

## The State of the Garden

November, 2009

Dear Friends:

Each November, we celebrate a national day of Thanksgiving. It is a time for reflection and an opportunity to express gratitude to our Members and friends for the valuable role they play in supporting Wave Hill. We have so much to be thankful for in 2009, and so much to look forward to in 2010. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff of Wave Hill, I am pleased to summarize some of our recent accomplishments, and to present some plans for the year ahead.

### 2009

Drawing strength from our great and wonderful arboreal treasure, Wave Hill proclaimed 2009 the **Year of the Trees**. Celebrating our trees channeled us to conserve and cultivate these living legends in our landscape. It also yielded a thrilling context for interesting and whimsical programming.

- ❖ A survey of trees and vistas was undertaken to develop a planting and maintenance plan for the next 100 years. Many new trees were planted in key spots, including an Elm "Accolade," a Northern Red Oak, a Weeping Katsura, two magnolias and two new additions to the Conifer Slope. And, Wave Hill proudly distributed 250 trees as part of Million Trees NYC's free tree give-away program.
- ❖ Exhibitions included *Arbores Venerabiles* featuring drawings and paintings inspired by trees in Wave Hill's collection; Katie Holten's *Tree Museum* celebrating the centennial of the Grand Concourse with the Bronx Museum of the Arts; and *The Muhheakantuck in Focus* exploring the native people's engagement with the Hudson River both before and after Hudson's arrival.
- ❖ Concerts offered Jazz, Classical, Young Artists and Cabaret in a dozen programs. Autumn provided the setting for a four-concert "Hudson River Historic Concerts" series as part of the larger Hudson River Quadricentennial.
- ❖ More than 13,000 school children took part in Wave Hill's education programs, the majority from low-income households in Bronx Regions 1 and 2 and upper Manhattan Region 10. An additional 10,000 children and their parents enjoyed the Family Art Project on weekends.

### 2010

2010 marks Wave Hill's 45th anniversary. It also marks the Family Art Project's 20th anniversary and the Forest Project Summer Collaborative teen internship's 30th anniversary. In honor of these milestones and the thousands of children and teens who take part in Wave Hill's programming each year, we have proclaimed 2010 **Growing Up in the Garden**. Supplementing our familiar offerings in horticulture, education and the arts, we have in store a wealth of special anniversary programming to attract new visitors, especially young families.

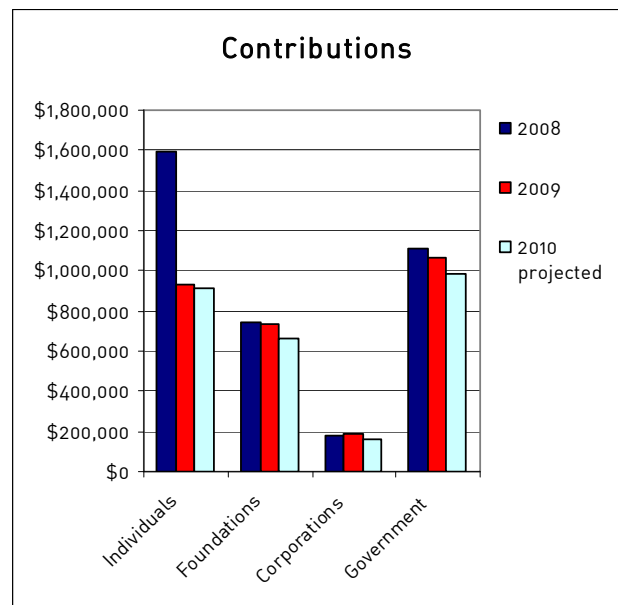
- ❖ Special events will include a Celebration of Earth Day and the Family Art Project's 20th Anniversary in April; "The Big Draw" in May in partnership with The Drawing Center; Make Music NY and the Orchestra of St. Luke's Quintet performing as part of a 5-borough, 5-day series of free concerts in June; and artist-led quilting bees on two Saturday mornings in July.
- ❖ Exhibitions will include *Propagating Eden* in collaboration with International Print Center New York exploring the uses and techniques of nature printing in botanical work from the 17th century to the present; *Remediate/Re-vision* surveying artists' projects developed specifically for environmental remediation in parks.

## And beyond...

In anticipation of Wave Hill's 50th anniversary celebration in 2015, we will undertake the renovation and restoration of historic Wave Hill House. The building contains our café and critical indoor space for our education programs, concerts, workshops and conferences. Slated to begin in July 2010, the project involves a \$5.1 million initiative underwritten by the City of New York to bring the circa 1843 building up to ADA standards and a \$2.5 million restoration of the public spaces privately funded to create a more elegant and welcoming interior. Most importantly, the renovation sustains the excellence of Wave Hill's historic structures in a way that formally and enduringly elevates the building to the exceptional level of the surrounding gardens, landscape and vistas.

## A Critical Time

We eagerly anticipate our "Growing Up" theme and the adventures of the coming year, yet much of our planning is in jeopardy. The recent downturn in the economy has meant significant reductions in contributions from every source. In response, Wave Hill slashed its budgets. Increases in gate admissions and shop sales are encouraging, but Wave Hill simply cannot sustain itself without finding new and increased support.



With our commitment to affordable public access and excellence in programming, it comes as no surprise that our annual visitor attendance is up 6% from last year to over 137,000. Just when our community needs us most, Wave Hill is facing mounting financial stress.

Your being a continuing friend to Wave Hill makes all the difference. Together we can keep Wave Hill beautiful, welcoming and full of discovery. Thank you!

Claudia Bonn  
Executive Director and President