

# NYBG

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## **Isaac W. K. Thweatt Joins The New York Botanical Garden as Chief Advancement Officer**

Thweatt brings more than 15 years of fundraising, philanthropy, and community outreach experience to renowned cultural institution



Credit: Harvey Fitz

**Bronx, NY**—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has announced that Isaac W. K. Thweatt will join the institution as its new Chief Advancement Officer. Thweatt comes to the role with extensive experience in fundraising, philanthropy, and community outreach, acquired through positions of increasing responsibility over the course of his career.

“I am elated to join The New York Botanical Garden, a historic institution with local impact and a global footprint,” said Isaac W. K. Thweatt. “Moving philanthropy forward at the Garden aids in the growth of its educational initiatives, comprehensive plant research and conservation program, and plant collections. I look forward to partnering with our network of extraordinary leaders to achieve ambitious goals.”

“Isaac was a clear standout candidate during the recruitment process, with a wealth of experience in senior development and community outreach positions as well as exceptional team management and leadership skills,” said Jennifer Bernstein, CEO and

the William C. Steere Sr. President of The New York Botanical Garden. “We are thrilled to welcome him to the Garden.”

As Chief Advancement Officer, Thweatt will oversee NYBG’s philanthropy program and provide leadership in developing and implementing a forward-thinking growth strategy to meet the Garden’s annual and long-term fundraising goals. Thweatt will report to the CEO and President and will work closely with other senior staff members.

Thweatt was previously Associate Dean of the School of the Arts at Emerson College, where his responsibilities have included developing closer donor and alumni connections while working collaboratively with faculty, students, College leadership, business leaders, and the broader community. Prior to joining Emerson, Thweatt was Executive Director of Individual Giving at Columbia Business School in New York City.

In addition, Thweatt has had significant experience as an independent management, leadership, and diversity training consultant, coaching nonprofit and other organizational leaders on professional skills including team leadership, fundraising, and nonprofit management. He is also an accomplished public speaker and commenter on these subjects.

With a career spanning more than 15 years, as a philanthropy professional, Thweatt is highly skilled at cultivating a wide range of donors to secure transformative gifts. He has held senior advancement roles at major educational institutions such as George Mason University and American University. He is also a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE), an award-winning volunteer and presenter at the Council for Advancement & Support of Education, and a past volunteer leader at the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Thweatt earned a bachelor’s degree from George Mason University, which presented him with the Thomas W. Iszard IV Distinguished Alumni Award in 2021. He received a master’s degree from The Catholic University of America and post-graduate training in higher education management from the University of Pennsylvania.

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**The New York Botanical Garden is located at 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458. For more information, visit [nybg.org](http://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.**

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