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Cover: The new Edible Academy opened in June 2018. © Robert Benson Photography
Dear Friends:

After yet another unforgettable year at The New York Botanical Garden, it gives me great pleasure to share our annual report, a glimpse back at the highlights of July 2017 through June 2018.

With programs that appeal to a growing audience of visitors from around the world, our diverse offerings are more far-reaching than ever. Through our living plant collections, global science research initiatives, innovating exhibitions, and exceptional educational programs, we have fostered a unique space that will continue to connect people to plants, nature, art, and science.

The much-anticipated Edible Academy opened in June, creating new opportunities for children, families, teachers, and the public to learn about growing and preparing fruit and vegetables, encouraging lifelong interest in healthy living and environmental stewardship. The three-acre campus consists of state-of-the-art educational facilities featuring sustainable infrastructure and a 5,300-sq.-ft. Classroom Building and an expansion of the beloved Ruth Rea Howell Vegetable Garden.

The annual Holiday Train Show® and The Orchid Show once again delighted Garden visitors with displays that seem to get more beautiful and more meaningful every year. Over the summer, Georgia O’Keeffe: Visions of Hawai‘i, presented 20 works that O’Keeffe created during her months in Hawai‘i in 1939. Complemented by a lush tropical plant exhibition in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and fun educational programs, the exhibition conveyed the remarkable beauty and variety of Hawaiian flora and culture, and celebrated a little-known yet fascinating episode in O’Keeffe’s career.

Last year also brought a new chapter in executive leadership. After 29 years of service, Gregory Long, who led the Garden’s renaissance in educational and scientific programming and the expansion of its living plant collection, retired from his position as Chief Executive Officer and The William C. Steere Sr. President. With Gregory’s departure came the exciting announcement of the Garden’s first female president, Carrie Rebora Barratt, who hails from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, where she spent the past nine years as Deputy Director. Her extraordinary institutional leadership experience, creative vision, and passion for the Garden have set the tone for continued great success at NYBG.

Finally, this past year marked my last full year as Chairman. It has been my honor to serve this renowned institution, alongside dedicated friends like you. Your support and curiosity have made NYBG the exceptional institution it is today. Enjoy the report and I’ll see you at the Garden.

Thank you!

Maureen K. Chilton
Chairman
The Edible Academy, opened in June 2018, is a state-of-the-art educational facility featuring hands-on activities and innovative programs that help children, families, teachers, and the general public learn about growing and preparing vegetables, fruit, and herbs while encouraging a lifelong interest in gardening, nutrition awareness, and environmental stewardship. With the site's combination of indoor and outdoor spaces, NYBG is able to operate its acclaimed, 62-year-old, garden-based education program year-round and double its prior capacity from 50,000 to 100,000 annually. Sustainable infrastructure throughout the expanded three-acre campus supports maximum resource efficiency (water and energy) and active stormwater management. The 5,300-sq.-ft. Classroom Building was recently certified LEED Gold by the U.S. Green Buildings Council.

The Stavros Niarchos Foundation Entry Plaza provides welcoming access and offers a spectacular view of all of the campus components.

The Ruth Rea Howell Vegetable Garden is a collection of three gardens—Green Thumb Garden, Global Garden, Children's Gardening Program Garden—with daily activities and programs.

The Solar Pavilion, featuring an array of photovoltaic panels to capture solar energy, is a gathering place for many of the Edible Academy’s garden-based education lessons.

The Jean W. Douglas School Garden Demonstration Area is designed to inspire teachers to incorporate garden-based education programs on their campuses.

The Royce Family Meadow Garden features winding paths and a diverse palette of native perennial shrubs and herbaceous plants that attract beneficial insects.

The Pauline Gillespie Gossett Overlook Pavilion provides a dramatic view of the Bronx River waterfall and Thain Family Forest.

The Kate Solomon Family Apiary is home to two hives with thousands of honeybees that aid plant pollination as well as production of delicious honey.

The Classroom Building features the Demonstration Kitchen Classroom, Palm Family Edible Academy Technology (E.A.T.) Lab, and a Green Roof.

