Old Westbury Gardens

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Old Westbury Gardens, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is the former home of John S. Phipps, his wife, Margarita Grace Phipps and their four children.

Completed in 1906 by the English designer, George A. Crawley, the magnificent Charles II-style mansion is nestled amid 200 acres of formal gardens, landscaped grounds, woodlands, ponds and lakes. Westbury House is furnished with fine English antiques and decorative arts from the more than fifty years of the family's residence.

#### Our Mission

Old Westbury Gardens seeks to inspire appreciation of the early 20th century American country estate through faithful preservation and interpretation of its landscape, gardens, architecture, and collections.

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Dear Friends,

Old Westbury Gardens is now well into its second hundred years, its leaders carefully considering new policies and ideas in terms of 'sustainable actions', continually assessing the impact that decisions made today will have on the Gardens and the community ten, twenty, fifty years from now and beyond. Where will the best of public gardens and house museums be in the future? We want the Gardens to be there and to be leaders in the field.

The Gardens is a member and donor supported organization, a gift from a generous founding family, with a mission to preserve and share. Their vision has been entrusted now to a new generation. Establishing 'sustainable policies' will enable Old Westbury Gardens to grow, reach out and enhance the Long Island community into the future without diminishing its mission.

Long Island is an important large and ever growing community in New York State. With its population of 2.8 million people, the Island accounts for a large percentage of New York State, in fact, if it were a city it would rank among the largest in the U.S. safeguarding this Long Island landmark, is critical to Old Westbury Gardens' mission to support a vibrant, continually growing diverse community. The gates have remained open, the gardens have never looked more beautiful, and visitors have come in the tens of thousands to view a magical place where they have found an oasis of beauty, serenity, and escape from the cares of the times.

Gardeners are born optimists. We expect spring to come each year, bring new growth to the trees, leaves and buds to spring to life, roses to bloom and, especially this year in the woodland walk, rare and wonderful new discoveries to delight us. Each winter gives us a deep appreciation of the promising season to follow as we anticipate and prepare for the excitement of a new year.

The true joy is that, as time passes and its uses expand, Old Westbury Gardens still evokes a magical quality of beauty and serenity to its visitors. I hope that you will join me and visit the Gardens whenever you can.

Carol Large

Carol E. Large Chairman of the Board



Dear Friends,

To say that the past year has been a whirlwind would be an understatement. In early spring 2023, I assumed the duties of Interim Director of Old Westbury Gardens and there has barely been a minute to sit and reflect upon the past year so writing this letter was a wonderful exercise since it gave me the opportunity to do just that. I have much, personally, to be thankful for; and a great deal more, on behalf of the institution, to be proud of. As I read through the pages of this Annual Report, I was reminded repeatedly of both the growth and successes of this past year, as well as the many benefits we offer our visitors.

We serve artists, musicians, historians, horticulturists, and school children, along with the 80,000-plus individuals who visit each year. I walk through the gardens most days and one of the thoughts that strikes me often is that people enjoy the gardens in vastly different ways. While our rich roster of public programs, classes and tours attract many, others are content to stroll the gardens or even just sit on the main lawn and read their newspaper. We are continuously looking for ways to have an impact and to attract new participants and audiences to our programs as well as our collections, both built and living. We are thinking about a number of things as we look to the future, including the care of those collections, how technology may help increase access to them and to our institution generally, and how we can keep evolving while maintaining our authenticity at the core of everything we do.

Each year has its own unique challenges and this past year was no exception. We had to contend with many weekends of rain, worry over Beech Leaf Disease, and the general care and upkeep associated with Westbury House and its grounds. There is, quite literally, always something that needs doing. We were very fortunate that the generosity of our supporters allowed us to keep pace with the ongoing maintenance and complete several projects, which you will read about in the pages of this report.

This was a year of great growth for the gardens as our membership continued to expand alongside our attendance and special events. I am deeply appreciative of the unwavering support we have received from our donors, committed Board of Trustees, faithful volunteers, and dedicated employees, whose collective efforts make all that we do possible.

