

BOSCOBEL
HOUSE AND GARDENS

ANNUAL REPORT
2019





Your Home on The Hudson

Boscobel House and Gardens is one of America's most beautiful historic sites with its celebrated collection of early New York design. From spring through early January, Boscobel offers tours of the Historic House Museum and access to 68 acres of grounds with an unparalleled view of the Hudson River, lush gardens, and a woodland trail. Boscobel collaborates with many community partners to produce lively events, innovative exhibitions, and engaging programs and activities for families. Children are always welcome.

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.



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Boscobel is getting younger! In 2019, we attracted record-breaking numbers of children and families. That said, age is and will always be venerated here; we salute and thank all the seniors who make up a valued component of our audience, staff, board, and volunteer corps. Together we are instilling in all generations a love of Hudson Valley design, history, and nature.

A recent National Trust for Historic Preservation poll revealed that an impressive 71% of Millennials express strong interest in visiting culturally and historically significant places. Boscobel's audience feedback suggests that they feel more welcome here thanks in part to dramatic changes and ongoing evolutions, from programming that is both mission-driven and audience-focused, to our revamped website, membership program, and Design Shop. It is also due to the enduring interest and delight in everything that Boscobel protects and shares: our iconic site, restored house, and world-class collection.



Boscobel's greatest resources also include our devoted, volunteer trustees. This year marked the retirement of Chairman, Barnabas McHenry, who served on Boscobel's Board of Directors since 1964. We are immeasurably grateful for his five decades of leadership, which built a strong tradition of excellence and an inspiring model of being ever-adaptable to change.

And change is here. As I write this Boscobel is—with all of our neighbors—pausing operations to help stem the spread of COVID-19. Celebrating Boscobel's 2019 successes and all the staff, trustees, and supporters who made them possible is a welcome reprieve from all that we cannot control right now.

Thanks to all who donate any amount so that long after this crisis, Boscobel may continue to serve as everyone's home on the Hudson. We have many future generations to welcome!

With gratitude,
Jennifer Carlquist
Executive Director and Curator

Public Programs

From spring through early January, Boscobel offers acclaimed, ever-changing tours of the Historic House Museum and grounds as well as admission for self-guided visits to 68 acres. We welcome guests to take in our iconic view of the Hudson River, the Herb Garden and Formal Garden featuring plants popular in the 19th century, and the beautifully situated Frances Stevens Reese Woodland Trail of Discovery. Boscobel also produces popular, mission-centric community events and engaging programs and activities for our increasingly diverse and multi-generational audience.

Historic House Museum visitation **increased 50% over 2015.**

26,500

people participated
in Boscobel programs
in 2019.

**EVERYONE'S HOME
ON THE HUDSON**

The number of
memberships and season
passes rose by **55%**
in one year.

Prominent media coverage in outlets including:

*Curbed NY • Travel + Leisure • Milieu Magazine
Mommy Poppins • Your AAA • Garden Design • Chairish
Hudson Valley Magazine • Antiques and the Arts Weekly
The Decorative Arts Trust Magazine • Museum News
Putnam County News and Recorder • The Highlands Current*

Visitor comments illustrate how it feels to visit Boscobel:

"The best historical place we have seen."

"Very inspirational!"

"Rich history and incredible beauty, even in winter!"



Exhibition

Boscobel began 2019 with an intense study of plants admired and cultivated in early America; this grew into new plantings for the Formal Garden and *Cross-pollination: An Evolution in Foliate Forms*, an exhibition of contemporary works on paper inspired by plant life.

Foliate forms such as leaves and flowers are fundamental units of design seen in every kind of object at Boscobel. Complementing the flora in Boscobel's renowned permanent collection, *Cross-pollination* showcased that ongoing tradition and highlighted the role of nature in Hudson Valley art and culture.

ACCLAIMED CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS WHOSE WORK APPEARED IN THE EXHIBITION

*Austin Ballard, Livia Cetti, Jeri Eisenberg, Matthew Friday,
Marian McEvoy, Jill Parisi, Wendy Small, Sara Story,
Lori Van Houten, Erin Walrath, and Eleanor White*

Exhibition-related programs:

- *Permaculture 101*, a talk with environmental organizer and educator Colin Wright of the Permaculture Arts Collective and Cold Spring Farmers' Market, followed by a foraging walk
- Museum Educator Lisa DiMarzo led a paper flower workshop
- *Florum Antiquum*, a talk by Boscobel Executive Director Jennifer Carlquist on floral imagery in early America
- Children's program *Bring the Kids! Second Saturdays* included activities on the exhibition theme, such as lavender soap-making



Photo by Deborah DeGraffenreid

Sara Story's "Kimono" wallpaper (Chambord Prints), temporarily installed in Boscobel's Dining Room

THE GUEST BOOK OVERFLOWED WITH COMMENTS:

"Cross-pollination is an astounding and brilliantly curated exhibition. So grateful to have been able to see it."

