Annual Report
QUEENS COUNTY FARM MUSEUM
2017-18 VOLUME XLIII
Operated by Colonial Farmhouse Restoration Society of Bellerose, Inc.
The mission of the Farm Museum is to preserve, restore and interpret the site. Through educational programs, events and museum services we educate the public as to the significance of Queens County’s agricultural and horticultural past and heighten awareness of present-day practices.
A MESSAGE FROM JAMES A. TRENT, BOARD PRESIDENT

Big Plans for the Future

Two important milestones need to be touched on in this report. First, our goal of building a new, major multi-function facility is making progress. We have engaged an architect to draw up preliminary plans to verify the cost estimate and square footage of the new building. We have also begun to receive funding for the project. We requested $25 million from the City of New York, and as of the end of the fiscal year, were given word that $5.5 million has been appropriated. The new building, which will house an orientation center, library, climate-controlled archive space, offices, gift shop, plant shop, demonstration kitchen, café, restrooms and more, will be built in three phases so that we can get the project underway without waiting for all the funding to be in place which will take years.

We are pleased that this project has received interest and support from the highest levels of the City. From the Mayor’s office, we received $2 million, and from the Speaker of the City Council, another $1.5 million. We have also begun to receive funding for the project. We requested $25 million from the City through funding from the City of New York, and as of the end of the fiscal year, were given word that $5.5 million has been appropriated. The new building, which will house an orientation center, library, climate-controlled archive space, offices, gift shop, plant shop, demonstration kitchen, café, restrooms and more, will be built in three phases so that we can get the project underway without waiting for all the funding to be in place which will take years.

As I always do in closing, I offer thanks to so many others that help make ours a great museological experience—our staff, board of directors members, elected officials, and supportive public. Support also comes from the City through funding from the Department of Cultural Affairs, and through support services of the Department of Parks and its adjunct, the Historic House Trust. Thanks to all!

Most of our staff has never known any other boss, and the growth, prosperity, excellent reputation, and smooth functioning of the Farm Museum is directly related to Amy’s flawless administration. We wish her well in her next phase of life, but the Board of Directors faces the daunting task of finding a new Executive Director who can continue to steer the Farm Museum with the same skill and devotion as Amy has brought to the job. We have a search committee hard at work on this critical assignment.

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A MESSAGE FROM AMY FISCHETTI-BONCARDO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Transition and Fond Memories

Dear Friends, June 30, 2018 brought a successful year to a close! Plans for restoration of our main barn are finalized, our beautifully restored historic greenhouses are back up and running, and agricultural crop varieties have been expanded. We are delighted to share a few highlights from our past year within the pages of our Annual Report. We hope you will enjoy!

Plans for the restoration of the main barn are complete, and construction will begin in the spring of 2019. The completed project will bring this important 1930’s farm structure back to its original appearance while providing a much needed multi-function space for farm programs.

After a masterful restoration, the graceful, historic greenhouses at the farm are filled with activity. The structures not only house plants — a small public seating area has been added to provide a unique view from the inside-out and we will be programming various art classes within the space.

Our Department of Agriculture has greatly expanded crop varieties to include produce from around the world. Our wonderfully diverse audience has been thrilled to find vegetables they’ve missed being grown at Queens Farm.

After 30 rewarding years at the Farm Museum, I am retiring. I thank everyone for their contributions to the success of Queens County Farm Museum during my tenure. It has been a privilege to be a part of the Farm Museum and a memory I will always cherish.

I am delighted to welcome our new Executive Director, Jennifer Walden Weprin. The Farm Museum’s mission and goals for the future are clear and shared by our exceptional Board of Directors, our dedicated staff, and our new Executive Director. This is a multifaceted organization that is challenging to lead, we know that Jennifer has the experience and passion needed to build on our decades of success and bring about exciting new growth. We are all enthusiastic about the opportunities this transition brings and wish her every success.

Heartfelt thanks to my Board of Directors, staff, volunteers, members, and public and private donors. We are grateful to the NYC Department of Parks, NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Historic House Trust of NYC, the NYS Assembly and NYC City Council and especially, Councilman Barry Grodenchik, for their unwavering support.
Harvest Season is the High Season

Fall is the key time of year that New York City teachers seek out the “school-to-farm” experience. Field trips at our site brings students outdoors and introduce them first-hand to farming practices right here in the Big Apple. School program visitors on the farm in October and November 2017 reached 83,636. Over the entire fiscal year 133,028 people visited for a school program.

