



MISSION

Boscobel House and Gardens preserves and shares the extraordinary beauty and historical significance of its Neoclassical mansion, renowned collection of early 19th-century decorative arts, and iconic Hudson River landscape. Boscobel embodies the Hudson Valley's ongoing, dynamic exchange between design, history, and nature; and engages growing, diverse audiences in that conversation.

VISION

Boscobel inspires and informs visitors—from children and their families to subject specialists—through active and meaningful experiences of design, history, and nature.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Jennifer Carlquist Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am pleased to write to you as Boscobel's new Executive Director. In 2015, I joined the staff as a 20-year design historian and educator excited to work with Boscobel's important collection. You needn't be a subject specialist, however, to appreciate the matchless beauty and historical significance of this iconic site, mansion, and collection.

As the staff and trustees of Boscobel look back on 2017, we are proud of how far we've come. Behind the scenes, we worked with grant-funded consultants from the American Alliance of Museums and the Chipstone Foundation to re-examine our mission, programs, and procedures, and set new measures for success. That work directly informed every program of 2018, from an April staff seminar on techniques to make every tour more participatory and inclusive, to May's sold-out Symphony Picnic with the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra, to introducing pay-what-you-wish admission to our grounds all day, every Saturday.

I owe enormous thanks to Boscobel's dedicated supporters and an extraordinarily talented staff. Together, we are re-imagining Boscobel as everyone's house on the Hudson.

Thank you for visiting, and for making a contribution at any level to support Boscobel's ongoing evolution. We cannot wait to share the many successes of 2018.

In the meantime, I look forward to welcoming you here!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Carlquist

Executive Director



WELOME TO BOSCOBEL

HUDSON VALLEY DESIGN, HISTORY, AND NATURE

THE HOUSE THAT WAS SAVED

Built between 1804 and 1808, Boscobel was originally the Montrose, New York dream house of Loyalists Elizabeth and States Dyckman. By the 1950s, after falling into disrepair, it was sold to a wrecker for just \$35 and demolished. With generous support from *Reader's Digest* co-founder Lila Acheson Wallace, preservationists saved as many architectural fragments as possible and reassembled them fifteen miles north in Garrison, New York. The Neoclassical mansion was restored back to—and even beyond—its original grandeur to serve as a museum. Though its history and original inhabitants are fascinating, the house is much more than historic. Boscobel was saved as a beautiful work of art.

THE RENOWNED COLLECTION

Boscobel's interiors display one of the finest collections of New York furniture from the Federal period, including documented examples by America's most celebrated cabinetmaker, Duncan Phyfe. Polished mahogany, gilt bronze, and cut glass sparkle with always-changing natural light. Pastoral landscapes appear on paintings, prints, ceramics, and even furniture. Boscobel's collection inspires designers, artists, scholars, and anyone who appreciates color and craftsmanship.

THE ICONIC VIEW

Overlooking Constitution Marsh toward the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Boscobel's landscape showcases dramatic views of the Hudson River. The Frances Stevens Reese Woodland Trail of Discovery offers hikers a tranquil mile through the forest. The Apple Orchard, Rose Garden, and Herb Garden feature fruit trees, flowers, and plants prized by New Yorkers then and now. The Hudson River School Artists Garden, with sculptures by Greg Wyatt, honors 19th-century painters who celebrated this landscape. Boscobel embodies, preserves, and shares the beauty of the Hudson River Valley.





EXPERIENCE AND ENGAGE





PUBLIC PROGRAMS

From mid-April through December, Boscobel hosts lively events, innovative exhibitions, talks by the world's top design experts, tours of the Historic House Museum, admission to 68 acres of its gardens and grounds, and engaging programs and activities for children.

Highlights of 2017 included **Twilight Tours**, which focused Boscobel's holiday activities on the mansion lit by candles, decorated for a 19th-century Christmas, and resonating with live, period string music performed by members of the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra. All six dates sold out in advance, with about one thousand visitors experiencing Boscobel at its holiday best.

In 2017, more than 25,000 guests attended Boscobel's programs and events, including our always-changing house tours, lectures by top experts in interior and landscape design, and a free **Repair Café** co-sponsored by the Desmond-Fish Library that helped visitors repair their own household objects rather than discard them into landfills. Our annual **Military Reenactment Day**, co-organized by the Living History Education Foundation, delighted visitors with 19th-century lawn games, period encampments, and cannon fire followed by a Civil War reenactor's timely call for unity amongst a divided nation. Museum Educator Lisa DiMarzo served nearly 1,500 of Boscobel's littlest visitors with programs like **Bring the Kids!**, a family-focused tour of the Historic House Museum followed by crafts and activities, and **Rhyme Time by the Hudson**, an early literacy playgroup for toddlers.



