

BOSCOBEL

HOUSE AND GARDENS



ANNUAL REPORT  
2018





# Your Home on The Hudson

Boscobel House and Gardens is one of America's most beautiful historic sites with its celebrated collection of early New York design. From mid-April through December, Boscobel offers tours of the Historic House Museum and access to 68 acres of grounds with an iconic view of the Hudson River, lush gardens, and a woodland trail. Open Wednesday through Monday, Boscobel also produces lively community events, innovative exhibitions, and engaging programs and activities for families. Children are always welcome.

## MISSION

Boscobel House and Gardens preserves and shares the extraordinary beauty and historical significance of its Neoclassical mansion, renowned collection of early 19th-century decorative arts, and iconic Hudson River landscape.

Boscobel embodies the Hudson Valley's ongoing, dynamic exchange between design, history, and nature; and engages growing, diverse audiences in that conversation.

## VISION

Boscobel inspires and informs visitors—from children and their families to subject specialists—through active and meaningful experiences of design, history, and nature.







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\*Deceased \*\*Former





## Dear Friends and Supporters,

2018 was a year of reflection at Boscobel House and Gardens. While offering 1,500+ distinct opportunities for the community to engage with our iconic landscape, Historic House Museum, and extraordinary collection, we spent the year reviewing how to make these resources even more accessible, relevant, and safeguarded for future generations.

We launched an interactive Landscape and Landmarks tour, new Open House nights for Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival ticketholders, and piloted a Spanish/English tour for schoolchildren. We partnered in new ways with the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra, Garrison Art Center, Manitou School, and many other neighboring organizations. We expanded the local offerings in our Design Shop, redesigned our website, revamped our membership program, and introduced pay-what-you-wish pricing to welcome every possible visitor. Behind the scenes, trustees and staff developed a Strategic Plan through 2021 and worked with a grant-funded consultant to ensure that our organizational structure can meet the plan's ambitious goals.

At the same time, Boscobel also acquired three important objects for our permanent collection:

- a pair of girandoles by Henry Banks, London
- a square grand piano by Gibson and Davis, New York
- a dressing table made by New York's greatest cabinetmaker, Duncan Phyfe

Each rose to the level of beauty, craftsmanship, and authenticity expected of Boscobel. Quite coincidentally, they all have mirrors that constantly respond to movement and changes in light. This unifying feature marks a year of united effort to reflect upon and magnify the best of Boscobel, and ensure that everyone may see themselves in this special place. Please visit soon and often, and know that it is thanks to supporters like you that Boscobel can be *everyone's* home on the Hudson.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Carlquist  
*Executive Director*





# Public Programs

From mid-April through December, Boscobel offers tours of the Historic House Museum and access to 68 acres of grounds with our iconic view of the Hudson River, lush gardens, and the Frances S. Reese Woodland Trail of Discovery. Open Wednesday through Monday, Boscobel also produces lively, mission-centric community events and engaging programs and activities for families. Children are always welcome.

Historic House Museum visitation **increased 33% over 2017**

**25,000**  
people participated  
in Boscobel programs  
in 2018.

Boscobel's renewed focus  
on mission-centric  
programming was embraced  
by our audience;  
membership rose by  
nearly 30%.

*"The Boscobel tour is the best we have ever had.  
Such dedication to authenticity and  
such a remarkable collection."*

LEE AULT CARTER





# Exhibition

*Campaign Furniture: The March of Portable Design* featured 18th- and 19th-century examples of collapsible chairs, tables, and beds that were once considered essential equipment for military officers, Hudson River School artists, and well-heeled tourists. The exhibition was inspired by Boscobel's renowned collection of New York furniture, the rich military and artistic history of the Hudson River Valley, and the tens of thousands of picnickers who bring their own stylish equipment to Boscobel every summer.

