

**NYBG**

# **IMPACT REPORT**

July 2023–June 2024







The Rock Garden was named the 2024 recipient of the Frank Cabot Public Garden Award, given every two years by the North American Rock Garden Society to a public rock garden "that excels in furthering the purpose of the North American Rock Garden Society in promoting the construction and design of rock gardens; the cultivation, conservation, and knowledge of rock garden plants and their geographical distribution; and the public outreach through plant exploration and introduction of new garden-worthy species."

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# Welcome from the CEO and President



Dear Friends,

Following approval of the *Branching Out* Strategic and Comprehensive Master Plans by the Board of Trustees in the fall of 2023, the New York Botanical Garden is committed to greater community engagement; expanded, global plant research and conservation efforts; and an ever more green, accessible, and beautiful Garden.

Here at NYBG, we are training the next generation of plant scientists; teaching children and families about plants, gardening, and the benefits of healthful eating; caring for New York's only freshwater river—the Bronx River—through a new stewardship program; and helping to make our borough more verdant through an expanded Bronx Green-Up program. Our scientific research is reaching new heights through national and international collaborations.

In the following pages, we recount these programs and more. Our community—which includes staff and supporters—is at the core of everything we do. Thank you for being part of NYBG and for helping to enable all that we do.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Bernstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Bernstein  
CEO & The William C. Steere Sr. President



# Message from the Board Chair



Dear Friends,

NYBG was established more than 130 years ago—the vision of two distinguished plant scientists. Since then it has grown and changed in significant ways. NYBG is an urban oasis, filled with natural beauty and stunning landmark buildings, providing a place of repose and sociability for visitors. With unrivaled educational and public programs, the Garden has also become an important community hub and anchor in the Bronx. And, NYBG has grown into an important nexus for global plant science research. We firmly believe in nature-based solutions and are putting plants at the center to address the challenges of our day, including climate change and biodiversity loss. Our impact is deep and far-reaching.

As Chair of the Board of Trustees, I speak for all my fellow Trustees in saying how proud we are to be engaged in this momentous period in our institution's history. The *Branching Out* Strategic and Comprehensive Master Plans, recently approved and now underway, signal a substantial long-term investment in the future of this historic institution.

Our work could not move forward without your support and involvement. Generations of gardeners, garden visitors, plant enthusiasts, community leaders, and donors have encouraged and supported NYBG. As we embark on this new era at the Garden, I am tremendously grateful for your support and partnership. Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Barclay Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

J. Barclay Collins  
Chair, NYBG Board of Trustees

# PLANT SCIENCE

In fiscal year 2024, NYBG Science implemented a comprehensive reorganization of the department, and developed a strategic outline for the future of plant science at NYBG. This vision is embedded within our institutional mission and dovetails seamlessly with our overarching efforts in plant education and community engagement. Through this process we began to synthesize and evaluate the strengths and expertise of our staff—a robust team of 140 full-time faculty, post-doctoral researchers, graduate students, interns, and technical staff—with the unique role of our historic institution in the cultural and botanical zeitgeist of the 21st century.



# By the Numbers

36

New plant species  
discovered

81

Active research  
projects

152

Publications

93

Collaborations

86

Countries of co-authors

79

Countries of active projects  
and collaborations

168

Citations

8

Field trips: Ethiopia,  
Lebanon, Mexico, Morocco,  
Vanuatu, New Caledonia,  
and the United States

# Scientific Collaborations



Evelyn Beaury,  
Invasive Plant  
Global Change Ecology



Ana María Bedoya,  
Systematics & Evolution  
Extreme Botany



Aleca Borsuk,  
Plant Ecophysiology  
Bioengineering



Jianjun Jin,  
Computational Biology  
Bioinformatics

In April 2024, we announced five new scientists who will join NYBG's world-class plant research staff, adding a diverse range of expertise to advance the work of NYBG Science to find actionable, nature-based solutions to Earth's dual climate and biodiversity crises. Among the research specialties of the new scientists are invasive plant and global change ecology, the evolutionary biology of aquatic plants, plant structure and function, computational biology, and plant evolutionary development.



Cecilia Zumajo,  
Genomics, Evolution  
& Development

“I am thrilled to share the exciting news about the expansion of our NYBG Science staff. These talented young scientists bring new areas of expertise to our team. Their NYBG contributions will play a vital role, along with the rest of the team, in shaping the future of NYBG Science and furthering our impact on environmental action.”