DISCOVER AND SHARE

EXHIBITION

Visitors of all ages were inspired by Boscobel's 2017 exhibition, *Make-Do's: Curiously Repaired Antiques*, the first of its kind to celebrate objects that were damaged, but deemed too precious to discard. From porcelain teapots with silver replacement spouts shaped like animal heads to glass decanters literally bound with iron staples, *Make-Do's* featured more than 250 curious treasures lent by celebrated collector, Andrew Baseman. They were all broken and repaired more than 100 years ago.

Displayed in the mansion amongst Boscobel's pristine interiors as well as in the exhibition gallery, these make-do's pointed to the human side of antiques – the people to whom they were useful or beloved, and who invested in their (sometimes surprising) repairs.

The exhibition also highlighted the ways in which Boscobel itself is a kind of make-do. The original 1804-08 Neoclassical mansion was partially demolished in 1955, but—thanks to dedicated preservationists—reassembled and repurposed as a museum. Like Boscobel and its permanent collection, *Make-Do's* illustrated the complex relationships between people and the things they choose to save.

The guestbook overflowed with heartfelt responses:

"This exhibit opened a whole new world for me."

"Very moving..."

"Amazing exhibit! A long-lost art of repairing things vs. the disposable world we are living in now."

Make-Do's: Curiously Repaired Antiques was extended by popular demand, making its total run 18 weeks from June 3 through October 7, 2017.







INSPIRE AND INFORM



SCHOOL 2017 PROGRAMS

Boscobel's school programs offered unique, meaningful, and sensory-filled experiences that use primary sources to help students explore not only history, but also design and nature. Boscobel hosted field trips at our site and sent our expert Museum Educator out to local schools. One popular program engaged students in interdisciplinary, role-play recreating military battles of the Revolutionary War on an 80-square-foot map of the Hudson Valley. In others, students create their own landscape drawings of Boscobel's setting inspired by 19th-century Hudson River School artists, write with quill and ink, or handle everyday objects from the past such as a chamber pot, brown soap, and a sugar loaf, creating a tactile comparison with contemporary life.

In 2017, Boscobel established a fund to help pay for field trip buses, and grew by 72% the number of K-12 students we served at Boscobel with hands-on history and art lessons.

As one chaperone said, "The sight of all those children making art on the lawn overlooking the Hudson River, it was so beautiful it brought me to tears."

GROUP VISITS

Throughout 2017, Boscobel's expert guides crafted engaging tours that brought design, history, and nature to life. Clubs and community groups came from as far as Texas, the United Kingdom, Germany, and Australia. Boscobel became increasingly known as a must-see destination for design schools, architecture firms, and museums such as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Toledo Museum, and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. In 2017, 102 groups visited Boscobel with a total of 3030 attendees; this represents a 45% increase since 2013. Private rentals of Boscobel's site also allowed for deeply personal experiences and provided revenue that directly supports Boscobel's programs, the house, grounds, and collection.



CONNECT AND COLLABORATE



Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival



Cold Spring Farmers' Market

PARTNER PROGRAMS

With its breathtaking views of the Hudson River, Boscobel has provided the ideal setting for Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's outdoor performances since 1988. Since 2012, Boscobel has also been the home of the Cold Spring Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings in spring, summer, and fall. Boscobel's considerable investment in its 68-acres of public gardens and grounds help these community institutions thrive, and brought nearly 60,000 additional visitors to Boscobel in 2017.

Boscobel also enjoys longstanding, symbiotic relationships with the Philipstown Garden Club, which lovingly tends Boscobel's Herb Garden, and the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary. 2017 marked the 23rd year of Turtle Walk, which brought 118 people together at 7:30 on a June morning to learn about and meet (at a safe distance) some of the snapping turtles living just beyond Boscobel's Great Lawn. Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary also contributes their staff and volunteers each February when Boscobel donates its scenic overlook as a Teatown EagleFest viewing site.

Boscobel connects not only with the people of this Hudson Valley community, but also with the organizations that are equally committed to protecting and improving our local ecosystem, economy, and quality of life.

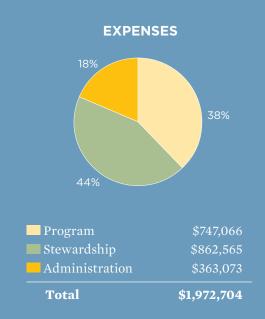


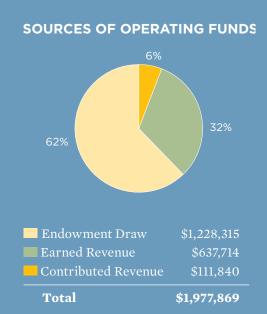
2017

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Boscobel's Lila Acheson Wallace Endowment covers stewardship of its Historic House Museum, world renowned collection of early 19th-century decorative arts, and 112-acre site overlooking the Hudson River.

Support from earned and contributed income allows Boscobel to share these resources with the community.







2017 SUPPORTERS

APPLAUD AND APPRECIATE

Many thanks to the individuals and organizations whose generosity makes Boscobel's ever-growing programming and educational initiatives possible.

\$100 - 249

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*Some gifts post-date the fiscal year.