**7,300** visitors experienced the exhibition over 10 weeks.

*Campaign Furniture* received prominent media coverage in outlets including:

- *ArtDaily*
- *Maine Antique Digest*
- *The Magazine Antiques*
- *New York Cottages and Gardens*
- *The Putnam County News and Recorder*
- *The Highlands Current*

Boscobel attracted top speakers to exhibition-related talks and panel discussions. 2018 speakers included:

- Marlana Cook, *West Point Museum Curator*
- Asher Israelow, *Celebrated Furniture Designer*
- Thomas Jayne, *Acclaimed Interior Designer and Historian*
- Elizabeth Kornhauser, *Curator of American Paintings and Sculpture, The American Wing, The Metropolitan Museum of Art*
- Karen Lemmey, *Curator of Sculpture, Smithsonian American Art Museum*
- James McElhinney, *Artist*



THE GUEST BOOK OVERFLOWED WITH COMMENTS:

*“We loved this exhibition that demonstrated a part of social history and design that we hadn’t explored.”*

*“Fascinating insight into the inventiveness of a bygone era.”*

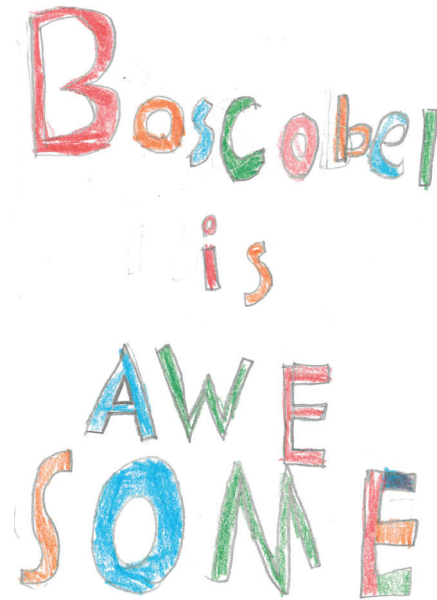
*“Great exhibits, super innovative designs and very well organized and guided tours made it a very enjoyable experience.”*



# School Programs

Boscobel's school programs offer unique, meaningful, and sensory-filled experiences that use primary sources to help students explore not only history, but also design and nature.

**Our field trip attendance numbers show an increase of 80% since 2016.**



*“Our students, who are English language learners, do not typically have opportunities to see places such as Boscobel which are grand and beautiful. To bring an aspect of a bygone era to life through this setting was invaluable and memorable for them.”*

EILEEN BERASI

K-5 TEACHER AT SPRINGHURST ELEMENTARY  
DOBBS FERRY, NY



# Group Visits

Boscobel's expert guides craft engaging tours that bring design, history, and nature to life.

**50%** increase in Group Tour attendance since 2016

**2,500+** guests came to Boscobel on **110** Group Tours in 2018

## Boscobel hosted groups from institutions including:

Vanderbilt University • Sotheby's Institute of Art • Parsons School of Design  
Thayer Leadership Development at USMA West Point • Bard College • The Detroit Institute of Arts  
The Garden Club of America • The American Museum in Britain • The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Photo by Erik Christian Photography

*"We have been booking group visits to Boscobel for more than 10 years. The feedback we get is always outstanding. The house and decorative arts within are among the finest in the Hudson Valley. Equally impressive are the grounds and gardens with a Hudson River view that gives West Point's 'Million Dollar View' a run for its money."*

JOHN SCHIENEMAN | TOUR DIRECTOR, WEST POINT TOURS

## PARTNER PROGRAMS

*Boscobel is proud to partner with fellow nonprofits that protect and improve our local ecosystem, economy, and quality of life.*

*Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival and the Cold Spring Farmers' Market operate at Boscobel during much of the year. Our considerable investment in Boscobel's 68-acres of public gardens and grounds helped these community institutions thrive, and brought more than 57,000 additional visitors to Boscobel in 2018.*

*Boscobel also enjoys longstanding, symbiotic relationships with the Philipstown Garden Club, which lovingly tends Boscobel's Herb Garden, and with the Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary, which contributes expert staff to select Boscobel programs.*



# 2018 Programs Timeline

**Starlab**  
March 26



**Earth Day:  
Plant-A-Tree/Take-A-Tree**  
April 22



**Symphony Picnic**  
May 26



**Landscape and Landmarks Tours**  
21 Saturdays | June 9 – October 27



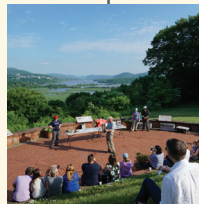
**Exhibition | Campaign Furniture:  
The March of Portable Design**  
August 25 – October 15