When I look towards the future I feel an overwhelming sense of optimism. Thank you for your deep commitment to Old Westbury Gardens. Together, we move forward!

Maura Brush

Maura M. Brush President & CEO

Old Westbury Gardens

Maura M. Brush President & CEO

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## PRESERVATION

#### STAFFING

Welcomed Laura Cinturati, Curator of the Collections and Vanessa Nastro, Archivist

#### NOTABLE EVENTS



The portrait of Mrs. Henry Phipps Holding Grandson Winston Guest by John Singer Sargent (1907) was loaned to the Norton Museum of Art during the months Westbury House is closed to the public. It was displayed with Sargent's portrait of Mrs. Frederick Guest (Amy Phipps and Jay's younger sister). The latter painting was gifted to the Norton by Amy's grandson Alexander M.D.C. Guest and the Guest family. The two paintings were displayed in the early 1920's in Henry Phipps' Fifth Avenue mansion and subsequently given to family members.

Old Westbury Gardens loaned a number of objects to the Nassau County Museum of Art for the exhibit: *Our Gilded Age* which ran from November 2023 to March 2024. Fanciful dress fans were displayed as well as utilitarian objects such as a Kent knife cleaner and copper cookware.

#### **COLLECTIONS CARE**

#### DINING ROOM CHANDELIER

The Dining Room chandelier has been removed for cleaning, repair and rewiring. The fixture was designed by George Crawley and fabricated in New York City by E.F. Caldwell. The eighteen light chandelier was originally designed for Henry Phipps' Dining Room in his Fifth Avenue mansion which was razed by the late 1920's to make way for apartment buildings. The Dining Room was reinstalled in Westbury House, with necessary alterations. The fixture is inscribed with Crawley's and Caldwell signatures – a rarity noted by Caldwell collectors. The chandelier is being conserved by Aurora Lampworks.

Support of John F.W. Rogers and Generous Donors



## PRESERVATION

### FIRE SCREEN CLEANING AND REPAIR

A George ll mahogany fire screen displaying a pastoral scene in petit point hadsuffered from sun damage and frequent moving. The petit point damage was stabilized the silk backing was repaired and replaced and the carved frame repaired and cleaned. It has been returned to the Dining Room.

Grant: Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation



### **RESTORATION OF FOOD PREPARATION AREAS**

PHASE 3 KITCHEN RESTORATION PROGRESS

The food preparation areas including the Old Kitchen, Scullery, Refrigeration Rooms, Wine Cellar, Butler's Pantry and Warming Room continue to be refined with discoveries in the archives, and a generous gift of copper cookware all adding to the authenticity of the restoration.

Grant: Gerry Charitable Trust

### CAPITAL RESTORATION PROJECT

Boxwood Garden Reflecting Pool & Colonnade Restoration

The project includes reconstructing the deteriorated walls of the 70' long pool and designing a more efficient water circulation system to better maintain the pool. The marble collar has been dismantled, inventoried, cleaned and will be reinstalled when the pool restoration is completed. The Colonnade is undergoing a gentle cleaning and extensive masonry repairs. The project architects are Jan Hird Pokorny and Associates and Henry Restoration is the General Contractor.

Grants: NYS Environmental Protection Fund; Gerry Charitable Trust; The Estate of Margaret Sullivan



## HORTICULTURE

Old Westbury Gardens, as it was originally designed by George Crawley, balanced the formality of the Walled Garden and Rose Garden with a thoughtfully planned Woodland Garden and Lake Trail.

This east side of the garden featured beautiful white-barked birch, hillsides of ephemeral bulbs in the spring, and a tapestry of interesting ferns and shade-tolerant perennials in the summer. These less-formal areas of our landscape saw significant damage during Superstorm Sandy. A loss of overstory led to an increase in sunlight and the introduction of many invasive plants.

Over the last three years, we have worked diligently to remove these invasive species while also planting trees, shrubs, perennials, and ephemerals that mirrored the original plan for the garden.

