

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mara McGinnis

718-636-3471 or mara.mcginis@pratt.edu

MIKE PRATT NAMED CHAIR OF PRATT INSTITUTE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brooklyn, N.Y., September 4, 2007 – Mike Pratt, a descendant of Pratt Institute founder Charles Pratt, has been named chair of the Institute’s Board of Trustees. He replaced Pratt alumnus Robert Siegel of Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects who had served as the chair since 2001. Pratt, a lawyer by training, previously served as vice chair of the Board.

“Mike Pratt has the perfect background to help lead Pratt and to build on the momentum of the Institute’s extraordinary growth and success over the last decade,” said Pratt Institute President Thomas F. Schutte. “I look forward to working with Mike as we embark on many new and exciting initiatives to secure Pratt’s place as the country’s leading college of art, design, and architecture.”

Pratt is the sole program officer for the Scherman Foundation, which annually distributes over \$4 million. He has primary responsibility for giving in the areas of community and economic empowerment and the environment, and shared responsibility for grant making in the arts. He is also the treasurer of the foundation and supervises the managers of the foundation’s endowment. Other responsibilities in philanthropy include serving as chair of the Environmental Grantmakers Association and as a member of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the New York Foundation.

“The breadth of Pratt’s faculty and curriculum—from architecture and industrial design to painting, fashion, information science, and digital design—enables us to move beyond mere excellence to become a source of synergistic inspiration and creativity,” said Pratt. “The Institute’s commitment to integrating principles of sustainability into its entire curriculum and campus is but one example of this potential. I look forward to building on the Institute’s history of innovation and leadership.”

Pratt entered the world of philanthropy through a one-year fellowship at the Rockefeller Family Fund. Previously, he spent ten years practicing law with the civil division of New York City’s Legal Aid Society where he developed a specialty in affirmative housing cases, federal housing programs, and land use/development law. He also serves on the board of CP & Co, a financial management company, and the advisory board for the Pratt Center for Community Development. Pratt received a bachelor’s degree from Amherst College and a law degree from New York University.

He lives in Manhattan with his wife, the filmmaker Carol Pratt, and their two boys.

— END —

About Pratt Institute:

Founded in 1887, Pratt Institute (www.pratt.edu) is one of the largest independent colleges of art and design in the United States, offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the schools of architecture, art and design, information and library science, and liberal arts and sciences. Pratt is located on 25 landscaped acres in the Clinton Hill section of Brooklyn and has a Manhattan campus in a large, newly renovated building on West 14th Street.