

WaveHill

2023 Annual Report



2023 Wave Hill Highlights

Wave Hill’s 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. Since its founding in 1965, Wave Hill has evolved as a unique urban oasis, world-class garden and vital resource. Located in the northwest Bronx overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, Wave Hill is a “must-see” for garden enthusiasts. Its two historic houses, Wave Hill House and Glyndor House, are on the National Register of Historic Places. Through our thoughtfully stewarded landscape, curated gardens, and innovative arts and environmental education programs, Wave Hill fosters meaningful connections between people and nature, providing unique experiences that inspire, ignite learning and promote an improved quality of life. Today, Wave Hill welcomes 150,000 visitors annually.

Wave Hill is pleased to share this update outlining some highlights from 2023, which our supporters helped to make possible.



In the Gardens

“No matter how you felt before you entered, you cross that threshold, and it changes you. It is a place of tranquility and beauty, and it’s an open invitation, no matter what time of day or time of year.”

— *Cathleen Harvey Wiggins,
Educator and Board Member*

American gardening was reinvented at Wave Hill by Marco Polo Stufano—renowned gardener and founding Director of Horticulture. The country had never seen a public garden so intimate, personal, vibrant and dynamic. This pioneering spirit instilled by Marco continues today through Cathy Deutsch, Director of Horticulture. Cathy and the horticulture team are undertaking ambitious projects to create new gardens areas and expand accessibility across the grounds, all while updating practices to lead the field in sustainable horticulture, respond to the climate crisis and protect the specimen-rich plant collection.

In 2023, Wave Hill significantly increased its care for our cherished specimen trees. Our trees are subject to new pests and diseases that require annual treatment and are at risk due to the impact of climate change. We are proactive in our care to increase vigor, so our trees can withstand the harsh winds and temperature fluctuations. Enhanced tree care included structural pruning, trunk collar excavations, soil decompaction and enlarged tree beds.

We continue to educate and train the next generation of gardeners through our esteemed John Nally Internship. Five Nally interns worked side-by-side with our horticultural experts throughout their 8-month internship in 2023, which started in April and lasts through the growing season. Interns learn the terrain and the range of tools needed to manage a public garden as they explore a career in horticulture.

Walks, Wellness, and Workshops

Wave Hill offers a wealth of public programs that welcome and engage visitors of all ages and interests, serving as an essential portal for more in-depth involvement with the institution. Demonstrations and events led by our staff and visiting experts helped seasoned gardeners and novices learn from Wave Hill’s grounds and plant collections. Wave Hill offers a selection of free and affordable nature and birding walks, garden tours, workshops, family tours, and activities. These programs, offered year-round, allowed visitors to take advantage of our unique setting and investigate the natural world. Wave Hill’s popular nature-based thematic programs included seasonal and themed weekends – Raptor Weekend, Arbor Weekend, Pollinators Weekend and Winter Haven programming, which was introduced in 2023.



Education

Wave Hill is a pioneer in environmental education, providing immersive and hands-on programs designed to serve families, schools, students, teachers, and teens. Over 30,000 individuals participate in programs annually.

Family Programs

For over three decades, Wave Hill’s beloved Family Art Project (FAP) has been providing families with the opportunity to create art inspired by our natural environment, contemporary art exhibitions, and cultural traditions from around the world. A free program, the Family Art Project, takes place Saturday and Sunday throughout the year from 10 am-1 pm and incorporates the grounds, gardens, and gallery exhibitions into hands-on family arts and learning experiences. These drop-in workshops are developed and led by Wave Hill’s educators and supported by a team of youth interns in the Arts, Community, Education, and Science Internship (ACES) program. ACES offers a year-long paid internship that invites young people ages 16 to 20 to explore the connections between community engagement and nature-informed arts education.

Wave Hill has also launched a new partnership in summer of 2023 with LINC (Literacy in Community), a local organization providing reading and learning opportunities for children so that they grow into competent readers, ready to succeed in school and life. In the summer 2023, families, children, and their caretakers enjoyed Stories in the Garden, where books came to life through interactive readings by the author and related activities.

School Programs

Wave Hill’s School Programs served over 10,000 students and teachers in grades Pre-K through 12 through cross-curricular Academic Year Programs, Summer Programs and Professional Learning opportunities. 75% of the students served through our School Partnerships Program are from Title 1 schools.