Mauricio Diazgranados, Ph.D.  
Chief Science Officer and Dean of NYBG Science





# Center for Biodiversity & Evolution



The Center for Biodiversity & Evolution will focus on understanding and preserving biological diversity and evolution through fieldwork, specimen-based research, and cutting-edge technology. By reconstructing evolutionary history and developing tools like remote sensing and DNA analysis, we aim to conserve ecosystems and predict future challenges posed by climate change.

In FY24, Dr. Fabian Michelangeli, Associate Curator of Tropical Botany and Director of the Center for Biodiversity & Evolution, continued to develop his research on the Melastomataceae —the eighth largest family of flowering plants on the planet, with more than 5,600 species. Funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), this expansive project is a collaboration between NYBG and the University of Florida. Together they will explore why this family is so diverse by using genomic data to build an evolutionary tree for approximately 3,000 species from the family.

# 200

Specimens collected in the Departments (States) of Pasco, Piura, Cajamarca, and Amazonas, including two new records for Peru and three potential new species

Conservation and restoration are key components of what we do at the Garden. Our scientists aim to promote ecological democracy and foster environmental governance, collaborating with key stakeholders to envision a healthier relationship between humans and the natural world.

In FY24, Dr. Robert Naczi, Arthur J. Cronquist Curator of North American Botany, traveled throughout the Northeast to continue his work studying and documenting vascular plants of the Northeastern United States. His research focuses on studying vascular plant species that thrive primarily in intertidal habitats, those areas that fall between low and high tides, and that are native to the region.

A veteran NYBG scientist, Dr. Naczi is the lead contributor of the *New Manual of Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*, an ongoing project that includes new content for about 5,300 species, amounting to 25% of the total botanical diversity of North America north of Mexico.

As of late 2023, 93 chapters have been published, most constituting family treatments in their entirety. When complete, the *New Manual* will be indispensable to all those interested in North America's rich botanical resources, including students, conservationists, wildlife managers, educators, and gardeners.



# 5,300

Species chronicled in  
the *New Manual of  
Vascular Plants of  
Northeastern United States  
and Adjacent Canada*



# Center for Plants, People, and Culture

The Center for Plants, People, and Culture utilizes its expertise in biological and cultural diversity, traditional ecological knowledge and sustainable practices to address global challenges in food security, health, and environmental conservation as well as helping to improve livelihoods. Through our scientists' work around the world, we explore and adapt historical practices into innovative approaches that promote food security, preserve agricultural diversity, and support sustainable resource management.

In FY24, Dr. Gregory M. Plunkett, Senior Curator, and Dr. Michael Balick, Vice President for Botanical Science and Director of the Center, continued work on the *Plants and People of Vanuatu Program*, working in partnership with local communities to implement conservation of Vanuatu's only currently known critically endangered tree species, *Carpoxyton macrospermum*. This program supported the establishment of 6 protected sites, germinated seeds of this rare and endangered species, and helped reestablish its native populations in the protected areas.

In addition, the program worked with local communities to develop "*Kastom Forest Konsevasen*"—a new approach to conservation in the Pacific that relies on traditional governance and emphasizes local control of forest management. In Vanuatu, this resulted in the establishment of conservation sites on 4 islands and included the documentation of biocultural diversity at each site. In Pentecost and Vanua Lava, kastom stories, Indigenous names, and uses of plants and animals (especially birds, bats, reptiles, and some insects) commenced, and collections of plants were created to begin assembling checklists of the species at each site.

# 6,200

*Carpoxyton macrospermum*  
seeds germinated

# 2,588

Saplings planted



Jean-Pascal Wahe (left) with local villagers Simeon Noar and his wife Judith Noar, in front of part of the *Metroxylon* palm nursery.

# Our Global Collections

NYBG Science is rooted in our scientific collections, among the most prolific in the world, that serve as core resources to not only our own endeavors but the scientific community at large. In fiscal year 2024, The William and Lynda Steere Herbarium and LuEsther T. Mertz Library had a busy year. In addition to new acquisitions and conservation work, the Library and Herbarium staff opened their doors to a flurry of new visitors—onsite and online.