"Absolutely beautiful incorporation of contemporary art in the unique rooms! Fabulous!"

School Programs

Boscobel's school programs offer unique, meaningful, and sensory-filled experiences that use primary sources to help students explore not only history, but also design and nature.

Our field trip attendance nearly doubled since 2016.



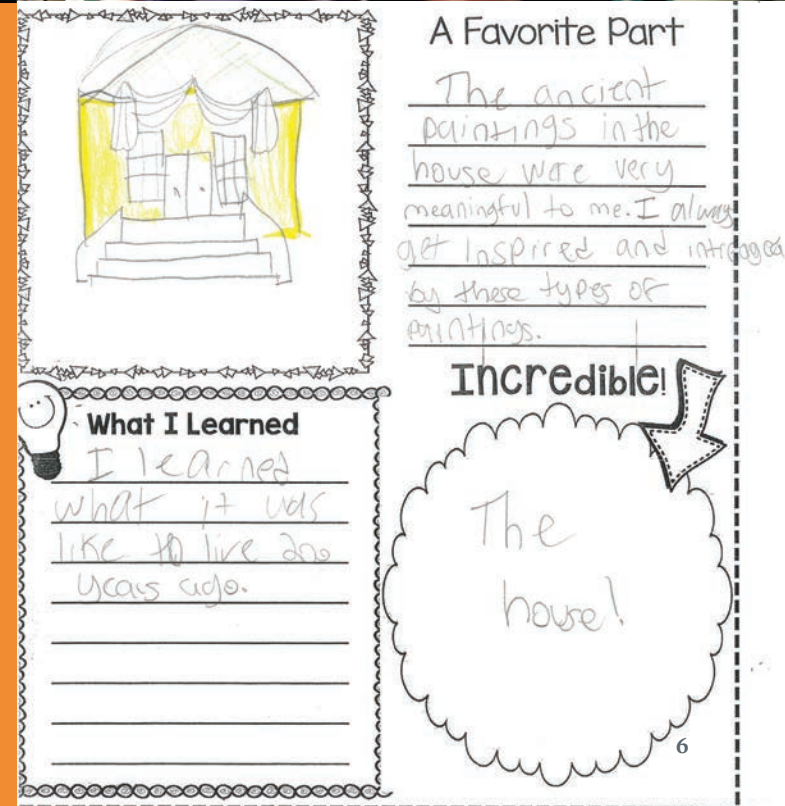
"Hands-on activity and props bring history alive for the students. Lisa is fantastic with the kids and was able to meet them exactly where they were."

ERIN O'BRIEN

4TH GRADE TEACHER, CHANCELLOR LIVINGSTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, RHINEBECK, NY

"Best tour guide ever! EVER! I can't say enough amazing things about our tour. Miss Lisa held the children's attention the whole way through the mansion, while educating adults as well. THE BEST."

PROGRAM CHAPERONE



Group Visits

Boscobel's expert guides craft engaging tours that bring design, history, and nature to life.

62%

increase in Group Tour
attendance since 2014

3,400+

guests came to
Boscobel on

100

Group Tours
in 2019

Boscobel hosted customized experiences for world-class cultural institutions, including:

92nd Street Y • The Garden Conservancy • Institute of Classical Architecture and Art • Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
New York Botanical Gardens • Sotheby's Institute of Art • West Point Association of Graduates • Historical Society of Michigan
Victorian Society of America • American Friends of Attingham • Preservation Society of Newport County



"We all agreed that the Boscobel tour is the best we have ever had. Such dedication to authenticity and such a remarkable collection."

LEE AULT CARTER | GROUP TOUR ATTENDEE

PARTNER PROGRAMS

Boscobel is proud to partner with fellow nonprofits that protect and improve our local ecosystem, economy, and quality of life.

Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and the Cold Spring Farmers' Market operate at Boscobel during much of the year. Our considerable investment in Boscobel's 68-acres of public gardens and grounds helped these community institutions thrive, and brought more than 57,800 additional visitors to Boscobel in 2019.

Boscobel also enjoys symbiotic relationships with community partners:

Cold Spring Film Society
Constitution Marsh Audubon
Center and Sanctuary
Dyckman Farmhouse Museum
Desmond-Fish Public Library
Greater Hudson Heritage
Network
Hudson River Valley Greenway
The Keon Center
Living History Education
Foundation
Philipstown Garden Club
Putnam History Museum

2019 Programs Timeline

Insider Tours

Wednesday - Monday
April 14 - January 5



Teatown Hudson River

EagleFest
February 9



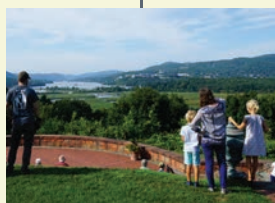
Members' Day

April 13



Earth Day: Making Seed Balls

April 20



Gardens and Grounds Admission

Wednesday - Monday
April 14 - January 5



The Magic Lantern

February 23



Bring the Kids!