The teaching Greenhouse provides an ideal space and controlled growing conditions for the propagation of thousands of seedlings throughout the year.

The Wamsler Phillips Plant Nursery serves as a conditioning area for seedlings propagated in the Greenhouse and destined for the many gardens.

The Rappaport Family Toolshed houses the Edible Academy’s inventory of garden tools and equipment.

A series of eight Geothermic Wells increases efficiency and reduces NYBG’s carbon emissions in heating and cooling the Classroom Building.

The Service Yard is utilized by Edible Academy staff for staging events and as a work space to support programming initiatives.

The Susan P. and Coley Burke Amphitheater, which features a terraced lawn and stage, hosts events, cooking demonstrations, and performances.

The Edible Academy Restrooms feature composting toilets, helping to protect the watershed by reducing water consumption.

The Barnsley Beds include a combination of ornamental arrangements as well as traditional rows featuring varieties of particular crop groups.

The semi-circular Event Lawn is a wonderful venue for a variety of Edible Academy programming.

The covered Butterfly Tram Stop provides access to and from the Edible Academy, announcements and orientation, as well as shelter during inclement weather.

(l-r) NYBG President-Designate Carrie Rebora Barratt, Mayor Bill de Blasio, NYBG Chairman Maureen Chilton, President Gregory Long, and Director of the Garden J.V. Cossaboom at the dedication of the new Edible Academy.
FISCAL YEAR 2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Green Zone Facility Provides Essential Compost for Living Collections

The 70,000-sq.-ft. Green Materials Recycling Center composting facility processed and cured green material—grass clippings, leaves, wood chips, and other organic materials—collected from the greenhouses, gardens, and grounds, and produced several thousand cubic yards of products used to improve and maintain healthy soils throughout the Living Collections.

Thain Family Forest Ecology Project Reclaims Invaded Area

Forest staff began intensive ecological restoration of the steep slope between the Edible Academy and the Bronx River, removing thousands of invasive species, installing jute mats to combat erosion, and planting more than 7,000 native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants across the site.
Saving the American Ash Project Advances Conservation Efforts

Ash trees are threatened worldwide, in North America by the Emerald Ash Borer beetle, and mortality is nearly 100 percent. NYBG hosted a public symposium on ash conservation that drew more than 150 members of the general public and scientific communities, and produced a field guide to identify ash species in this region's forests and their conservation status.

Urban Naturalist Program Expands Enrollment

Adult Education's Urban Naturalist Certificate Program, which completed its first full year in fiscal 2018, equips participants with the identification and documentation skills they need to become effective environmental stewards. Led by expert naturalists, students use NYBG grounds and select city parks to investigate the complex relationships between flora and fauna in urban settings.
NYBG Contributes to the Biodiversity Heritage Library

The LuEsther T. Mertz Library continued to make substantial contributions to the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), of which it is a founding member. Among the fiscal year highlights was an IMLS-funded grant project, Expanding Access to Biodiversity Literature (EABL). The Mertz Library was the lead partner among four premier institutions that trained new contributors to BHL and the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA). The project resulted in the addition of 8,828 new volumes to BHL and more than 902,000 new pages digitized.

Myanmar Biodiversity Studies Broaden

Garden scientist Kate Armstrong, Ph.D., is leading NYBG’s efforts to discover and document the tremendous yet poorly studied biodiversity in Myanmar’s Northern Forest Complex. In fiscal year 2018 she led three extended field trips to project areas, spending five months in the largest intact forest in continental Southeast Asia, collecting nearly 1,800 specimens, and conducting a botanical training workshop for several universities.
Bronx Green-Up Attracts Record Volunteers

More than 2,000 community residents and volunteers contributed to Bronx Green-Up community workdays at various community gardens, school gardens, and urban farms, totaling more than 6,400 hours. NYC Compost Project workdays engaged an additional 305 volunteers for more than 1,450 service hours.

