

BOSCOBEL

HOUSE AND GARDENS



ANNUAL REPORT  
2020





# Your Home on The Hudson

Boscobel House and Gardens is one of America's most beautiful places. Throughout 2020, Boscobel offered outdoor admission to 68 acres of grounds with unparalleled view of the Hudson River, lush gardens, and a woodland trail. Even amidst the pandemic, Boscobel collaborated with many community partners to produce lively events and engaging programs and activities for families, all with careful COVID protocols.

## MISSION

Boscobel House and Gardens preserves and shares the extraordinary beauty and historical significance of its Neoclassical architecture, renowned collection of early 19th-century decorative arts, and iconic Hudson River landscape. We engage diverse audiences in a dynamic dialogue on the rich interrelationship between Hudson Valley history, design, and nature to inspire, educate, and empower.

## VISION

Boscobel aspires to be everyone's home on the Hudson. We welcome all people for meaningful, uniquely Hudson Valley experiences that broaden understanding and strengthen a sense of community.





## Dear Friends and Supporters,

2020 forever changed us. As individuals, as an institution. We lost a beloved colleague to COVID, and we grieved. The majority of our staff was furloughed, and the hours of our remaining staff reduced to offset a 65% loss in revenue.

Our behind-the-scenes staff kept up daily maintenance and tackled important preservation projects. Others listened and thought intently on how we might martial Boscobel resources to address new community needs. While still shuttered, Boscobel began hosting free, safe, respite visits for healthcare heroes, one family at a time. We partnered closely with the

Cold Spring Farmers' Market, which became a lifeline for local families and farmers. We forgave Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival's entire year's rent to help keep them afloat after they had to cancel their 2020 season, and served as the outdoor studio for hundreds of local artists and yogis.

Our 68 public acres of gardens and grounds became the central focus of our programming and—for many of our visitors and volunteers—the only place outside of their home that they felt comfortable visiting. For those still at home, we launched new digital programs including virtual field trips for local schoolkids.

Boscobel was sustained throughout 2020 by an outpouring of community appreciation and support. Members joined and renewed in record numbers. Long-time donors were joined by passersby inspired to give whatever amount you could. Hundreds gave less than \$25; it added up. They donated, emailed, and posted to keep Boscobel vibrant, now and always, for everyone.

2020 tested us all. It challenged Boscobel to reimagine service. Your support and feedback, like the quotes on this page, have forever changed how we measure our impact and potential.

With gratitude,

Jennifer Carlquist

*Executive Director and Curator*

*“For us, it was a beautiful and much needed escape from the confinement of our home and the daily mental and physical exhaustion of our work. I do love my job and I’m proud to be a respiratory therapist. Nonetheless, it has been--like it has for so many—quite trying times. I really cannot thank you enough.”*

—MARGARET DEGAN  
DORANGRICCHIA, B.S, RRT

*“We thoroughly enjoyed the views and the sun, the wild turkeys and the walk along the marsh. It was a most memorable visit during otherwise dreary times.”*

—BOB AND JANIS POLASTRE

*“I managed to get to Boscobel once [during COVID] and it was a restorative bit of normalcy. I have been visiting Boscobel since 1983. So many good memories came to mind as I walked the trails: high school prom pictures, Christmas parties, and the beautiful interiors. Best of all, that gorgeous view connecting all the years. Boscobel is a treasure on so many levels.”*

—DENISE LOATMAN-OWENS



# Public Programs

During the pandemic, Gardens and Grounds Admission replaced house tours as our primary program offering. With COVID restrictions in early summer, we were permitted to admit only 10 people on the grounds at any time (outside of the Cold Spring Farmers' Market). When the cap was raised to 50 in September, we found ourselves regularly selling out on weekends. More than 7000 guests enjoyed timed, COVID-safe Gardens and Grounds Admission in 2020, hundreds of artists came to paint and draw on site, and scores of children enjoyed a safe, outdoor visit with Santa. Collaborations with community partners led to a sold-out choral performance on the Great Lawn and a popular yoga program. Throughout the year, we served an audience hungry for Boscobel's beauty, safety, and sense of community.