We recently, transplanted a number of Rhododendron that were part of the breeding program at Erchless, the estate of Howard Phipps, Jr. There has already been a significant increase in visitation to this side of the property as visitors, and pollinators, have delighted in seeing this woodland come back to life. This project was made possible through funding from The Estate of Margaret Sullivan and the generosity of Green Rose Tree.

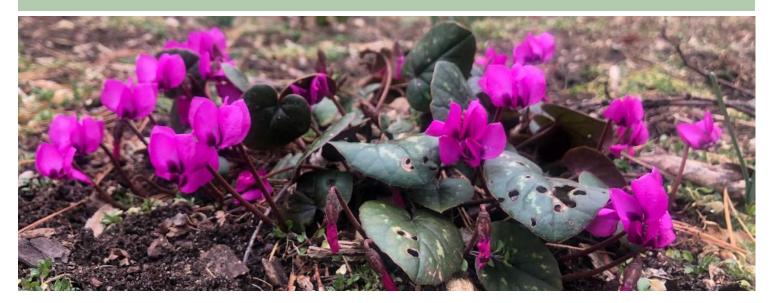


### HORTICULTURE



Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) is a serious condition affecting beech trees (genus Fagus). Discovered in Ohio in 2012, BLD has since spread to several states in the U.S. and parts of Canada. I first discovered symptoms of the disease at Old Westbury Gardens in the summer of 2019.

By late 2022 we were seeing symptom expression on a large population of our Beeches and by the following spring we had almost no Beech trees that were unaffected. The horticultural staff had been monitoring the trees carefully and watering and mulching, as needed, to keep the trees under as little stress as possible. But, by the spring of 2023, the disease was taking its toll on the health of our Beech population. Bartlett Tree Experts, a long-term partner of the Gardens, has been actively involved in the research and management of this disease. We were very fortunate that Bartlett approached us about putting our trees under their care as part of a series of test sites across the country. I am very happy to report that our specimen beeches, as well as those in our North Allee, have made a remarkable recovery and appear to be showing very little evidence of the disease. This will be a concern for years to come but we are grateful to Bartlett Tree Experts for the hope that they have given us that our Beech trees might make a full recovery.



## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS & VISITOR SERVICES**

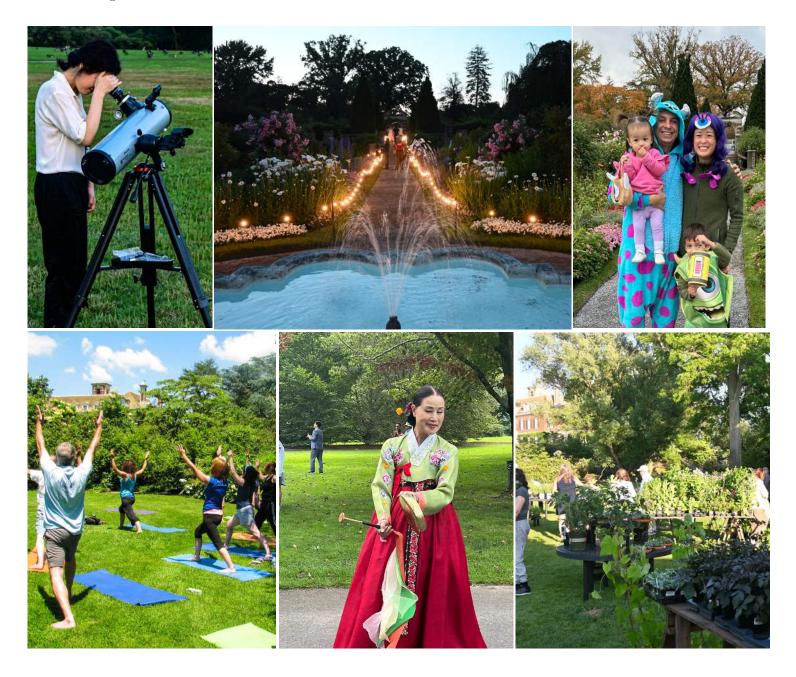
#### 2023 HIGHLIGHTS

#### Adult Programs

In 2023 outdoor watercolor and sketching programs were introduced for adults informing participants about techniques and best practices using the gardens as an inspiration.