EcoQuest Challenges Garner Increased Interest

An initiative of NYBG’s New York City EcoFlora project, monthly EcoQuest Challenges continued to generate and broaden interest in citizen science, with 730 participants making more than 30,000 plant and animal observations across all five boroughs and documenting the diverse ecology of our city.
Lauded by The New York Times as a “curatorial home run,” this Garden-wide exhibition presented a new perspective on the pioneering American modernist. A lush flower show in the Haupt Conservatory explored the remarkable beauty and variety of Hawaiian flora—as well as its complex botanical and cultural history. A stunning exhibition in the Art Gallery—featuring O'Keeffe's Hawai’i paintings and other works—spotlighted a transformative experience in the legendary artist’s life. Elsewhere in the Garden, visitors explored NYBG's ongoing scientific efforts to study and document the plants of Hawai’i and enjoyed contemporary sculpture inspired by its flowers and fruit. Time-honored traditions and the unique cultural heritage of the Hawaiian Islands were showcased through music, story-telling, and dance.
Holiday Train Show® Givebacks
Delight Local Children

With funds donated on #GivingTuesday in November 2017, NYBG distributed Holiday Train Show tickets to six Bronx service organizations dedicated to assisting low-income communities by improving their economic and social well-being. Hundreds of local youth and families enjoyed a visit to this seasonal favorite, which celebrated its 26th year.

Orchid Giveaway Program
Brings Joy to Community Seniors

After the close of the annual Orchid Show, nursing homes, senior centers, and hospitals selected by elected officials throughout the Bronx receive plants from the exhibition, a program that was begun in 2007. In April 2018, NYBG donated more than 400 orchids to 15 organizations for display and enjoyment at these community facilities.
Revenue & Expenses

Fiscal Year 2018 marked the 30th consecutive year that The New York Botanical Garden has balanced its operating budget. In aggregate, revenue grew from $75,800,000 in 2017 to $84,500,000 in 2018—an increase of approximately $8,700,000 or 11.5%. Private Fundraising, Government Support, and Endowment Income were relatively flat year over year.

The preponderance of revenue growth was a result of Earned Income activities, which in total grew from $25,700,000 of gross revenue in 2017 to $33,500,000 of gross revenue in 2018—an increase of approximately $7,800,000 or 30%. All three of our major exhibitions, CHIHULY, Holiday Train Show®, and The Orchid Show, were very successful and together set a new record for annual attendance, which reached 1,300,000 visitors. Earned Income activities in 2018 netted nearly $20,000,000 or 62% of gross revenue, and the total number of Memberships reached 65,800.

The market value of the endowment grew by more than $23,000,000 from $284,100,000 to $307,133,000 as a result of a fiscal year investment return net of fees of 9.4%. Nevertheless, the income drawn on the endowment for FY 2018 was modestly reduced from 2017 to just under $15,000,000. This was done as a first step in reducing the effective draw rate on the endowment.

In aggregate, expenses increased commensurate with the growth in revenue, but the mix of expenses remained relatively constant year to year with 80% going toward programs and public services and 20% toward administration and fundraising. Within programs and public services, Earned Income costs claimed a modestly larger share of the expense base due to the success of the CHIHULY show.

Finally, on May 31, 2018, Standard & Poor’s, citing the Garden’s solid financial resources, strong fundraising capabilities, steady membership, and increasing attendance, affirmed the Garden’s credit rating of A+ Stable.
Net Assets

Net assets include the total book value of land, buildings, and equipment constructed or purchased by the Garden net of accumulated depreciation and debt, as well as endowment funds and other long-term investments. The net assets of The New York Botanical Garden grew from $484,416,000 in 2017 to $520,943,000 in 2018—an increase of approximately $36,527,000 or 7.5% due primarily to favorable investment returns for the year.

The Board and the management staff of the Garden, as fiduciary stewards of these assets, understand that responsible financial management is a critical obligation to the institution and its donors. The Garden’s President and CEO, the Director of the Garden, the Chief Financial Officer, and the Controller are responsible for maintaining internal control over financial reporting for the Garden and have designed and instituted such internal controls to provide reasonable assurance that financial reporting is accurate and reliable.