More than ever, guests were able to engage with our scientific collections in new and exciting ways. Library staff activated several rare pieces and collections that complemented our annual exhibitions, *Wonderland: Curious Nature* and *The Orchid Show*, while over 12,260 guests visited the Library last year and accessed nearly 5,000 records in our catalog. At the Herbarium, our digital database continues to grow and now holds 4.7 million specimens. On average, more than 13,000 users access this digital resource each month.



# 655,585

Plant information FAQ views



# 157,437

Specimens were digitized and added to the C.V. Starr Virtual Herbarium

# 6,443

Specimens loaned around the world

# 336

Citations in scientific publications



Exhibitions at NYBG included many rarely seen plants from the glasshouse collections, displaying a wide diversity of orchids, oddities like gnarled ant plants (*Myrmecodia*), cultivating mushrooms, and even *Victoria cruziana* in the palm dome reflecting pool for the first time.



# ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

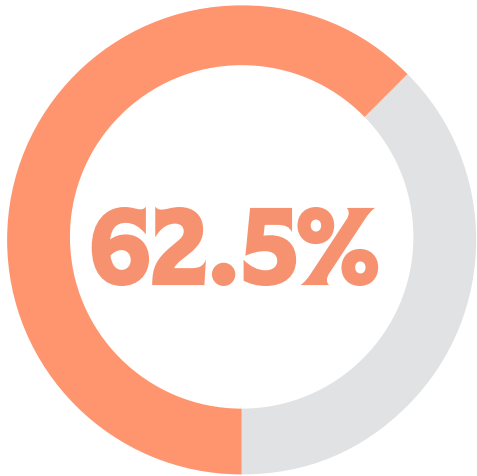
NYBG's educational programs are constantly evolving and our renowned plant scientists and staff are at the center of it all, serving as champions of the local community and our unique place in the heart of the Bronx.

In FY24, we welcomed thousands of young learners and emerging professionals through the Urban Advantage and Professional Learning programs, and set the stage for global gatherings, fostering a vibrant and dynamic community committed to creating actionable solutions for the world at large. Together we are training new botanists each year, committed to preserving plant life and educating the next generation of environmental stewards.





## By the Numbers



Students in programs were from Bronx schools



Public and charter school visitors categorized as Title 1 or schools with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students ( U. S. Department of Education).

# 301,712

Total visitors received across Children's Education Programs

# 1,250

Students participated in the 2023-24 school year through our School Partner Program

# 60

Classrooms from ten local Title 1 public schools participated in four garden workshops

# 21

Graduate students participated in research projects

# Training New Botanists



## Urban Advantage

After a collaborative revision of the scope of the Urban Advantage program at NYBG, our staff implemented new strategies that reflected new priorities in phenomena-based learning and classroom discourse. The new goals reflect a five-year progression for middle school science teachers in the program, which supported approximately **873 middle school teachers and their 87,400 students in FY24.**

In addition, we created a new model of professional learning for a group of 60 early childhood providers associated with the local community-based organization Fordham Bedford Community Services. The group had never participated in offsite professional learning, and required Spanish language translation as well as a staggered schedule to accommodate all providers in a single day.

# 87,400

Students in FY24

## Professional Learning

At NYBG, we're investing in community educators to bridge the gap in early plant science pedagogy and foster an engaged new generation of future environmental stewards. In FY24, our Professional Learning program grew, showing an increase in the number of teachers served by over 35% from the previous year.

# 87,000

Professional Learning participants







### Future Scientific Leaders

In FY24, we welcomed 45 graduate students, interns, and post-doctoral researchers to NYBG Science. In partnership with top New York universities, our scientists recruited scientific leaders of the future, representing five countries in a diversity of academic disciplines ranging from systematics and ethnobotany to forestry and genomics. Through mentorship and advising from our renowned experts, we produced three Ph.D. graduates, and matriculated five new doctoral students into the Science graduate program.

## Florida International University at NYBG

In April 2024, NYBG and Florida International University (FIU) announced a new partnership to create a graduate fellowship that focuses on research areas related to tropical plant diversity, conservation, and sustainability. This collaboration will allow FIU graduate students to come to NYBG and learn from our very own experts, and make contributions to exciting cross disciplinary research projects.

