



Your Impact

2025 REPORT





Thank you for being part
of the Wave Hill community.

Through your care and generosity, Wave Hill
remains a place of inspiration for all.

2025 was a year of joy as we celebrated Wave Hill's 60th Anniversary, with a series of outdoor performances, vibrant programs, and events that brought our community together. Across the gardens and grounds, moments of creativity and connection unfolded, inviting visitors to experience the landscape in new ways.

One especially moving highlight was *Wish Tree*, part of *Trees, we breathe*, Wave Hill's first site-wide exhibition in a decade. Originally created by Yoko Ono as a global expression of hope, the installation invited visitors of all ages to write wishes and tie them to our lilac trees overlooking the Hudson River. Some wishes were lighthearted, but many spoke to something deeper—hopes for health, love, belonging, and peace.

Together, they formed a quiet, powerful expression of what lives at the heart of Wave Hill: a shared place where nature opens us to reflection and possibility.

As we look ahead, we are grateful to be part of a community that recognizes how deeply Wave Hill is woven into our lives and the importance of preserving and sustaining this unique and beautiful site.

Our collective stewardship ensures Wave Hill is cared for and will endure across generations as a place of welcome, wellness, wonder, and renewal.

With heartfelt gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ezra Borut'.

Ezra Borut
Chair,
Wave Hill Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Oladapo-Johnson'.

Ray Oladapo-Johnson
President & Executive Director,
Wave Hill

Your Impact



145,000+

visitors enjoyed 28 acres of gardens, woodland, and open green space

2,000+

bulbs and plants donated to community gardens across NYC



30,000+

people of all ages connected to nature through hands-on programs

100+

artists brought creativity to life through performances, exhibitions, and site-specific art



7,700+

children and families created art together at the Family Art Project

45

paid internships empowered NYC teens for futures in science, art, and education

5,700+

NYC students, 75% from Title I schools, explored the world around them through school programs

1

breathtaking view inspired us all

A Year of Joy

Wave Hill's 60th Anniversary called for celebration, and what a year it was! Throughout 2025, our community came together to mark this milestone and to connect with nature and each other in meaningful, memorable ways.