Gardens staff led a series of bus trips introducing participants to the Philadelphia Flower Show, Grounds for Sculpture—a sculpture park and art museum located in Trenton, NJ, and the Mills Mansion—childhood home of Gladys Mills Phipps, located at the Staatsburgh Historic Site.

A series of evening presentations by Gardens' staff and noted historians explored the social and historical context of the estate era of Old Westbury Gardens ranging from the story of noted Hicks Nursery, to the life of servants during the Gilded Age.



## EDUCATION

Students from across Long Island continue to visit the Gardens for enhanced learning activities that reinforce their studies from science to local history, and literature.

The centerpiece of the Gardens' formal education program remains the collaboration with the neighboring Westbury School District which provides site-based programming at no charge.



## HARVEST MOON GARDEN PARTY

A festive evening generously hosted by Connie Cincotta and the Friends' of Old Westbury Gardens to honor Arlene and Arthur Levine at the beautiful historic Highwood, the former Edwin Gould Estate, in Oyster Bay on Saturday, September 23.



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## CHILDREN IN BLOOM

The lovely 14th Annual Children in Bloom luncheon was held on Tuesday, October 3rd in the Red Ballroom at Westbury House honoring Kay Maris for her devotion to Old Westbury Gardens for over two decades. A very special thank you to Joan MacNaughton, Founder and Chair and Committee for their talents, time and dedication to Children in Bloom to benefit educational programs at the Gardens. We were most fortunate to have Ralph White, our guest author, speak about his book, *Getting Out of Saigon*, and Elisa DiStefano, as the celebrity Emcee from Newsday TV.



### WITH SPECIAL THANKS Connie Cincotta, Luncheon Underwriter Ralph White, Author, *Getting Out of Saigon* Elisa DiStefano, Celebrity Emcee

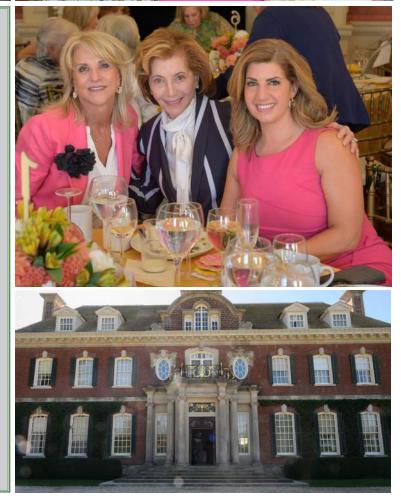
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## DECEMBER DINNER

It was a beautiful evening honoring Thammanoune Kannalikham to benefit preservation projects for the Gardens.

DINNER CHAIRS Mr. and Mrs. John Deignan

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Carol Chang Gay Christensen Donna J. Cincotta June Fait and Herbert J. Coles Linda Collins Elisa and Kenneth Comerford Alyce and Patrick Corcoran Anne Craft Elizabeth Cramer Virginia Croker Hope Casey Crucilla Denise Pratesi and Chuck Cutolo Mary Ann Dealy Carmelita and Manuel Deguzman Andrea and John T. Deignan Linda Delgaudio Domenick DiFranco Jie Ding Kathleen P. Dodd Sherry and Dennis Dukacz Thomasine and Richard Dunlop Martha and John Dwyer Beata and Mark Eisenberg **Beverley Emery** Anne Emmerson Camille and Joseph Emmett Linda E. Ernst Annamarie Estivo Mabel Figueroa Steven Fishbane Barbara and John Fisher Carol and Richard Fitzmaurice Sean Flanagan Carol and Gordon Fleming Christopher Flynn Angela Flyntz Ruth and Erwin Forley Jane and Peter Franco Pamela A. Freitag Jean Futoran Laura Gazzo Eileen George Trisha Gerena Carol and Martin Gilman Ludmila Girdhar Anna Giuga Adam Green William Greene Amv Groveman Francine and Michael Gumiela Bakoo Hagedorn