“"I wanted to let you know we had a wonderful time at the farm yesterday. Brittany was amazing in leading us on our tour. She quickly developed a rapport with all of the girls and made the trip both fun and educational. In fact, she is one of the best guides we’ve ever had.”

— TEACHER, CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART

Teaching STEM Concepts Through the Lens of Farming

2017 was the inaugural year of the Queens Farm Summer STEMsation program sponsored by the Department of Education. Over one week, twenty-three middle school campers studied what it takes to be a farmer — learning about food systems, crop seasonality, season extension and our sustainable practices. They worked together to empty compost tumblers and weed in our growing fields, learning how these important aspects help to maintain an organic farm. Using math and elements of design, campers created visual maps through a week-long project, using Queens Farm as a blueprint for designing their own self-sustaining family farm. They selected which crops were needed to feed their family for a year, and calculated the amount of land required to produce that yield. Parents joined on the last day of camp to tour the farm with their children and learn about the farm projects they created.

133,028 people visited the farm for a school program this year

New Programs for Families

For the winter and spring recess we offered a new public program, Family Farm Crafts! We opened up our Barn complex to visitors during their school breaks and offered food- and nature-themed arts & craft activities, storytelling, and a farmy photo booth. Kids of all ages made paint prints using veggies as brushes and stamps, collages with seeds and seed catalogues, and zinnias and monsters out of pine cones.

Variety in the Children’s Garden

Visitors in our Children’s Garden were able to harvest their own carrots, peas, green beans, strawberries, sungold tomatoes, and even discover new flavors in the Mexican sour gherkins and chocolate daisies we cultivated. Even picky eaters can be adventurous at this chance to snack from the source. Students from groups like Teen Thursdays contributed to the garden, spending time learning to weed, lay compost, and mulch. Our STEM campers had a farm-to-fork opportunity, harvesting and drying mint from the garden to make tea for their parents at the conclusion of camp.

PARTNERSHIPS AND UNIQUE GROUP VISITS

1. Foreign Agricultural Ministries visited from South Korea and China
2. Urban Ranger Corps volunteered at Spring Fest and emptied compost tumblers
3. Host site for GrowNYC’s Stop ‘N’ Swap and Tool Giveaway events
4. Final stop on Queens Compost Bike Tour
5. John Bowne High School worked with Education Department in preparation for their annual Agricultural competition
6. Insider’s Tours (8 in total, local and international group visits)
“I just wanted to extend a very very enthusiastic thank you from Abrons Arts Camp for the incredible tours you gave our campers today. Your tour guides were all lovely and flexible and really wonderful to spend the day with. I appreciate everything you did to make our visit so enjoyable!”

– Instructor, Abrons Art Camp

Adult Education

We have been growing our programming for adults over the past few years. Our classes are purposely small, so instructors can build relationships with participants and more deeply explore a wide range of farm-based topics. Our new additions this year featured our own livestock, wellness and the culinary arts.

NEW CLASSES ADDED:
Weaving with Queens Farm Fibers
Intro to Wellness
Cheesemaking 101

SOLD OUT CLASSES INCLUDED:
Cheesemaking 101
Preserving the Harvest
Exploring Colonial Flavors
Wreathmaking Workshop

14 different Adult Education classes held this year
434 adults signed up to take a class at the farm
50% or more attended a class for the first time

Summer Internship Program

This was our third summer with Studio in A School’s Bloomberg Summer Internship program. Over their six-week internship, Jonathan and Kelly learned about farm-based education and museum interpretation. They shadowed tours and researched facts about agriculture, which helped them to design their own lesson teaching students about the meaning of food labels. They learned about our site by surveying visitors, were introduced to woodworking skills with our caretaker, and designed an exhibit of 19th century farming tools in our Education Building.

A Bright New Look: Farmstand Gets a Facelift

This season on the farm, we invested in a brand new tent structure for our Farmstand... and we went big! With more customers shopping at our Farmstand and the variety of offerings increasing, we needed to find a larger space to accommodate this growth. This addition maximizes our space and allows for our produce to be on display and accessible to our customers in a more comfortable way. The tent’s drop-down sides keep our farmers and customers cooler in the shade on hot summer days and dry on the countless rainy days we have had throughout the season. It is wide enough to cover our farmers, our produce, and allow our customers to continue to shop without getting wet! This larger space also allows us to display an informational chalkboard which may highlight our newest items, seasonal recipes, and fun facts about the farm.