PHOTO: KARSTEN MORAN



PHOTO: DAVE SANDERS



PHOTO: DAVE SANDERS

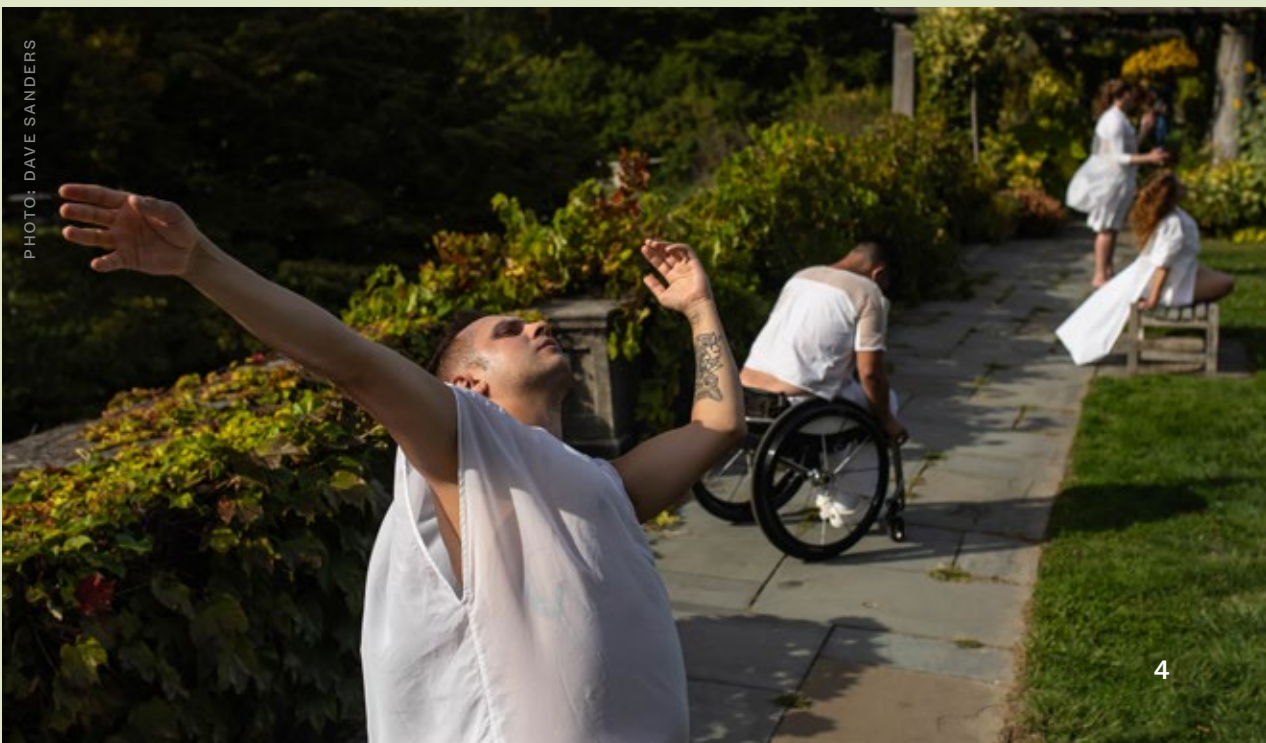


PHOTO: DAVE SANDERS

Arts

Through exhibitions, performances, and residencies, the arts enliven the landscape and deepen our connection to nature. Wave Hill marked this milestone year with more outdoor performances and the first site-wide exhibition in nearly a decade.

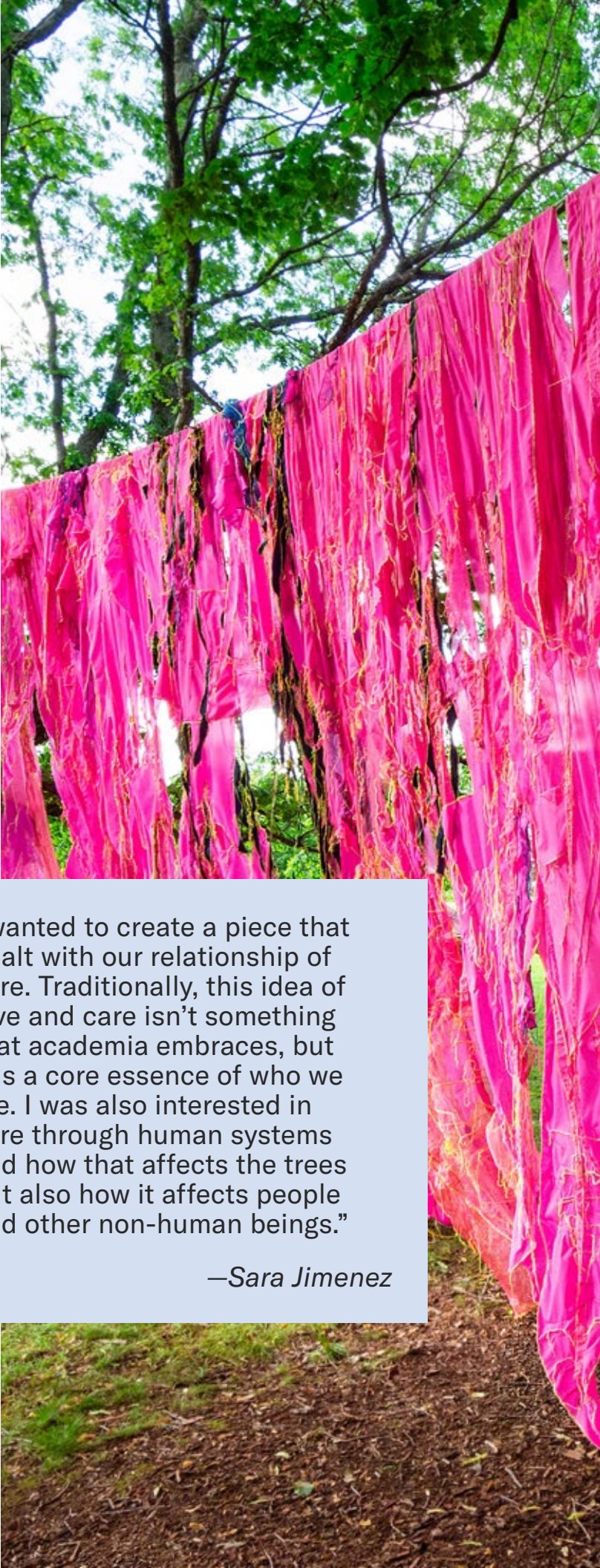
Our summer concert series welcomed new audiences to experience the joy of live music in our extraordinary landscape. Sunset Wednesdays—a hallmark of the season—brought five nights of music to the gardens, while our ongoing partnership with Carnegie Hall provided a free community concert. Artists tapped into the soundscape of the city in inventive ways, from Puerto Rican cuatro virtuoso Fabiola Méndez to LayeRhythm, a dynamic ensemble blending freestyle street dance with live music.