“Making the connection between FIU’s work and the work we do at NYBG was a privilege. I’m eager to see all the exciting work ahead by the next generation of plant scientists. ”

Bethany Millard, NYBG Trustee

# 45

Graduate students, interns, and post-doctoral researchers

# 18

Published papers in collaboration with Ph.D. students

# The Rockefeller Foundation

An interview with  
**John de la Parra, Ph.D.**  
Director, Food Initiative,  
The Rockefeller Foundation



## **What aspect of our work are you most excited or passionate about?**

NYBG's strong dedication to preserving biodiversity and integrating Indigenous knowledge with innovative research have been unique and exciting hallmarks of its work for decades. As an ethnobotanist myself, I've been passionate about these issues, and I can think of no better partner than NYBG.

## **What has motivated you to support our organization most recently?**

I'm particularly excited about NYBG's efforts to advance traditional regenerative agricultural practices. In particular, recent NYBG research has demonstrated exciting potential to improve yields, livelihoods, nutrition, and climate resilience, efforts which align closely with The Rockefeller Foundation's focus on supporting food systems that are nourishing, just, and regenerative.

## **What has been the most significant impact of our work over the years in your view?**

NYBG's integration of ethnobotany into its research has profoundly influenced our understanding of plant-human interactions and inspired generations of ethnobotanists. Notably, NYBG's work has highlighted the importance of traditional plant knowledge in modern medicine and conservation and emphasized the value of preserving indigenous plant knowledge for community health and biodiversity conservation for decades. These contributions have fostered sustainable practices that honor both tradition and innovation. Now, we are so lucky to have new scientific leadership taking this work into the future.

## **How have you seen our organization evolve since you first began supporting us?**

Over the years, I have seen a steady march from basic plant research and preservation to leading in applied science, particularly in linking traditional agricultural practices with scalable climate solutions that are sensitive to historic injustices. The emphasis on improving livelihoods and nutritional outcomes in vulnerable regions marks a significant and impactful evolution.

## **Have there been any highlights or memorable interactions during your partnership with us in the past year?**

This summer the NYBG staff graciously shared its space and time with a cohort of Indigenous grantees that The Rockefeller Foundation supports through The Pawanka Fund. They represented groups from Brazil, Nigeria, Kenya, Fiji, and Canada—all coming together in NYC for the first time. To have some of the world's top ethnobotanists and plant scientists—some of my heroes!—in dialogue with frontline community representatives to discuss the food system challenges they face, was a truly special event.

## **Where do you currently see the strongest alignment between NYBG and Rockefeller's values and goals?**

The strongest alignment lies in our shared commitment to leveraging both cutting-edge science and traditional knowledge to elevate solutions for nutrition security and climate resilience. NYBG's longstanding commitment to placing people at the center of plant research perfectly complements the type of systems thinking that The Rockefeller Foundation Food Team prioritizes.







# Setting the Stage

NYBG is at the nexus of plant science and environmental action. We leverage the power of our place in the Bronx, a unique urban oasis of nature and cultural diversity, to set the stage and highlight critical advancements in environmental and ecological science that will shape the future of how communities, near and far, can face the future together.

On April 23, 2024, NYBG hosted the Periodic Table of Food Initiative (PTFI) conference, bringing together scientists, food experts, and UN-FAO staff. Coinciding with Earth Day, the event highlighted the strides being made by scientists and organizations around the world to map the quality of food, and identify what we can learn from plant and agricultural research to combat food insecurity and improve human health.



Dr. Alex McAlvay presented at the PTFI conference and discussed his extensive work on ancient grains. In FY24, Alex traveled to Ethiopia, Georgia, and Morocco, where he and 10 graduate students carried out over 1,400 interviews on crop grain mixtures with local farmers as well as agricultural experiments comparing the mixtures to crop monocultures.

Michael Balick was honored to participate in the Periodic Table of Food Initiative launch on April 23, giving a talk on emergency/underutilized foods from the Pacific—including *Curculigo orchioides* from Vanuatu with its edible root.

# 1,400

Interviews conducted  
with local farmers



# Center for Conservation & Restoration Ecology

Conservation and restoration are key components of what we do at the Garden. Our scientists aim to promote ecological democracy and foster environmental governance, collaborating with key stakeholders to envision a healthier relationship between humans and the natural world.

NYBG's Brad Oberle, Ph.D. is an Associate Curator in the Center for Conservation and Restoration Ecology. His work focuses on forest ecology to understand the relationship between trees, climate change, and communities. In particular, Brad specializes in the study of urban forests, utilizing the Thain Family Forest as his primary research grounds. Brad's work explores the benefits of these ecosystems in mitigating challenges that are unique to life in densely populated, commercial centers like New York City. These benefits include the role of trees in keeping our environments cool (lowering temperatures), carbon sequestration, and as havens for biodiversity.

