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NYBG Announces Call for Applicants for the Third Year of the Larry Lederman Photography Fellowship

Application Period for Annual Opportunity for an Outstanding Professional or Emerging Garden or Landscape Photographer Runs October 1 through January 6, 2025

Fellowship Award to Be Announced End of February 2025



Bronx, NY—The Humanities Institute of The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has announced the application guidelines for the third annual photography fellowship established by Larry Lederman, a noted landscape photographer and longtime friend of NYBG. The Larry Lederman Photography Fellowship is awarded annually to an outstanding established or emerging photographer whose work focuses on gardens or landscapes and demonstrates excellence and a creative approach to the art of landscape photography. This year's application period runs from October 1 through January 6, 2025. The selected Fellow will receive a \$20,000 grant disbursed in installments for a nine-month term, March 15 through December 15, 2025, during which time the Fellow will have complimentary access to NYBG's 250-acre landscape and historic collections. The Larry Lederman Photography Fellowship is available to any photographer 21 years of age or older who is a United States citizen or is an international photographer currently authorized to work in the U.S. The selected Fellow will be announced end of February 2025.

During the 9-month term, the Fellow will pursue their personal vision of garden landscape photography in an urban setting, creating photographs that capture the aesthetic character, seasonality, and ephemeral quality of vibrant plant life. At least 20 percent of the work should include photos taken onsite at The New York Botanical Garden, a 250-acre National Historic Landmark site, or its affiliated community gardens. A portfolio of at least 20 prints, from the submitted body of work, will be presented to the NYBG's LuEsther T. Mertz Library at the end of the term to become part of the Larry Lederman Fellowship Collection.

"Gardens and cultivated landscapes are deserving of new photographic attention," Larry Lederman said. "This fellowship is my encouragement of that attention and to help landscape photographers realize their vision."

The current Lederman Fellow is writer and photographer Benjamin Swett, whose books combining photographs and text include *Route 22* and *New York City of Trees*, which won the New York City Book Award for Photography. His essay collection *The Picture Not Taken* will be published by *The New York Review of Books* in fall 2024. Recent essays have appeared in *Agni*, *Arnoldia*, *Salmagundi*, *Orion*, *Prism International*, and *Fiction* magazines. He is the author and photographer of guidebooks to the Hudson Valley and to New York City's great trees. He collaborated with singer/songwriter Heather Woods Broderick to produce the book/CD of tree photographs and songs *Home Winds*. A writer and photographer for the New York City Parks Department for thirteen years, Swett founded the Parks in Print program, which produced books, brochures, maps, and guides for New York City's lesser-known parks. He currently teaches writing at City College in Manhattan and is expedition photographer for the Notion Archaeological Project in Turkey. His photographs are in private, corporate, and public collections, including the Museum of the City of New York.

The inaugural Lederman Fellow in 2023 was Ngoc Minh Ngo, a New York-based photographer whose work explores the intrinsic beauty of plants and nature. She is the author and photographer of *Bringing Nature Home*, *In Bloom*, and *Eden Revisited*. Her images have been published in international publications such as *The World of Interiors*, *Architectural Digest*, and *T Magazine*. She has also exhibited her work at the Musée Yves Saint Laurent in Marrakesh. Her book *New York Green: Discovering the City's Most Treasured Parks and Gardens* (Artisan, June 2023) featured beautifully photographed and heavily researched profiles of parks and gardens across New York City's five boroughs, from corner lots bursting with native plantings along the West Side Highway to a tiny community garden that serves as an essential stormwater management park in Gowanus, to nature preserves along Rockaway's waterfront and a sprawling old-growth forest here at NYBG.

Larry Lederman has been photographing landscapes for the past 20 years. His work has been exhibited in the Arthur and Janet Ross Gallery at NYBG and numerous other venues.

He is the author of the upcoming *Gardening with Nature at The New York Botanical Garden* (May 2025), and of *Du Pont Gardens of the Brandywine Valley*, *Garden Portraits: Experiences of Natural Beauty*, *Magnificent Trees of The New York Botanical Garden*, and *Rockefeller Family Gardens: An American Legacy*, all published by Monacelli Press. He is also the principal photographer of *The New York Botanical Garden* (Abrams), *Interior Landmarks: Treasures of New York* by Judith Gura and Kate Wood (Monacelli Press), and *Frederic Church's Olana on the Hudson: Art, Landscape, Architecture*, edited by Julia B. Rosenbaum and Karen Zubowski (Rizzoli New York).

Larry Lederman Photography Fellowship Application Requirements

In addition to a biography and resume, applicants are required to submit the following via the [application portal](#):

- **Artist Statement**—(up to 200 words), a concise overview of the applicant’s photography practice. The statement should provide a brief introduction to the photographer’s themes and methods.
- **Preliminary Proposal**—(up to 300 words), a concise statement of the applicant’s proposed approach and anticipated coverage of the gardens and landscape.
- **Work Samples**—(10 digital images; 2000 pixels+ with descriptions), representing the applicant’s artistic work created within the last five years.
- **Bio/Resume**

A nomination and advisory committee appointed by NYBG will assess applications. The committee will consider the appreciation for natural beauty that the applicants’ proposals will inspire. The committee will be comprised of Todd Forrest, NYBG’s Arthur Ross Vice President for Horticulture and Living Collections; Rhonda Evans, Director of NYBG’s LuEsther T. Mertz Library; Lucas Mertehikian, Director of NYBG’s Humanities Institute; Jay A. Levenson, Director of the International Program at the Museum of Modern Art; Bryan Whitney, faculty member of the International Center of Photography; and photographer John Maggiotto.

For more information about the Larry Lederman Photography Fellowship, please email the NYBG Humanities Institute at humanities@nybg.org. To read more about the Fellowship and to access the application portal, please visit <https://www.nybg.org/learn/humanities-institute/research-opportunities/the-larry-lederman-photography-fellowship>.

About The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has been a connective hub among people, plants, and the shared planet since 1891. For more than 130 years, NYBG has been rooted in the cultural fabric of New York City, in the heart of the Bronx, its greenest borough. NYBG has invited millions of visitors to make the Garden a part of their lives, exploring the joy, beauty, and respite of nature. NYBG's 250 acres are home to renowned exhibitions, immersive botanical experiences, art and music, and events with some of the most influential figures in plant and fungal science, horticulture, and the humanities. NYBG is also a steward of globally significant research collections, from the LuEsther T. Mertz Library collection to the plant and fungal specimens in the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium, the largest such collection in the Western Hemisphere.

The plant people of NYBG—dedicated horticulturists, enthusiastic educators, and scientific adventurers—are committed to helping nature thrive so that humanity can thrive. They believe in their ability to make things better, teaching tens of thousands of kids and families each year about the importance of safeguarding the environment and healthy eating. Expert scientists work across the city, the nation, and the globe to document the plants and fungi of the world—and find actionable, nature-based solutions to the planet's dual climate and biodiversity crises. With eyes always looking forward, they train the next generation of botanists, gardeners, landscape designers, and environmental stewards, ensuring a green future for all. At NYBG, it's nature—or nowhere.

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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.

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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