Wave Hill is committed to nurturing emerging and mid-career artists from New York, providing the time, space, and support essential for creative growth. Through our Winter Workspace residencies and the Sunroom Project Space, artists are invited to develop and share new work inspired by Wave Hill's distinctive landscape, the rich history of the Bronx, and the ever-evolving dialogue between nature and culture. These programs champion artistic innovation while fostering meaningful connections between artists, our site, and our community.

Trees, we breathe

Trees, we breathe, a special site-wide exhibition celebrating Wave Hill's 60th Anniversary, encouraged us to reflect on how trees sustain living beings, including humans, and consider our own role in their care and destruction.

Folding Field by Sara Jimenez exemplified this approach. Drawing from soil sounds recorded underground around Riverdale and Mott Haven, and her own readings from bell hooks' *All About Love*, Jimenez translated the visual sound waves into striking textiles symbolizing care and connection. Vibrant fuchsia highlighted the red and blue light wavelengths that support plant growth, creating a work that both celebrated and illuminated the invisible systems sustaining trees.

A large, vibrant pink textile artwork titled 'Folding Field' by Sara Jimenez, hanging from a tree in a garden setting. The artwork consists of numerous long, thin, pink fabric strips that are tied together at the top and hang down, creating a dense, textured wall of color. The background shows green foliage and trees, suggesting an outdoor garden environment.

“I wanted to create a piece that dealt with our relationship of care. Traditionally, this idea of love and care isn’t something that academia embraces, but it is a core essence of who we are. I was also interested in care through human systems and how that affects the trees but also how it affects people and other non-human beings.”

—Sara Jimenez



PHOTO: STEFAN HAGEN



Wish Tree

While the lilac trees on the Great Lawn might have appeared in bloom, they were full of something even greater: wishes. This living work of art was the *Wish Tree*, a participatory piece by Yoko Ono begun in 1996 as a global act of hope.

Over 8,000 visitors of all ages wrote wishes and tied them to the branches of the trees overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades beyond. Wishes ranging from a puppy to good health transformed the trees into an inspiring collection of dreams and intentions.

After the exhibition, every wish written at Wave Hill was sent to the Imagine Peace Tower in Reykjavik, Iceland, where they joined others from around the world in a light projection reaching into the night sky.

Education

Wave Hill has long been a leader in immersive environmental education, welcoming more than 30,000 visitors each year to learn from the world around them. Our programs spark curiosity, deepen understanding, and foster lasting connections to nature for all ages.

School programs serve roughly 6,000 children and educators from the Bronx and across New York City, both in classrooms and at Wave Hill.

The Family Art Project, Wave Hill's most beloved and popular program, invites families to create together using art as a starting point to explore nature, science, and culture.

Wave Hill also cultivates the next generation of environmental leaders through some of the longest-running paid environmental internships in the country. Each year, over 45 teens grow personally and professionally through three paid internship programs: Art, Community, Education and Science Internship (ACES); Forest Project; and Woodland Ecology Research Mentorship (WERM).





Woodland Ecology Research Mentorship (WERM)

This internship is a 14-month paid program that engages New York City high school students in hands-on scientific research. Interns work alongside professional scientists, carry out woodland restoration, collect and analyze ecological data, and earn free college credits through courses offered in partnership with the University of Mount Saint Vincent.

The WERM program, like Wave Hill's other internships, empowers participants with skills, confidence, and life-changing opportunities. It transforms how students understand science, their communities, and their own potential, planting seeds that continue to grow long after their internship ends.



PHOTO: DAVE SANDERS

“Being a WERM intern opened my eyes to the beauty around me and changed how I view this city. I learned how to identify plants and trees, got my hands dirty pulling invasive species, was immersed in real scientific research methods, and found myself at the forefront of coyote research in the Bronx—things that I would never be taught in a public high school.

Now, I’m a 9th-grade Biology teacher. I’ve told all of my classes about the WERM Program, with the goal that my students learn to see the Bronx, see themselves as scientists, and perhaps even become a WERM, too.”