In FY24, Brad began the Urban Forests Project, a deep dive into how cities with healthy urban forests thrive, which can be the answer to mitigating global warming. Through partnerships across the Garden, with horticulturists and scientists alike, Brad has already made great strides in his research, with the ultimate aim to create an actionable guide for cities around the world.

“We live in one of the greatest cities on the planet. And here on the grounds in the New York Botanical Garden, we have one of the greatest urban forests in any city anywhere.”

Brad Oberle, Ph.D.  
Associate Curator in the Center for  
Conservation and Restoration Ecology



Brad's work in our backyard has far-reaching implications—the data he gains here serves broader research and conservation initiatives around the world. Big picture ideas like carbon offsetting, deforestation, and climate system tipping points are global issues that are central to environmental action and advocacy.



# BRONX- FORWARD

At NYBG, we are proud to employ more than 300 Bronx residents and partner with dozens of local businesses and artists through events, exhibitions, and programming each year. Our educational and community outreach programs seek to inspire residents from our surrounding neighborhoods to think critically about the role of plant science in our everyday lives, and grow closer to our shared planet. For us, this borough is our home, and NYBG is an ambassador for all that the Bronx and its people have to offer.





## By the Numbers

**6,636**

Participants in Bronx  
Green-Up programs

**18,877**

Plants distributed

**424**

Outreach activities

**62**

Internships at partner  
gardens and farms

**98**

Partner community  
gardens, urban farms,  
and school gardens

**5,890**

People picked up veggies  
and fruits from partner  
distribution points

# Bronx Green-Up

Bronx Green-Up was as dynamic as ever in FY24. New partnerships and more outreach activities throughout the year, plus an expansion in the scope of some of our programs, ensured that we reached and served more of our local Bronx community than ever.

In January 2024, Bronx Green-Up expanded focus on urban agriculture and community horticulture while incorporating compost education fully into Bronx Green-Up. This restructuring, along with the new additional Community Horticulturist position in April 2024, has allowed Bronx Green-Up to explore new opportunities and provide assistance to new sites this past spring.



On May 18, 2024, BGU coordinated a new Environmental Justice Tour with South Bronx Unite and Montefiore-Einstein, as part of the annual Bronx Food & Farm Tours Series. This tour encompassed a four-mile hybrid electric bus and bike tour of community gardens and industrial sites in the South Bronx, and more than 60 people participated in the tour.



On March 16, 2024, we held the annual Crazy for Composting event with more than 200 people attending from around the city. This event with speakers in Ross Hall, tabling, and afternoon workshops was particularly inspiring and significant, as it provided an opportunity for our longtime city partners, community composters, and advocates to come together.

On September 30, 2023, our annual fall Harvest Fair celebrated milestones: 35 Years of Bronx Green-Up and 10 Years of New Roots Community Farm, bringing together 135 community gardeners and longtime partners. Photo: Rabea Barakat





# Bronx Community Farms

At the end of the 2023 growing season, the Bronx Community Farm Hubs network harvested over **22,596 lbs. of food**, supplementing this harvest with over **64,990 lbs.** from associated local rural farms, and serving **5,890** people. Bronx Green-Up hosted and coordinated biweekly Zoom meetings, bringing the network regularly to share resources, ideas, troubleshoot, and support one another's projects.

Additionally, with the Edible Academy, BGU organized several events for the hub network including a special fall Community Dinner, a seed saving event where gardeners could harvest seeds from plants grown in the African American Garden, and a hands-on seed starting workshop in the early spring.



## Bronx Day at NYBG

On June 15, we celebrated Bronx Day, one of the Garden's signature events, reinforcing its status as a premier event for the community. This year, the event was elevated by including thematic artisans, vendors, and food trucks, which contributed to a more vibrant and engaging experience. Guests congregated at the Stone Mill, which facilitated better access to Edible Academy programming and the African American Garden at the Barnsley Beds.

## New Staff Feature:

### Jason Bonet Community Horticulturist Urban Agriculturist

In April 2024, we welcomed Community Horticulturist/Urban Agriculturist Jason Bonet to the Bronx Green-Up team. Jason cultivated his love for nature at the High School for Environmental Studies in Manhattan and at the SUNY College for Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse.