“Agriculture

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“Love the Farmstand. Such fresh produce. I especially love the butter leaf lettuce!”

– Annmarie Dowd, Farmstand Customer

150 different varieties of vegetables, flowers and herbs grown in our fields this year

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Weekly Volunteer Days

Volunteer Days are such a special part of the farm! We have so many dedicated volunteers who have been coming to chip in at Queens Farm for years and show up every week, in all kinds of weather. The volunteer program also attracts those who are new and eager to learn and lend a hand thanks to our partnership with New York Cares. Our program is truly diverse: we get people ages 18–80, working and retired, from Queens to Wisconsin, with years of experience to days of experience. What sets them apart from one another is what makes them unique, and having them all come together at Queens Farm is what makes it special.

Junior Farmer Volunteer Day

This June, we opened up our volunteer days to a younger set of farmers and gardeners. Four 10-13 year-olds and three 14-17 year-olds joined us in the fields for our first ever Junior Farmer Volunteer Day. The day was a success with both our staff and the youth having a wonderful time. After an ice breaker the group dug in, removing old broccoli rabe plants from the field and weeding a bed of our spring onions. The day ended with reflections on what the volunteers learned and a gift of custom Junior Farmer button pins for their hard work. It was so exciting to invite the next generation onto the farm and educate them about farming and land stewardship. Having such a successful trial run, we hope to expand these days in the future.

Cormo Lambs

In May of this year the farm welcomed three beautiful Cormo ewe lambs, just in time for our Spring Fest sheep shearing! The lambs were born on an upstate New York fiber farm in January named Buckwheat Bridge and were selected for their diverse colors of wool. Developed in the early 1960’s in Tasmania, the Cormo is a cross of Corriedale and Superfine Saxon Merino. This breed is prized for its fine fiber, abundant wool, and calm demeanor. Lil’ T is a pure Cormo ewe with a bright white fleece and a sweet face. The other two ewes, Amy and Fran, are a Cormo-Merino blend, which results in beautifully colored wool that is highly sought after by spinners. The small flock are outfitted in Sheep Suits, which protect their fine fiber coats from burrs, mud, straw, etc, which will produce a much more marketable fleece upon shearing next May. We look forward their fiber available in the gift shop next year. Please stop by to say hello to the girls!

Eggcellent Year

What an eggcellent season this has been for Queens Farm! We sold over 2,800 dozen eggs thanks to two great flocks and some wonderful additions to their usual pelleted feed. We also partnered with Queens-based Bridge and Tunnel Brewery to accept their spent brewers grain, and formed a relationship with local store What-A-Bagel to collect their day-old bagels each morning. The hens are also feasting on all gleaned vegetables that we do not sell at our market. We’ve been able to reduce our pellet amounts, increase the quality of our eggs, and eliminate thousands of pounds of food from landfills.

Volunteers at a Glance

150 different individual volunteers helped us in our growing fields this season.

Volunteers helped us harvest 600 pints of Sungold cherry tomatoes to sell at our Farmstand.

The average time that volunteers spent working on the farm was 3.5 hours in a day.
On the last weekend of July, dramatic new sights and sounds blend into the agrarian landscape of the Farm. Teepees dot the orchard, people of all ages wearing intricately detailed regalia walk the grounds, the sounds of drumming and chanting fill the air — it’s Powwow weekend! For the past 39 years, the Queens County Farm Museum and the Thunderbird American Indians have joined together to provide New York City’s largest and longest-running Powwow. Participants from as far away as Central America travel to New York City to be involved in this unique event. Visitors from throughout the tri-state area and beyond make their way to the farm to witness amazing music and dance that has been passed down generations. For many, attending our Powwow has become an annual summer tradition.

Pumpkins and the corn maze are sure signs of fall at Queens Farm. Since 2003 the farm is teeming with visitors on October weekends. They are snapping the perfect autumn picture, selecting the best pumpkin, and getting lost in the maze! For the past 14 years, our corporate partner, Con Edison, has supported our efforts in bringing New York City’s only corn maze to life each season. Since that first season, 283,000 people have taken on the corn maze challenge!
### UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Revenue</td>
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<td><strong>Net Change in Unrestricted Net Assets</strong></td>
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### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

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### NET ASSETS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR

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<td>Net Assets at the End of the Year</td>
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Audited financial report available at www.queensfarm.org or by request.