—Tatyana Graham

Horticulture

Wave Hill is one of New York's greatest treasures, cherished for its breathtaking landscape, beautiful gardens, and commitment to environmental stewardship. Nature is art here, and our living collections inspire creativity, reflection, and a deeper connection to the world around us.

This beauty reflects decades of care. Since the 1960s, Wave Hill's 28 acres have been carefully nurtured by generations of talented horticulturists, beginning with Founding Director of Horticulture, Marco Polo Stufano. His "plants first" approach, featuring daring combinations and a keen eye for aesthetics, reshaped American gardening and set standards that continue to this day. Our gardeners carry this pioneering spirit forward, caring for the landscape with the same creativity while embracing sustainable practices and supporting local ecology.



Building Resilience

As Wave Hill marked its 60th Anniversary, we also deepened our commitment to the future. Strengthening the resilience of our landscape is vital to ensuring that Wave Hill's gardens, woodlands, and tree canopy withstand the growing impacts of climate change and continue to be enjoyed by future generations.

Through thoughtful planning, hands-on stewardship, and strategic investments, we are safeguarding the beauty, health, and vitality of Wave Hill's landscape for years to come.

Training the New Generation

For more than 30 years, Wave Hill has cultivated the next generation of horticulturists through the John Nally Internship, named in honor of our former Curator of Plants. Interns work side-by-side with our gardeners over a growing season, developing hands-on experience and skills that prepare them for successful careers in horticulture.



Stormwater Management

Intense storms increasingly disrupt the landscape, making stormwater management a top priority. This year, Wave Hill took important early steps in developing a holistic stormwater management plan, including a dye test that traced runoff patterns across the property.