Up to \$99 Heather Halley Diane Gever and Pat Hanophy Jo Ann Hayes Catherine and James Healy Margaret A. Heijmen Sook Hee Heo Patricia and Robert Hurleigh Carolyn P. Hyatt Brian Imbornoni Lily Ip Kathryn Jackson Nicole Jeffery Terri and Paul Jennings Lawrence F. Jindra Beth and David Johns Elliott Joseph Carolyn Kane Fanny Kasher Wayne F. Kellermann Nancy and Vartkes Khachadurian Nancy and Peter Khachadurian Bernice Knoblauch Thomas F. Koetzle Doris Kurzius Nancy Ladika Abbie and Richard Laskey Laura Ritter Kimberly Liu Sharon Cleary Luethi Adrienne and Matthew Mackay Joseph Magel **Rosemary Mammes** Elizabeth Manning Maria and Angelo Maragos Karl Margraf Michael Markel Anna Markowska and Wojciech Markowski Philip A. Martone Michael and Patricia Matarazzo Anne and Frank Maul Virginia and John McAvey Arleen Mccormac Jane and Michael McDermott Laura McDonnell Anne and Bill McTiernan **Robert Michaelis** Gisela and Gerhardt Muller Daniel Muller Felice Nieves Galina Niyazov

Susan Nunley Maria Nuzzolese Donna Olivero Iennifer Osso Mary and Stephen Ostop Joseph Panico Rose Pellicano Mary Perry Linda Pierce Nancy Pirodsky Joseph Pleffner Bernice and Irwin Polinsky Scott Prentiss Marjorie Prophete Cheryl M. and John Pufahl Svetlana Pyatigorskaya Loretta and Phil Quagerelli Courtney J. Quinn Francine and Vincent Raniolo Joan Reilly Nicole Reiss Ali Resutov Eliza Resutova Patricia Reyhan Ray Rodriguez Diane Rubin Gary Russo Elizabeth Saint-Vanne Patricia P. Sands Rob Sannuto Dawn Saslona **Raymond Schillo** Alice M. Schuler Karen and Robert J. Seltzer Lynn Silverstein Steven Skrynecki Rebecca Hollander Smiros and James Smiros Eunjoo Sul Julia Tedeschi Caroline Thiem Claudine Vacirca Kathryn and Thomas Vanmanen Nicholas Varrino Melanie Weiler Audrey M. Weissman Erica White Linda M. Wilson Walter Wisneski Annette Wysocki Sarah Youssef Marisa Zatlin



## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE



In 2017, Old Westbury Gardens set out a vision for the future, determined to preserve the Gardens' historic assets, upgrade the visitor experience, and ensure that the rare ensemble of house and gardens is protected for generations to come. The Gardens then embarked upon an \$8M capital campaign to support those three priorities: The Westbury House Restoration Project; transformational education and interpretation programs; and priority preservation projects for the near term.

The Westbury House Restoration Project is the largest and most significant preservation project in the history of the Gardens, and the only one of its kind in America. Designed to protect and prepare Westbury House for the next 100 years, the project came in on time and under budget, despite construction stoppages and travel restrictions caused by the pandemic.

The Westbury House Restoration project was critical to the future of the Gardens. After 113 years, elements of the exterior of Westbury House had become seriously deteriorated, threatening widespread water damage to irreplaceable period rooms and endangering the extensive Phipps family archives and original collections. The scope of the project included the installation of new cornices and copper gutters, replacement of the roof consisting of 27,000 hand-cut, Collyweston slates, custom fabrication of 92 pairs of mahogany bi-fold shutters based on the original design, cleaning and reinstallation of 17 Georgian period mirrors and the restoration of the oak front doors and tympanum.