Empowering New York City Teens

Wave Hill continues to be at the forefront of working with youth. In addition to our Family Art Project ACES interns, our two teen empowerment internships—the seven-week Forest Project and 14-month Woodland Ecology Research Mentorship (WERM)—utilize our eight-acre woodland as a living laboratory and provide paid internships for students to engage in hands-on fieldwork and academic coursework. These immersive internships serve over 40 motivated teens, the majority of which reside in the Bronx and Upper Manhattan and promote personal and career growth as students learn how to improve the environment through ecological restoration and applied science research.

Nature into Art

Wave Hill has been an uplifting oasis for artistic expression, engaging nearly 100 visual and performing artists in 2023. They enlivened the landscape and brought new perspectives to Wave Hill in every season.

Fostering Creative Growth

Our two art-incubator programs, the Sunroom Project Space and Winter Workspace Artist Residency support emerging and mid-career artists by providing them with unique opportunities to create new work and serve as models for other cultural organizations.

Each year, 10-12 artists are selected and grouped into one of two sessions. Artists are awarded an honorarium, receive mentoring support, and are provided with studio space for six weeks in Glyndor Gallery.

“The time in the Winter Workspace felt freeing in a way other residencies had not. I feel deep seeds were dropped, and I will continue investigating questions raised and harvesting from those six weeks for a long time.”

- **SaraNoa Mark, 2023 Winter Workspace Residency Artist**

In fall 2023, Wave Hill hosted a two-week residency by Dance Heginbotham. They developed and performed a contemporary dance piece, *You Look Like a Fun Guy*, a site-specific outdoor event celebrating the astonishing nature, behavior and power of fungi.

Exhibitions

Throughout the year, thematic exhibitions are presented in Glyndor Gallery, our main exhibition space, and solo exhibitions are on display in Wave Hill House.

We welcomed eight former Winter Workspace artists back to Glyndor Gallery for *This Place We Once Remembered*, an exhibition that celebrated Wave Hill as a place where artistic research and development connect nature, culture and site, and where past and present intersect. *Light from Water* in Glyndor Gallery presented new works by artists Heidi Howard and Esteban Cabeza de Baca for a collaborative show featuring several pieces created in the aquatic garden. Wave Hill House brought the outdoors in with *Cultivating Eden*, a solo show presenting Rebecca Allen’s recent paintings of Wave Hill that reference gardeners and their spaces, and explored the ways in which technology mediates and permeates our relationship with nature through *Tap Root*, an exhibit of works by the artist duo LoVid.

Performing Arts

Wave Hill’s Performing Arts programs feature a wide variety of music that highlights, engages and complements the natural world. Wave Hill’s celebrated outdoor summer concert series featured world-class groups who gave voice to the diverse soundscape of the city. This year’s outdoor programming ushered in a multi-year partnership with Carnegie Hall Citywide, followed by the garden’s beloved Sunset Wednesday series throughout July and wrapped with the much-anticipated return of Grammy winner Samara Joy—born and raised in the Bronx—fresh off her double Grammy win.



Abbreviated Statement of Activities

For Year Ended June 30, 2023

PUBLIC SUPPORT

contributions, grants, governmental support,
and temporarily & permanently restricted revenue5,483,422

REVENUE

membership, admissions, shop sales,
food service, program fees and rentals.....1,223,789

investment income and realized gains on sale of assets.....1,718,964

TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE 8,426,175

PROGRAM SERVICE EXPENSES

education, arts, horticulture,
security/maintenance, visitor and community services6,639,413

SUPPORTING SERVICES EXPENSES

administration1,596,889
fundraising.....763,987

TOTAL EXPENSES 9,000,289

INCREASE IN NET ASSETS

Change in net assets from operating activities..... (574,114)

NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Change in net assets from non-operating activities.....12,709,861

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS 12,135,747

NET ASSETS BEGINNING OF YEAR60,464,878

NET ASSETS END OF YEAR 72,600,625

Abbreviated Balance Sheet

For Year Ended June 30, 2023

CURRENT ASSETS

cash, cash equivalents, pledges,
receivables, prepaid expenses and inventory4,975,050

INVESTMENTS

marketable securities & trusts (at fair value)65,734,313

FIXED ASSETS

property and equipment net of
accumulated depreciation; and works of art2,580,418

TOTAL ASSETS 73,289,781

LIABILITIES

accounts payable, accrued expenses & deferred revenue689,156

NET ASSETS WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS.....26,935,187

NET ASSETS WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS45,665,438

TOTAL NET ASSETS 72,600,625

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS 73,289,781

Board Members

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Jeanne Jang
Katie Michel
Signe Nielsen
Grayson Rueckert
Pamela Fontaine Salvatore
Yehuda Shmidman
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EX-OFFICIO

Hon. Eric L. Adams
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As of July 1, 2023



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 34 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.