the world’s most comprehensive portraits of material culture in America. The museum is raising funds for a \$10 million expansion and renovation program to expand changing exhibition space

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## **Mercer Museum Receives Grant/2**

and visitor services, as well as enliven existing spaces within the museum. The Mercer Museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. For more information, call 215-345-0210, or go to [mercermuseum.org](http://mercermuseum.org)

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