The Gardens' Education and Interpretation Programs have seen excellent progress both in terms of program development (children's and adult programs) and funding. New initiatives have been launched and others are in the planning process. One program already launched is the "Service Wing" tour, which includes the kitchen, butler's pantry, scullery, and wine cellar. A 60-minute, guide-led tour program was developed from primary research of archival collections.

## **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN DONORS**

#### \$500,000-\$1 Million

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Nathalie and William T. Comfort, Jr. Kate and Leo A. Guthart Neal and Susan Ryan

#### \$250,000 - \$499,999

The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation The Gerry Charitable Trust Laureen and Ragnar Knutsen Carol E. and James M. Large Anonymous Phipps Family Member In Memory of Jack & Dorothy Radgowski

#### \$100,000 - \$249,999

Joan and John Deignan Robert M. and Minina Johnston Robert and Roni Lemle Martha and Walter Maguire Marjori Malahan Brusasco Trust Anne and Russell Byers – R.K. Mellon Foundation Moore Charitable Foundation New York State Office of Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquaria Anne and Colin Phipps Nancy and Kostas Douzinas – Rauch Foundation The Estate of Margaret Sullivan Lloyd P. Zuckerberg and Charlotte Triefus Roy J. Zuckerberg Family Foundation –

#### \$25,000 - \$99,999

The Barker Welfare Foundation William Bingham Foundation Christina and John Bransfield Rita and Frank Castagna Family Foundation Verena and Roderick+ Cushman -Community Foundation of Jackson Hole Daniel Davison Remainder Trust **DeMatteis Family Foundation** Douglas Family Fund Susan and Jack Foley Peggy and Timber Floyd Josepha Jenks+ Manda and Albert Kalimian Sandy and Eric Krasnoff Dita and Graham Nickson Wells Fargo Foundation

#### \$10,000 - \$24,999

Constance Cincotta Mary Lee and Robert Citrino Diahann and John S.P. Cochran Jean and J. Gordon Douglas Leslie and David Fastenberg Emily T. Frick – Helen Clay Frick Foundation Gina Goldhammer – Goldhammer Family Foundation Sealy and Mark Hopkinson Sandra and Stephen Lessing – The Lessing Foundation Arlene and Arthur Levine Kay and Peter Maris Susan and Peter MacKinnon Dita Naylor-Leyland+ Nicholas Naylor-Leyland Donna Kesselman Raggio and John Raggio Alice and Stephen Takach

#### \$2,500 - \$9,999

Anonymous Nancy and James Costopulos J. Oliver and Roselyn Crom – Dorothy Carnegie Foundation Sonia Evers James B. Hoover Deborah and Robert Hussey Ann L. Nolte+ Suzanne and Frederic Bancroft – Norwood Foundation Cynthia G. Phipps The Preservation League of New York State Serena and Jorge Sanchez Nancy and Simon Sidamon-Eristoff Vickie and Joseph Stanco Virginia G. Valentine

#### Up to \$2,499

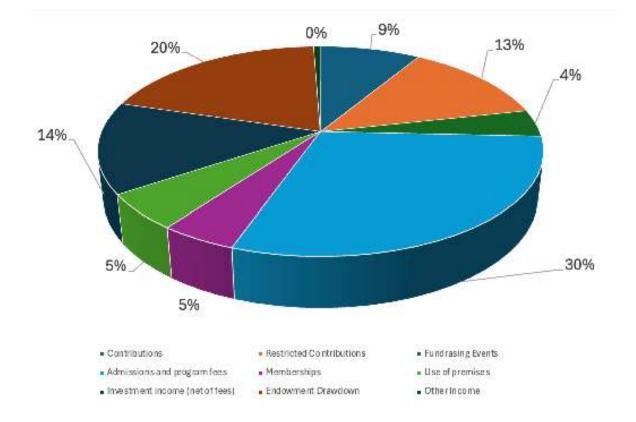
Aileen Denne Bolton and Anthony Hume - AH+ Associates Suzanne and Frederic Bancroft Gail and Steven Bauer Dita and Thomas Carhart Suzi and Dustin Chase Jillian and Mitchell Friedman Carole and Frederick+ Guest Beatrice and Randolph Guthrie Marjorie C. and Fredd Hoff Isaksen Elizabeth and Hoyle Jones Patricia Montgomerie Constance and John Norbeck Elizabeth and Douglas Paul David P. Pearson Nancy and John E. Phipps Virginia and Rutherfurd Stuyvesant Pierrepont Jan Hird Pokorny Associates Meredyth and H. Brooks Smith Sandra Tytel -The Sandra and Howard Tytel Family Charitable Foundation Karen Von Amelunxen Christopher Waldorf Kaye Weninger

