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The New York Botanical Garden Selects WEISS/MANFREDI as Lead Architect for Redesign of its Museum Complex, Mosholu Entrance & Welcome Center

Bronx, NY—The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) has selected the renowned firm of WEISS/MANFREDI Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism as the lead architect for the Garden's planned redesign of its Museum Complex and Mosholu Entrance & Welcome Center. These two transformational projects, located in close proximity to each other, in one of the most utilized areas of NYBG's National Historic Landmark site, will create a more seamless visitor experience that inspires the public through the beauty and wonder of plants, in reimagined ways.

"The New York Botanical Garden is thrilled to collaborate with WEISS/MANFREDI as the lead architect on these exciting, once-in-a-generation projects," said **Jennifer Bernstein, Chief Executive Officer and The William C. Steere Sr. President of the New York Botanical Garden**. "These new spaces will add an entirely new dimension to the experience of visiting NYBG and will enable us to teach more people of all ages about the amazing world of plants. From the very beginning of this process, we understood that we needed a visionary architecture firm to guide their redesign. WEISS/MANFREDI's work reflects a deep respect for the natural environment, which aligns beautifully with NYBG's mission. Plants are the foundation of life on Earth—essential for both people and the planet to thrive—and we are confident that the firm's vision will vividly bring this concept to life for Garden visitors."

"We are deeply honored to work with the New York Botanical Garden on this transformative project," said **Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi, Design Partners at WEISS/MANFREDI**. "It is a rare and meaningful opportunity to reimagine the Garden as both a vibrant community hub and a world-class museum—where nature and architecture converge to connect with its history, welcome the Bronx community and beyond, and celebrate the beauty of this extraordinary institution."

WEISS/MANFREDI will work with NYBG to transform the internal space of the Mertz Building—the heart of the Museum Complex—to function as a truly interactive plant science museum and learning space for visitors and an inspiring workspace for NYBG employees. The redesigned Museum Complex will include new modern event and exhibition spaces, and a new Education Center that will house NYBG's popular educational programs and courses. With this project, WEISS/MANFREDI and NYBG will fulfill the original 1899 vision for the Museum Complex, as the thriving research home of the world-renowned NYBG

Science team and a dynamic public space for all to explore the rich and complex world of plants and fungi.

NYBG's Museum Complex includes the LuEsther T. Mertz Library and the William and Lynda Steere Herbarium. The Mertz Library is the largest archive of botanical literature in the Western Hemisphere, containing more than 11 centuries of knowledge in botany, horticulture, and landscape design. The Steere Herbarium, among the largest in the world, houses nearly eight million plant specimens used by international plant scientists, notably including historic specimens collected by Charles Darwin in the Galapagos, Captain Cook on his voyages, Alexander von Humboldt in Cuba, and George Washington Carver. The redesign will allow NYBG to better display and share its collections of literature, art, vast scientific resources, and important but little-known artifacts, significantly expanding their reach.

NYBG's Mosholu Entrance currently welcomes nearly half of the Garden's more than one million annual visitors. The new Mosholu Entrance & Welcome Center will orient and inform the public as they set out on their NYBG journey. It will feature a reimagined and redesigned Mosholu Entrance, with a dedicated pedestrian entry for those arriving on foot and public transportation, making for a smoother and more accessible experience for Garden visitors.

With its redesigned Museum Complex and Welcome Center, and other projects through the Garden's ongoing Comprehensive Master Plan, NYBG boldly enters the next 135 years of its history, as the premier hub for plant enthusiasts and scholars, an inspiring destination for visitors from around the globe, and a proud community anchor in the Bronx.

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.

About WEISS/MANFREDI

WEISS/MANFREDI Architecture/Landscape/Urbanism is a multidisciplinary design practice based in New York City. Founded by Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi, the firm is known for the dynamic integration of architecture, art, infrastructure, and landscape design. The firm is well known for the Seattle Art Museum's celebrated Olympic Sculpture Park, the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden Visitor Center and Overlook, and Hunter's Point South Waterfront Park. Current projects include the United States Embassy in New Delhi, India, the La Brea Tar Pits and museum in Los Angeles, the Tampa Museum of Art expansion, and Lincoln Center's new outdoor theater in New York City. Most recently, the firm won the international competition for the addition and renovation to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Missouri, which attracted submissions from over 180 firms from thirty countries on six continents.

Marion Weiss and Michael Manfredi are recipients of the 2024 Louis I. Kahn Award in Architecture, the 2020 Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture, the Cooper Hewitt National Design Award for Architecture, the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Architecture, and the Architectural League of New York's Emerging Voices Award. The firm has also been honored with the New York AIA Gold Medal and the Tau Sigma Delta Gold Medal, awarded to one individual or firm in the world each year. The firm's projects have been featured in exhibitions at the Venice Architectural Biennale, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), the São Paulo Biennale of International Architecture and Design, the Shanghai Biennale, the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, the National Building Museum, Harvard University, the Landscape Architecture Biennale in Barcelona, the Design Centre in Essen, Germany, and the Guggenheim Museum. Weiss and Manfredi's work is in the permanent collection of MoMA, the Seattle Art Museum, the Library of Congress, and the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum. Five monographs on the firm's work have been released; the most recent, *Drifting Symmetries: Projects, Provocations, and Other Enduring Models*, was published by Park Books in Winter 2025.

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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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