## VISITOR COMMENTS CELEBRATE BOSCOBEL

“The beautiful Boscobel grounds were just what I needed to escape from the problems in our world.”

“Today was nothing short of a miracle. You made my daughter (and me) so so so so happy... This could never have happened without the peace and quiet you provided us!! There are angels in life for the parents of disabled children, and you are [some] of them.”

“Thank you thank you thank you from the bottom of my heart. I don't even know how to describe the gratitude I feel for Boscobel.”

Membership increased

**24%**  
in 2020

## EVERYONE'S HOME ON THE HUDSON

We offered healthcare heroes free admission. Over 600 healthcare workers and their families visited.



# School Programs

Boscobel's school programs offer unique, meaningful, and sensory-filled experiences that use primary sources to help students explore history, design and nature.

**During the pandemic, we presented in-person, outdoor field trips as well as virtual programs.**



Thank you for a wonderful day at Boscobel!

I loved it when we learned about the battles and I was George Washington, and it was really cool to see part of the great chain!

Thank you again for such a wonderful time,

Your friend,  
Maddie (A.K.A. George)

*"[Boscobel Museum Educator] Lisa DiMarzo is a gem! Not only is she aware of what children need to understand, but she knows how to make this information accessible to all learners. In her lessons, she strikes the perfect balance of being engaging, funny, flexible, nurturing, and challenging. She meets students where they are, adjusts her teaching to the situation, exemplifies calm behavior management, and makes students feel respected and valued. My students always come away from her programs thinking and talking about what they learned."*

CAROLINE SIMMONS

1ST GRADE TEACHER, BRINCKERHOFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
FISHKILL, NY





# Collections

With the pandemic necessitating the house being closed to the public, we took this seeming setback as an opportunity to delve deeply into preserving and restoring our esteemed collection of 19th-century decorative arts. We conducted a collections appraisal, completed conservation work on our piano, catalogued the Dyckman family correspondence, planned for UV-filtering window film installation, and sent for conservation our six 1815 side chairs decorated with landscapes. *All this in addition to the most thorough cleaning the mansion has received in decades.*



Collections Manager Kasey Calnan (pictured at left) holds a piece of the “Pink Cottage,” an 1840 architectural treasure that Boscobel stored for many years before finding a home for its architectural fragments in the collection of the New York State Museum. Calnan wrote an article on the subject for Spring 2021 edition of *The Hudson River Valley Review*.



At right, one of Boscobel’s six 1815 side chairs sent to Williamstown Art Conservation Center for conservation. We received a \$7500 Greater Hudson Heritage Network grant in support of the project.

At left, Philip Guttridge and colleague restore Boscobel’s square grand piano made c. 1810 in New York.





# Partner Programs

Boscobel is proud to partner with fellow nonprofits that protect and improve our local ecosystem, economy, and quality of life. In 2020, we extended a \$50,000 in-kind grant to Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival to help them through the pandemic. We hosted The Greater Hudson Heritage Network in the library of our Historic House Museum—with careful COVID protocols—to film a workshop on caring for paper artifacts, including some of Boscobel's Dyckman Papers. We also partnered with Cold Spring's Ascend Center to offer a months-long outdoor yoga program.

## CONSTITUTION MARSH AUDUBON CENTER AND SANCTUARY

We continued to offer EagleFest (pictured below) and expanded our longstanding joint programming relationship to include a trail connecting Boscobel with the Audubon Center. A shared ticketing arrangement expanded the content offerings for both organizations and filled a parking shortage at the Marsh.



## DYCKMAN FARMHOUSE MUSEUM

Dyckman Farmhouse Museum and Boscobel offered joint programs, such as the Fall Festival and Dyckman Family Reunion, which expanded Boscobel's bilingual offerings. Dyckman Farmhouse Museum interns also visited Boscobel for a presentation by Executive Director Jennifer Carlquist.