### FINANCIALS Old Westbury Gardens, Inc.Audited Statement of Financial Position March 31, 2023

### ASSETS:

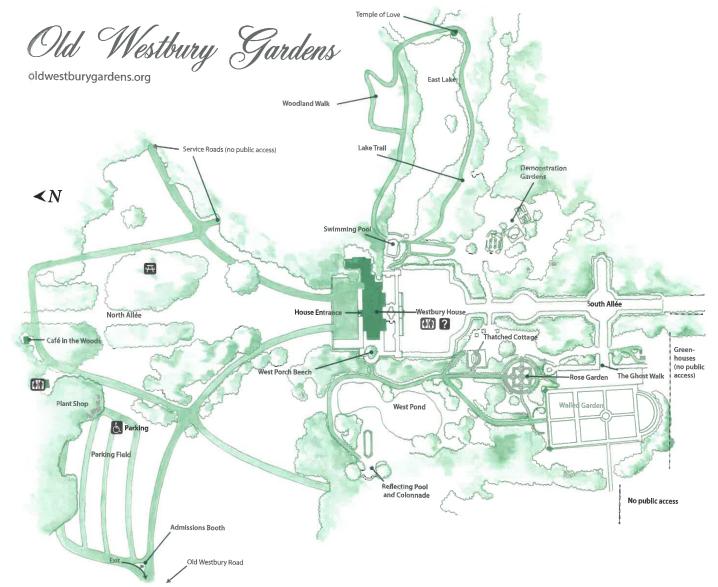
	Cash and cash equivalents	409,168
	Accounts receivable	26,212
	Contributions and pledges receivable, net	519,706
	Inventory	142,949
	Prepaid expenses and other assets	114,447
	Investments	5,948,469
	Leases right-of-use assets	43,590
	Property, plant and equipment-net	10,875,910
	Beneficial interest in perpetual trust	19,084,510
Total Assets		37,164,961
LIABILITIES:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		548,614
Leases liabilities		43,584
Loans payable		2,531,688
Deferred revenue		184,096
Deferred compensat	ion	81,914
	Total liabilities	3,389,896
NET ASSETS		
	Net assets:	
	Without donor restrictions:	
	Undesignated:	9,627,755
	With donor restrictions, purpose or time:	2,556,091
	With donor restrictions, in perpetuity:	21,591,219
	Total net assets	33,775,065
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		37,164,961

As of March 31, 2023		
		\$6,073,452
Contributions	\$525,295	
Restricted Contributions	\$784,441	
Fundrasing Events	\$252,168	
Admissions and Program Fees	\$1,803,007	
Memberships	\$286,619	
Use of Premises	\$331,424	
Investment Income (Net of Fees)	\$855,674	
Endowment Drawdown	\$1,200,000	
Other Income	\$34,824	
Gardens and House Maintenance	39.31%	\$2,749,318
Visitor Services	38.59%	\$2,698,981
Educational and Community Services	3.78%	\$264,633
Management and General	11.69%	\$817,797
Development	6.61%	\$462,485
		\$6,993,214



# TOTAL REVENUE AND EXPENSES (AUDITED) As of March 31, 2023

## PLAN YOUR VISIT







Old Westbury Gardens

WWW.OLDWESTBURYGARDENS.ORG P.O. Box 430 . Old Westbury, New York 11568

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