PHOTO: JOSHUA BRIGHT



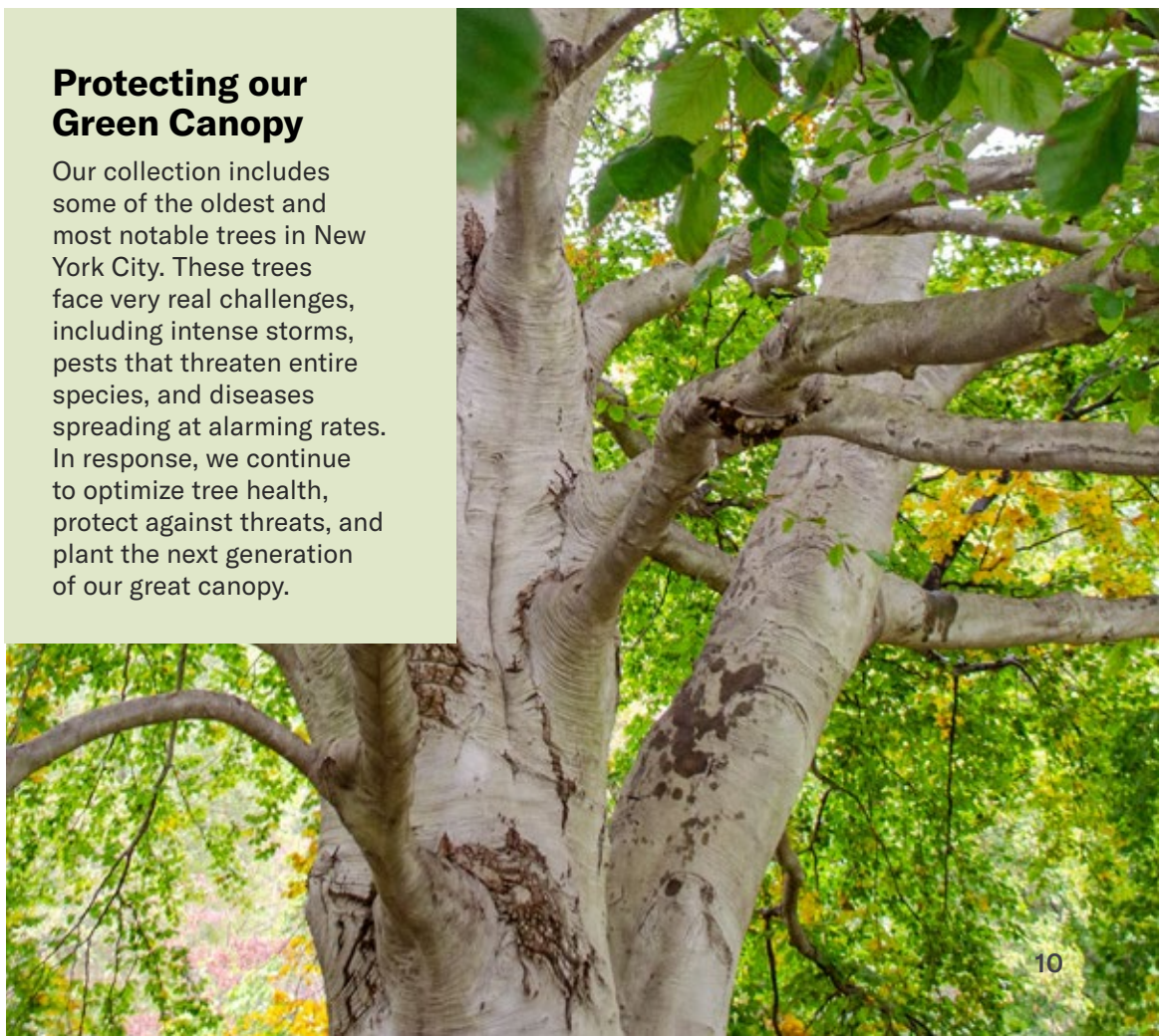
Invasive Plant Management

Wave Hill is dedicated to managing invasive species to support biodiversity. In addition to the ongoing restoration work by interns, community volunteers came together for workdays to remove garlic mustard, a highly invasive plant, from the Herbert and Hyonja Abrons Woodland.



Protecting our Green Canopy

Our collection includes some of the oldest and most notable trees in New York City. These trees face very real challenges, including intense storms, pests that threaten entire species, and diseases spreading at alarming rates. In response, we continue to optimize tree health, protect against threats, and plant the next generation of our great canopy.



Financials FY2025

Abbreviated Statement of Activities For Year Ended June 30, 2025

PUBLIC SUPPORT

contributions, grants, governmental support,
and temporarily & permanently restricted revenue 5,808,419

REVENUE

membership, admissions, shop sales,
food service, program fees and rentals 1,308,171

investment income and realized gains on sale of assets 2,469,136

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE **9,585,726**

PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES

education, arts, horticulture,
security/ maintenance, visitor and community services 6,999,871

SUPPORTING SERVICES EXPENSES

administration 1,544,749

fundraising 894,640

TOTAL EXPENSES **9,439,260**

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

Change in net assets from operating activities 146,466

NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in net assets from non-operating activities 6,914,686

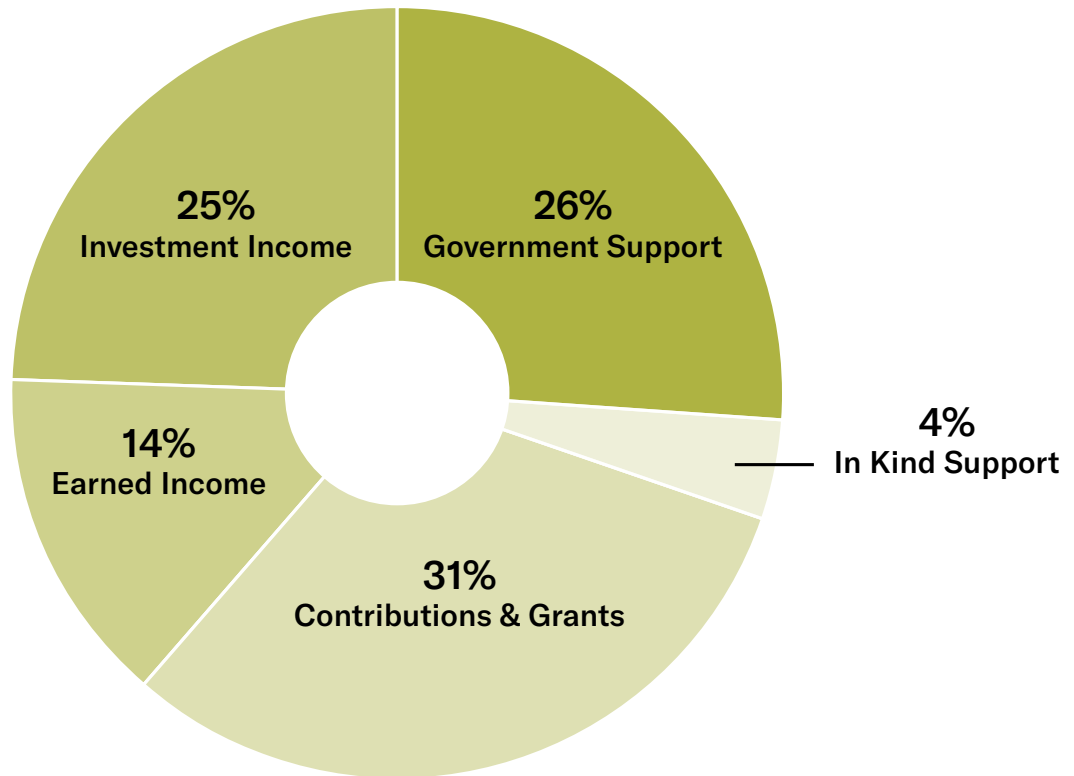
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **7,061,152**