We thank the members of the Budget, Audit, and Investment Committees and their respective Chairs: John Thain, Florence Davis, and John Bernstein. Their hard work and commitment have been key to the success of the Garden.

John A. Thain
Chairman, Budget Committee

J.V. Cossaboom
Director of the Garden
NYBG Gold Medal Recipients

To recognize those individuals who have made remarkable contributions to botany, horticulture, or science education, or have shown extraordinary dedication to the Garden and its mission, NYBG periodically awards the Gold Medal. It is the highest honor that can be conferred by the Garden.

The Gold Medal, inspired by the seal of The New York Botanical Garden, is gold-plated silver and was created by Tiffany & Company. Tiffany’s relationship with the Garden dates back to 1895, when the company was one of the Garden’s first benefactors.

Gregory Long 2018
Thomas J. Hubbard (posthumously) 2017
Anne Hubbard 2017
Elizabeth Barlow Rogers 2016
Shelby White 2015
Thomas E. Lovejoy, Ph.D. 2014
Patricia K. Holmgren, Ph.D. 2013
Noel H. Holmgren, Ph.D. 2013
Lewis B. Cullman 2011
Oliver Sacks, M.D. 2011
LuEsther T. Mertz (posthumously) 2010
Professor Sir Ghillean Prance, FRS, VMH 2008
Enid A. Haupt (posthumously) 2008
Edward O. Wilson, Ph.D. 2002
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Maureen K. Chilton, in her capacity as Chairman, is an *ex officio* member of all committees.

Gregory Long, in his capacity as President, is an *ex officio* member of all committees except the Audit Committee.

Wilson Nolen, in his capacity as Chairman Emeritus, is an *ex officio* member of all committees.
How You Can Make a Difference

The New York Botanical Garden is an iconic living museum. An oasis in this busy metropolis since its founding in 1891, the Garden is a dynamic, leading New York City cultural institution. A National Historic Landmark, the 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. More than one million annual visitors enjoy the Garden, not only for its remarkable diversity of tropical, temperate, and desert flora but also for programming that ranges from renowned exhibitions in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory and LuEsther T. Mertz Library to celebrations on Daffodil Hill.

The Garden is also a major educational institution. More than 300,000 people annually—among them Bronx families, schoolchildren, and teachers—learn about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through NYBG's hands-on, curriculum-based programming; 90,000 of those visitors are children from underserved neighboring communities, while more than 3,000 are educators from New York City's public school system participating in professional development programs that train them to teach science courses at all grade levels.

NYBG operates one of the world's largest plant research and conservation programs, with 200 staff members—including nearly 100 Ph.D. scientists—working in the Garden's state-of-the-art molecular labs as well as in the field, where they lead programs in 49 countries.

There are numerous ways in which you can help NYBG continue to flourish:

• A gift to the Annual Fund provides essential support for all of NYBG's programs in horticulture, education, and plant research and conservation. Gifts of $25,000 or more are recognized through our President's Circle. To make a contribution, or for more information, please contact J. Tim Landi at 718.817.8555 or tlandi@nybg.org

• Join the Garden Patrons Program by making a tax-deductible gift of $1,500 or more. In addition to Member benefits, Patrons receive invitations to exclusive lectures featuring scientists, world-renowned horticulturists, and landscape designers, as well as special viewings of exhibitions. For more information, please call 718.817.8553 or e-mail gardenpatrons@nybg.org

• Become a Member and enjoy benefits that include free admission, guest passes, parking passes, and discounts at the NYBG Shop and on extensive education programs. Please contact Gale Page at 718.817.8696 or gpage@nybg.org

• Include the Garden in your estate plans and become a member of the Perennial Society. Bequests and other planned gifts support the Garden's endowment and provide critical funding for the Garden's future. Members of the Perennial Society receive invitations to events, lectures, and an annual luncheon. Please contact Lisa Sifre at 718.817.8545 or lsifre@nybg.org

• Double or triple your contribution with a Corporate Matching Gift. Many businesses provide matching funds to augment your support. Please contact your company's human resources department to find out if your company participates.

Learn more at nybg.org
The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden’s general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN
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