Jason also brings a wealth of experience leading educational and community engagement programs at the community garden at the Kingsbridge Heights Community Center in the Bronx, the floating urban farm at Groundworks Hudson Valley, and through programs with Latino Outdoors.

Jason jumped straight into our spring programming, including assisting the Bronx River Community Garden with a new native plant garden, starting a new garden with a new community center in the Belmont neighborhood, and helping organize the 20th Anniversary Native Plant Giveaway with Butterfly Project NYC.



# POWER OF PLACE

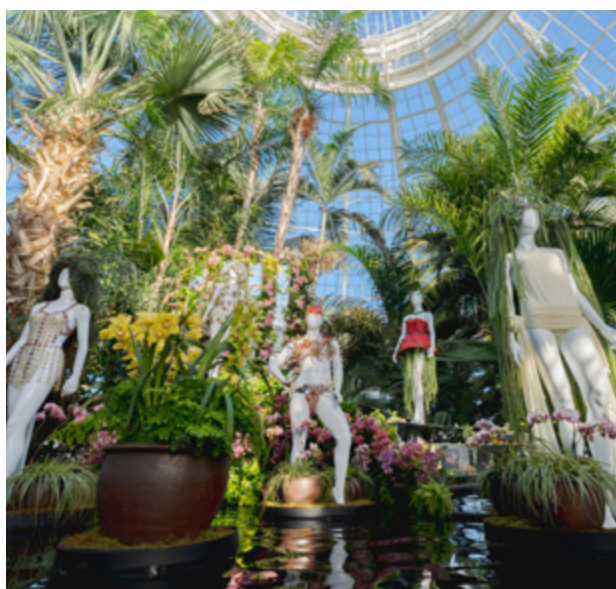
Each year, we welcome a million guests to the Garden. In FY24, the stats spoke for themselves, showing that the true strength of NYBG lies within our landscape and the people who come to the Garden year-round to enjoy all that we have to offer. Our exhibitions and events are monumental moments in time and place that showcase the beauty of plants and community.





# The Orchid Show: Florals in Fashion

*The Orchid Show* continued to be a mid-season juggernaut for the Garden —welcoming 264,000 visitors to NYBG between February 17–April 22, 2024. This year’s show brought the catwalk to the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory in a fashion-inspired celebration of all things orchids, and featured the bold designs of New York’s rising stars Collina Strada by Hillary Taymour, Dauphinette by Olivia Cheng, and FLWR PSTL by Kristen Alpaugh. Their inspired looks created dramatic, picture-perfect floral displays under the palm dome and inspired visitors to take their floral fashions to the next level.



## Orchid Dinner

On February 22, 2024, NYBG hosted one of the most enchanting events of the winter season, The Orchid Dinner at The Plaza Hotel. Guests celebrated the Garden’s fashion-forward *Orchid Show: Florals in Fashion*, and raised critical funding for NYBG’s global plant research and conservation initiatives.





# Wonderland: Curious Nature

On view from May 18–October 27, 2024, the Garden’s summer exhibition was inspired by *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*. The exhibition featured otherworldly gardens, mind-bending contemporary artworks, and gallery exhibitions filled with wonderfully weird marvels, inviting guests to see the Garden through Alice’s playful and curious eyes.



## Conservatory Ball

On June 6, 2024, the Garden celebrated our annual signature fête in celebration of our summer exhibition, *Wonderland: Curious Nature*. More than 460 guests flocked to the Garden, raising essential funds for the Garden’s renowned horticultural and education programs.



Collections Highlight: Fern Cohen Collection of children’s books—444 books were surveyed and underwent conservation at the LuEsther T. Mertz Library. Some were used as part of the *Wonderland* exhibition.



# Holiday Train Show®

From November 18, 2023, through January 15, 2024, the *Holiday Train Show*® featured a momentous new surprise for visitors—a sweeping mountainscape on the Conservatory Lawn. The outdoor train display welcomed visitors as they entered the enchanting Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, where guests of all ages enjoyed 1.5 miles of indoor model train track and nearly 200 landmark replicas—each delightfully re-created from natural materials such as leaves, seeds, twigs, bark, acorns, and cinnamon sticks.



## Holiday Train Show Family Party

On November 30, 2023, we celebrated NYC's favorite holiday tradition with a festive family celebration for all ages. Proceeds from this event support NYBG's renowned Children's Education programs.