Net Assets Beginning of Year 76,286,112

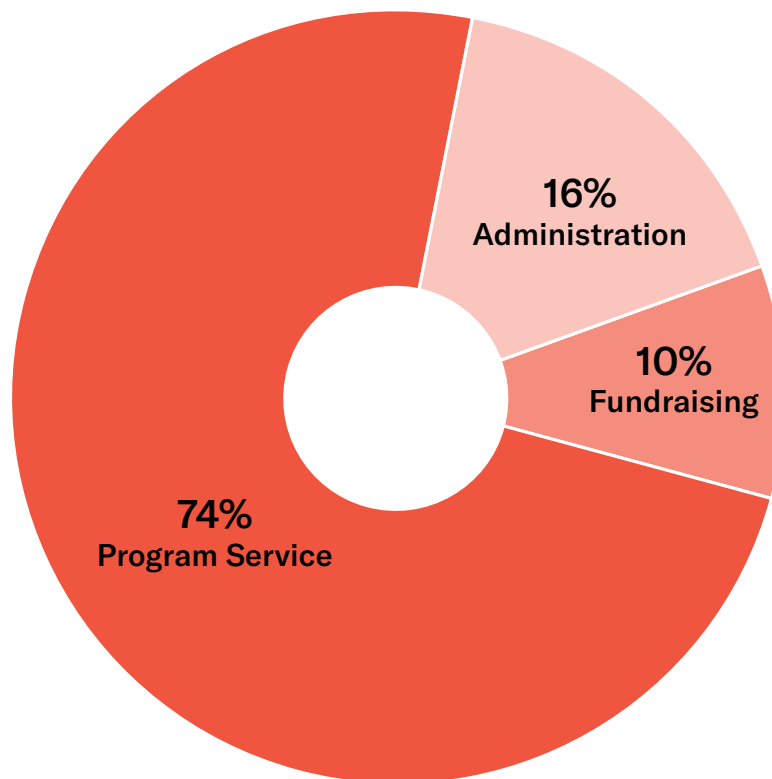
NET ASSETS END OF YEAR **83,347,264**

Included in net assets is approximately \$53 million representing the estimated present value of the Organization's beneficial interest in an irrevocable trust. The trust assets are held and administered by an independent trustee, and the Organization does not have access to these funds for current operations. Distributions from the trust are not expected until the trust is transferred, which may be many years in the future. Accordingly, while accounting standards require recognition of the estimated value of this future interest as an asset, these funds are not currently available to support the Organization's programs or operating activities.

INCOME



EXPENSES



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Heather Erhard
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Jennifer P. Speers
Janet and Gilbert Spitzer
Cecelia Traugh and Andy Doan
Katherine M. Valyi and Peter T. Nulty
Anonymous (2)

Wave Hill is a spectacular 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades. Formerly a private estate, Wave Hill is now one of New York City's 39 city-owned cultural institutions. Its mission is to celebrate the artistry and legacy of its gardens and landscapes, to preserve its magnificent views, and to explore human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education, and the arts.

Friends of Horticulture

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Page Dickey
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Tom Krizmanic
Fred Landman
Janet Mavec
Pepe Maynard
Ngoc Minh Ngo
Leslie Needham
Stephen Orr
Melissa Ozawa
Frances Palmer
Lindsey Taylor

Marco Polo Stufano, *Director of Horticulture Emeritus*

Wave Hill endures because people like you believe it should. Make your gift today and help keep Wave Hill thriving for generations to come.





Wave Hill
675 West 252nd Street
Bronx, NY 10471
wavehill.org