## PHILIPSTOWN GARDEN CLUB

Philipstown Garden Club has skillfully and lovingly tended Boscobel's Herb Garden for decades. In 2020, they continued to do so safely outdoors, and many of the PGC volunteers expressed that the sense of purpose and social contact that came with caring for the Herb Garden helped them cope with the lockdown.



## COLD SPRING FARMERS' MARKET

Boscobel, originally built as a farmhouse, is proud to play a part in supporting the food supply chain by hosting the Cold Spring Farmers' Market. Rightfully deemed an essential business, CSFM opened outdoors at Boscobel on May 2 and stayed throughout 2020. It was an economic, social, and nutritional lifeline throughout the pandemic.





# 2020 Programs Timeline

## Healthcare Heroes

Visit Free

May - ongoing



## Boscobel Virtual Tour\*

June - ongoing



## Artist Days

July - ongoing



## Boscobel Presents Ascend Yoga

July - September



## Cold Spring Farmers' Market

May - December



## Gardens and Grounds

Admission

June - ongoing



## Unofficial Informal Artist Residency with Lori Van Houten and Anna Leigh Clem

July - August



## Dyckman Family Reunion with the Dyckman Farmhouse Museum\*

July 30

## Landscape and Landmarks Tour

September - December



## Dyckman Farmhouse Museum

### Annual Fall Festival\*

October 3



## Visit Santa at Boscobel

December 12 and 19



## Silent Nights

December 18, 19, and 26; January 2



## Unfolding: A Concert by the Ember Ensemble

September 26



## Johnny Appleseed at Boscobel\*

October



## Seasonal Splendor: Online Holiday Tour of Boscobel\*

December 13



## Sinterklaas to Santa Claus\*

December 23

\*Virtual



# 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.

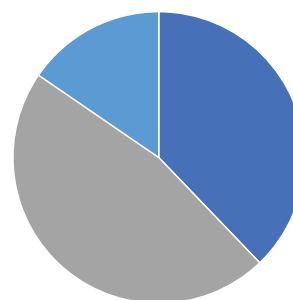
*For more information, please contact Dana Hammond at [dhammond@boscobel.org](mailto:dhammond@boscobel.org) or 845-265-3638 ext. 111.*

# Financial Highlights

*As of June 30, 2020*

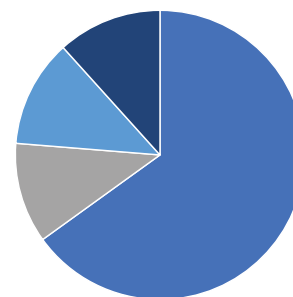
Boscobel's Lila Acheson Wallace Endowment provides foundational support for the stewardship of its Historic House Museum, world renowned collection of early 19th-century decorative arts, and 112-acre site overlooking the Hudson River.

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



## EXPENSES

■ Programming	\$658,380
■ Stewardship	\$813,119
■ Administration	\$268,673
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,740,172</b>



## SOURCES OF OPERATING INCOME

■ Endowment Draw	\$1,300,173
■ Earned Revenue	\$224,424
■ Contributed Revenue	\$240,579
■ Other Funding (PPP loan forgiveness)	\$233,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,998,566</b>



# 2020 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

*“Love Boscobel. It’s always a wonderful place walk and view the beauty of nature, Constitution Marsh, the orchards and the Hudson River Painters sculpture garden. Thanks for all you do.”*

—CAROLE GERSTEN

*“It’s been really, really great to be able to spend time at Boscobel during Covid stay-at-home time. I am an artist and enjoy painting there, walking the woodland trail and just sitting and watching the grass grow. Thanks for keeping it open.”*

—ANDREA STRONGWATER

*“We feel delighted that Boscobel is open ALL winter. We think the decision to stay open all year is very good for the community.”*

—ANN CERRONE





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Spencer Velie, *Security Guard*  
Matthew Weigman, *Museum Guide*

†Deceased





*Thank You*

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