15 dates, 21 programs
April 15 - December 27

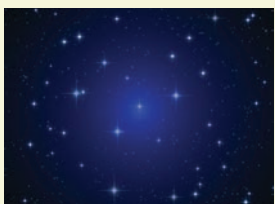


Talk | A Taste of Change

April 28

Starlab

May 4



Members' Picnic

May 25



Open House: Take-a-Peek

3 Saturdays | June 8 - August 10



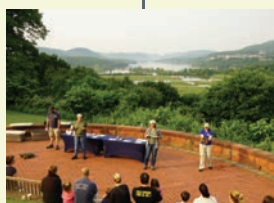
Paint Out

June 22



Landscape and Landmarks Tours

6 Saturdays | May 11 - October 12



Turtle Talk and Bird Walk

June 1



Repair Cafe

June 15



Rhyme Time by the Hudson

12 Fridays | June 21 - October 4

2019 Programs Timeline, continued

**Boscobel Celebrates Independence
with the Greater Newburgh
Symphony Orchestra** | July 6



General Washington on the Hudson
August 25



Estuary Day
September 7



Family Film Night
September 20



Ice Cream Social
July 28



**Exhibition | Cross-pollination:
An Evolution in Foliate Forms**
September 7 - November 3



**Opening Reception
for Cross-pollination**
September 8



Permaculture 101
October 5

Heritage Applefest
October 6



Paper Flower Workshop
October 27



Twilight Tours
5 dates | 75 tours
November 29 - December 8



Talk | Florum Antiquum
October 16



Neoclassical Neighbors Tour
November 9



**A Boscobel Christmas
with the Putnam Chorale**
3 performances | December 14

Get Involved

There are many ways you can contribute to Boscobel's outreach and community programs.

MEMBERSHIP

In addition to receiving a host of insider benefits, members help keep community programs engaging and affordable for Boscobel's growing and increasingly diverse audience.

DONATE

With your tax-deductible support, Boscobel can be everyone's home on the Hudson.

VOLUNTEER

Join a diverse bunch of kind people who lend a hand to Boscobel one or many days a year.

LEGACY GIVING

Designating Boscobel (Tax ID: 14-1458845) as a beneficiary of your estate costs nothing now, and helps ensure that the museum will remain a vibrant, relevant resource for many decades to come.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Your sponsorship brings recognition to your organization while helping Boscobel open our doors even wider.

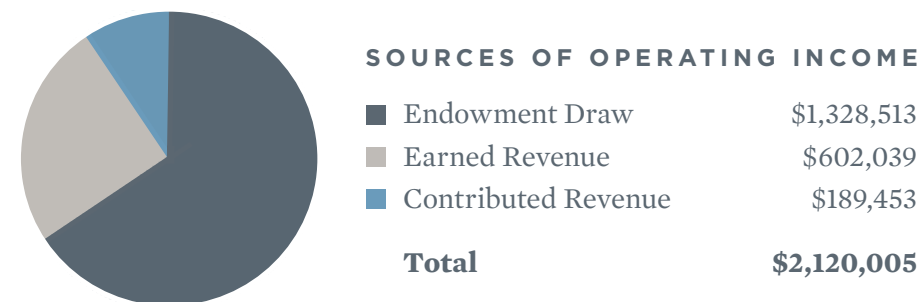
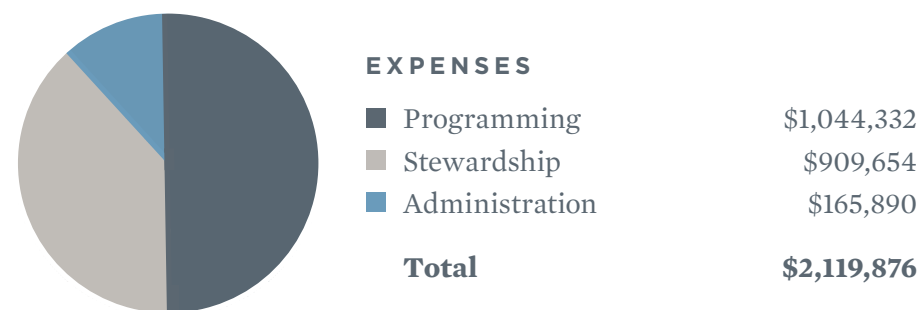
For more information, please contact Dana Hammond at dhammond@boscobel.org or 845-265-3638 ext. 111.

Financial Highlights

As of June 30, 2020

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

Earned and contributed income enables Boscobel to share these resources with the community.



2019 Supporters

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

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*Deceased

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*Joined 2020 **Deceased



Thank You

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