# African American Garden

In its third iteration at the Garden, *Diaspora: Same Boat Different Stops* was part of a series of horticultural exhibitions that explored and celebrated Black culture through the lens of plants. Curated by Dr. Jessica B. Harris, America's leading expert on African foodways and NYBG Trustee, this year's presentation engaged with the botanical legacies of the African Diaspora, including plants that are food staples, remedies, and sources of inspiration to Black culture in the United States, the Caribbean, and Central and South America.



“The phrase ‘Same Boat Different Stops’ speaks to the links shared by all people of African descent in the American hemisphere. Over our more than 500 years as inhabitants of this hemisphere, we have, with our cultures, labor, and agricultural know-how, transformed it. This garden acknowledges our presence here, in all of its forms.”

Jessica B. Harris, Ph.D., NYBG Trustee and Curator of the African American Garden at NYBG, 2022-2024









# PLANT PEOPLE

It was a big year for plant people at NYBG. From the 52,000+ Members and Patrons who supported our programs to the hundreds of dedicated volunteers and staff who helped make the work we do happen daily—we're all connected by our love of plants and a commitment to ensuring that the Garden thrives.

Plus, our new podcast helped amplify the voices of plant enthusiasts, experts, and friends to a new global audience.



## Plant People: An award-winning new podcast from NYBG

In May 2024, we launched NYBG's very own podcast, *Plant People*, in collaboration with PRX Productions. Hosted by Jennifer Bernstein, CEO & The William C. Steere Sr. President, we spoke with plant scientists and curators, historians and naturalists, and explored how nature and humanity intersect—and what we can do as plant people to ensure we thrive together for generations to come. Since the podcast's launch, it's been recognized by the Signal Awards as one of the Best New Podcasts of 2024, and Season 2 is on the horizon.

# 93,147

Downloads of the first season





“As Bronx residents, the Garden has always been the backyard that we are unable to have. Our children have loved learning about nature and experienced this oasis since their very first weeks of life. We support initiatives to improve public transportation and disincentive fossil fuel usage. We hope that the Garden will remain a pillar to support local, national and international initiatives for both the future of our children and our community.”

Andrea Kung-Barthel and Ryan Barthel, Patrons



“Our family is so proud to support NYBG. We always look forward to watching the seasons unfold at the Garden. Our daughters cherish traditions like the *Holiday Train Show* each winter, the *Orchid Show* in the spring, taking peony pictures in early summer, and watching giant pumpkins get carved in the fall. NYBG is a special and important place for visitors of all ages, and there is always something new and exciting to discover.”

Kristina and Steve Weller, Patrons

“Volunteering at the Garden is often the highlight of my week! Sharing my passion for botany and gardening and connecting with other plant people is a great joy.”

NYBG Volunteer

# HOW TO MAKE AN IMPACT

At NYBG, we rely on the generosity of our visitors, members, and donors to safeguard our historic 250-acre landmark institution. With your help, we are propelling plant research and education forward, and creating actionable, everyday solutions that will make a lasting impact to the health and biodiversity of the natural world. Thank you for your support.



**Make Your Impact.**  
Click to support the Annual Fund now.





## Give to the Annual Fund

The Annual Fund provides essential support for all of NYBG's programs in horticulture, education, and plant research and conservation. Unrestricted support to this fund allows our staff to maintain and develop initiatives with confidence, and respond to the diverse needs of the communities we serve.

## Grow a Living Legacy

By including a bequest to NYBG in your estate plans, you can help support the Garden's endowment and safeguard our historic landscape for generations to come. Supporters with a bequest commitment to NYBG are recognized as members of the Perennial Society, and enjoy special privileges and invitations.



## Become a Garden Patron

Garden Patrons enjoy the best of NYBG year-round, including concierge service, exclusive exhibition preview parties, behind-the-scenes access, private golf cart tours, and more. Join the Garden Patrons program with a tax-deductible annual contribution of \$1,500 or more, which supports the full breadth of NYBG's mission-driven programs.

## Join the Young Garden Circle

Plant and art enthusiasts between the ages of 21 and 40 are invited to join the Young Garden Circle with an annual gift of \$500 or more. Young Garden Circle members enjoy free admission year-round; special opportunities to gather as a group, like behind-the-scenes Sip & Stroll tours; and invitations to many Garden Patron events.