**Bring the Kids!**  
14 dates, 20 programs  
March 27 – December 28



**Design Lecture Series:  
Thomas Jayne**  
May 18



**Snapping Turtles!**  
June 2



**Ice Cream Social**  
June 30



**Rhyme Time by the Hudson**  
13 Fridays | June 6 – October 26

**Symposium | Continued Traditions:  
Painting and Sculpture  
in the Hudson River Valley**  
October 27



**Twilight Tours**  
7 Dates, 98 Tours  
November 24 – December 9



**Guided House Tours**  
Wednesday - Monday  
April 14 – December 31



**Military Reenactment Day**  
August 26



**Heritage Applefest**  
October 6



**Panel Discussion:  
The Enduring Appeal of  
Campaign Furniture**  
October 5



**Woodworking  
Demonstration Day**  
October 20



**Talk: Travels, Tools, and  
Techniques of 19th-century Artist  
Expeditions with James  
Lancel McElhinney**  
October 26



**A Christmas at Boscobel  
with the Putnam Chorale**  
Two performances  
December 15



**Gardens and Grounds Admission**  
Wednesday – Monday  
April 14 – December 31



# Get Involved

There are many ways you can contribute to Boscobel's outreach and community programs.

## MEMBERSHIP

In addition to receiving a host of insider benefits, members help keep community programs engaging and affordable for Boscobel's growing and increasingly diverse audience.

## DONATE

With your tax-deductible support, Boscobel can be everyone's home on the Hudson.

## VOLUNTEER

Join a diverse bunch of kind people who lend a hand to Boscobel one or many days a year.

## LEGACY GIVING

Designating Boscobel (Tax ID: 14-1458845) as a beneficiary of your estate costs nothing now, and helps ensure that the museum will remain a vibrant, relevant resource for many decades to come.

## CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

Your sponsorship brings recognition to your organization while doing good.

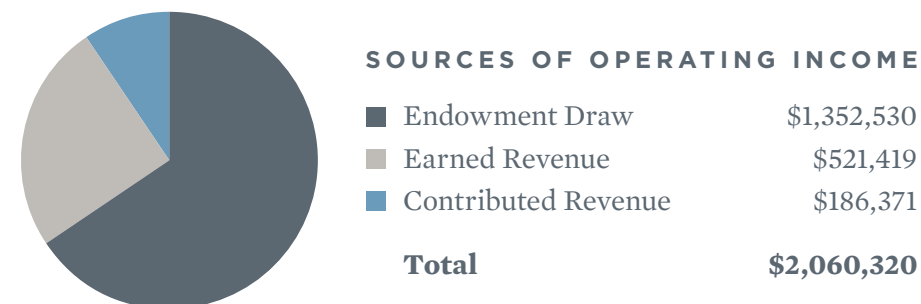
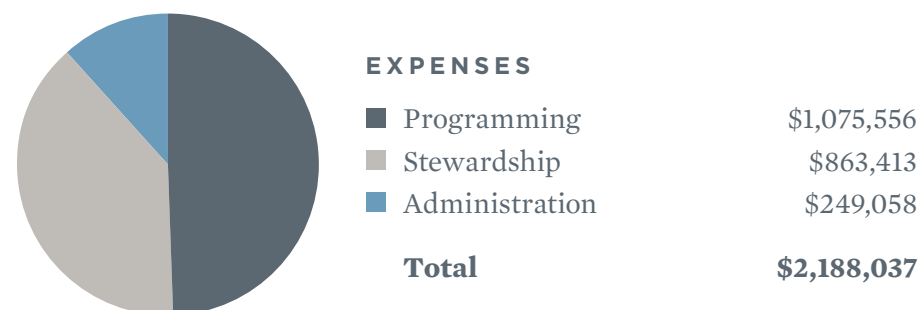
*For more information, please contact Dana Hammond at [dhammond@boscobel.org](mailto:dhammond@boscobel.org) or 845-265-3638 ext. 111.*

# Financial Highlights

*As of June 30, 2019*

Boscobel's Lila Acheson Wallace Endowment covers stewardship of its Historic House Museum, world renowned collection of early 19th-century decorative arts, and 112-acre site overlooking the Hudson River.

Support from earned and contributed income allows Boscobel to share these resources with the community.





# 2018 Supporters

Many thanks to the individuals and organizations whose generosity makes Boscobel's ever-growing programming and educational initiatives possible.

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