## Attend a Special Event

NYBG hosts a multitude of special events each season. From the *Holiday Train Show*® Family Party featuring festive, kid-friendly activities; to the floral-forward The Orchid Dinner in Manhattan; to the carefully curated Collectors' Plant Sale and Silent Auction; to the annual Conservatory Ball celebrating our summer exhibition—there is something for everyone to enjoy. Proceeds support the Garden and our programs in horticulture, science, and education.

For more information on ways to give, contact Isaac W. K. Thweatt at [ithweatt@nybg.org](mailto:ithweatt@nybg.org) or 718.817.8775

Learn more at [nybg.org/support](http://nybg.org/support)





The Native Plant Garden successfully completed its eleventh year of being open to the public. Approximately 2,210 additional herbaceous perennials, trees and shrubs were planted, including 15 new taxa added to the garden.



# FINANCIALS

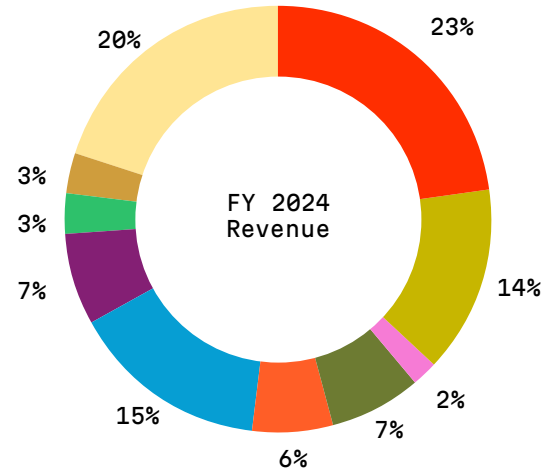
Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, which ended on June 30, 2024, marked a year of investment in key areas of the Garden while managing expenses prudently to break even.

## Revenue & Expenses

- FY24 revenue totaled \$92.8 million, similar to last year. Earned income (ticket sales, membership, parking, and food service) represented our largest revenue source at 28%. Private fundraising exceeded its budgeted target by \$1.1 million.
- Government support from the City and State of New York declined by 1% as a share of overall revenues, to 14% in FY24. Similar to other NYC Cultural institutions, NYBG experienced cuts to its NYC operating support due to City budget pressures; fortunately, by fiscal year end the majority was restored.
- FY23 expenses totaled \$92.8 million, equal to the prior year. Our investment in different areas of the Garden remained fairly consistent over last year, with the exception of Science that grew to represent 12% of our overall expense spending (up from 10% the prior year) as we grow research and invest in this area of the Garden.

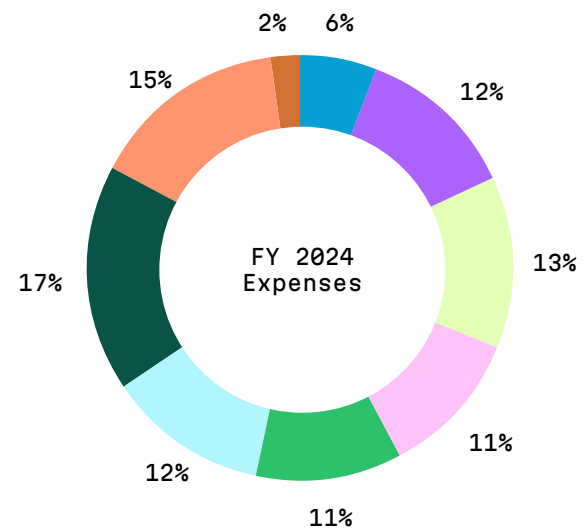
## Assets & Liabilities

Assets totaled \$667 million and liabilities were \$54 million, equating to \$613 million of net assets (up 2% over the prior year). 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.



23%	Private Fundraising
20%	Endowment Income
15%	Admissions & Parking
14%	NY State and City
07%	Membership
07%	Reserves
06%	Retail & Food
03%	Tuition & Fees
03%	Misc. & Other
02%	Federal Grants

100%



17%	Maintenance, Security, Operations & Energy
15%	Administration
13%	Horticulture
12%	Earned Income Activities
12%	Science
11%	Exhibitions
11%	Education
06%	Fundraising
02%	Special Events

99%

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\*deceased





In 2024, the Horticulture team completed landscape architect Laurie Olin's multiyear plan to restore our historic New York City landmark, the John J. Hoffee Tulip Tree Allée.





# NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN