



# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

FLO GRIS  
FLORENCE GRISWOLD MUSEUM

Peter Steere

*Executive Director*

Dear friends,

Thank you for your continued support this past year. The success you read about in this report is due to your commitment to this institution. Our reliance on our Members has never gone unreciprocated.

Our exceptional staff, cherished volunteers, and devoted trustees worked to ensure that everyone has an inspired interaction with the Museum. I say *interaction* because these commitments could take many forms, including events onsite such as one of our exhibitions, programs, and special events, online, or at one of the outreach events our staff provides.

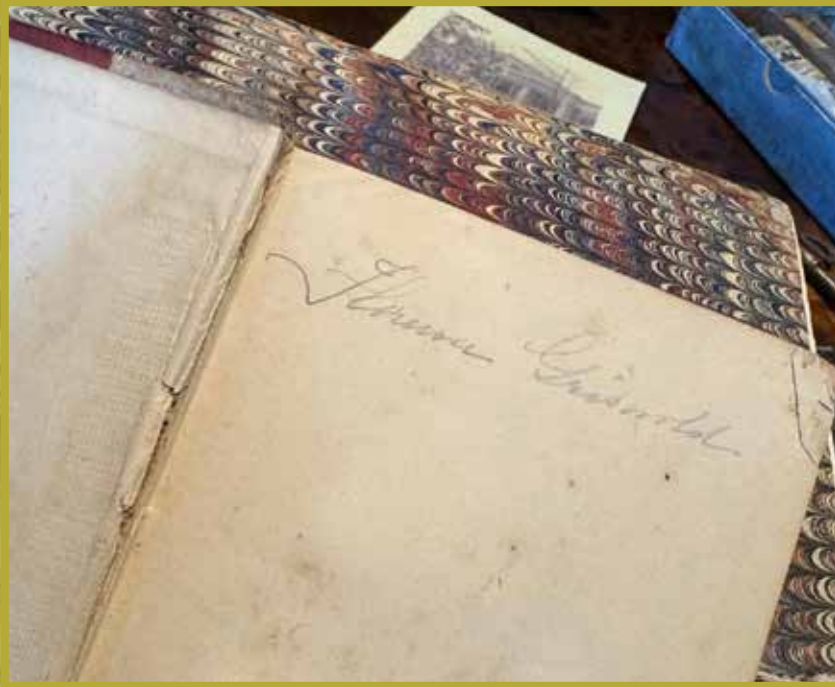
I am very proud that the Museum's reach is so broad and has such an impact on our expanding community.

As you know, while I was here for the whole of 2025, my role changed. I had been the Museum's director of administration prior to the executive director position opening unexpectedly. As I settled into my role as interim director, it became clear what an honor I had been given. To be named executive director in early 2026 is quite humbling. I promise there are more good things to come on my watch.

You will see in the pages of this report the impressive output the Museum delivers over the course of a year. This is particularly so given the modest size of the staff. Still, the quality and reach of our efforts would not be possible were it not also for the dedicated, hardworking volunteers and trustees that lend a hand at every turn.

With so much momentum and help from all of you, I look forward to presenting all the wonderful accomplishments of 2026.

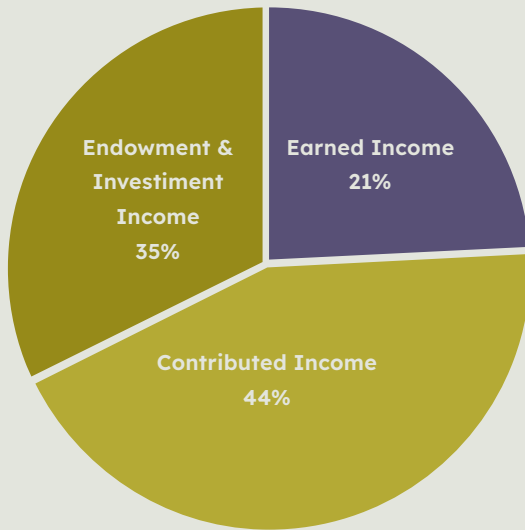




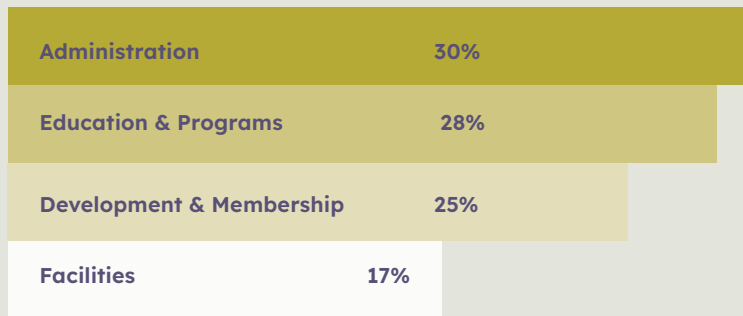
## Jonathan P. Peterson

Senior Accountant

### OPERATING REVENUE AND SUPPORT 2025



### OPERATING EXPENSES 2025



### ADJUSTED FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES



The Florence Griswold Museum’s fiscal year 2025 reflected both the challenges and opportunities of a dynamic operating environment. The Museum continued to advance its mission while investing in its people, programs, and facilities. Total operating revenue for the year was \$3.34 million, supported by a balanced mix of earned revenue (\$747,000), contributed revenue (\$1.58 million), and strategic endowment support (\$1.01 million). Earned income showed modest growth over the prior year driven by gains in rentals and program services, while contributed revenue softened as fundraising event and restricted contribution activity moderated following prior year highs.

Operating expenses totaled \$3.67 million, reflecting continued investment in staff, infrastructure, exhibitions, and visitor experience. Rising payroll and professional services costs were the primary drivers of year-over-year expense growth, consistent with broader labor and service cost increases across the nonprofit sector. As planned, the Museum relied less heavily on its endowment draw than in the previous year, reinforcing a long-term strategy focused on strengthening operating sustainability through earned income and philanthropy while preserving endowment resources for future generations.

In addition to operating activity, 2025 marked a year of meaningful progress in the Museum’s Capital Campaign. During the year, the Campaign raised \$2.19 million through a combination of individual gifts, foundation support, and investment income. As of December 31, 2025, the Campaign held \$4.7 million in cash and \$3.4 million in pledges receivable, reflecting strong donor commitment and continued momentum toward project goals. With additional pledges anticipated in 2026, the Campaign remains well positioned to support construction and related costs, supported by careful cash-flow planning and strategic use of resources.

The Finance Department continues its commitment to prudent stewardship, transparency, and long-term planning. This ensures that the Museum’s financial strength continues to support its mission, programs, and community well into the future.

These numbers are unaudited and may differ slightly from the Museum’s 990.

## EXPANDING THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION

Gifts, bequests, and purchases of significant objects are essential to the growth of the Museum's collection. All of the objects outlined here have added depth to the collection, enabling the institution to build on its commitment to fully portray the art and history of the region. The Museum is grateful for the generous gifts received this year and every year.

Please use this link to access the 2025 additions to the collection, archives, the and non-accessioned collection. Members have received a printed version in the mail.



### LOANS FROM THE COLLECTION

Office of the Lt. Governor, Hartford  
HSB, Harford  
Mark Twain House and Museum, Hartford  
Fairfield University Art Museum, Fairfield  
Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London  
Greenwich Historical Society, Cos Cob

### GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY COLLECTION

*American Art in the Newark Museum*,  
The Newark Museum, 1981. Gift of  
Charles T. Clark

*American Art: Selections from the Yale  
University Art Gallery*, Yale University  
Press, New Haven and London, 2023.  
Gift of Charles T. Clark

*Celebrating Philadelphia's Artistic Legacy:  
Selections from the Woodmere Art  
Museum Permanent Collection*, The  
Woodmere Art Museum, 2000.  
Gift of Charles T. Clark

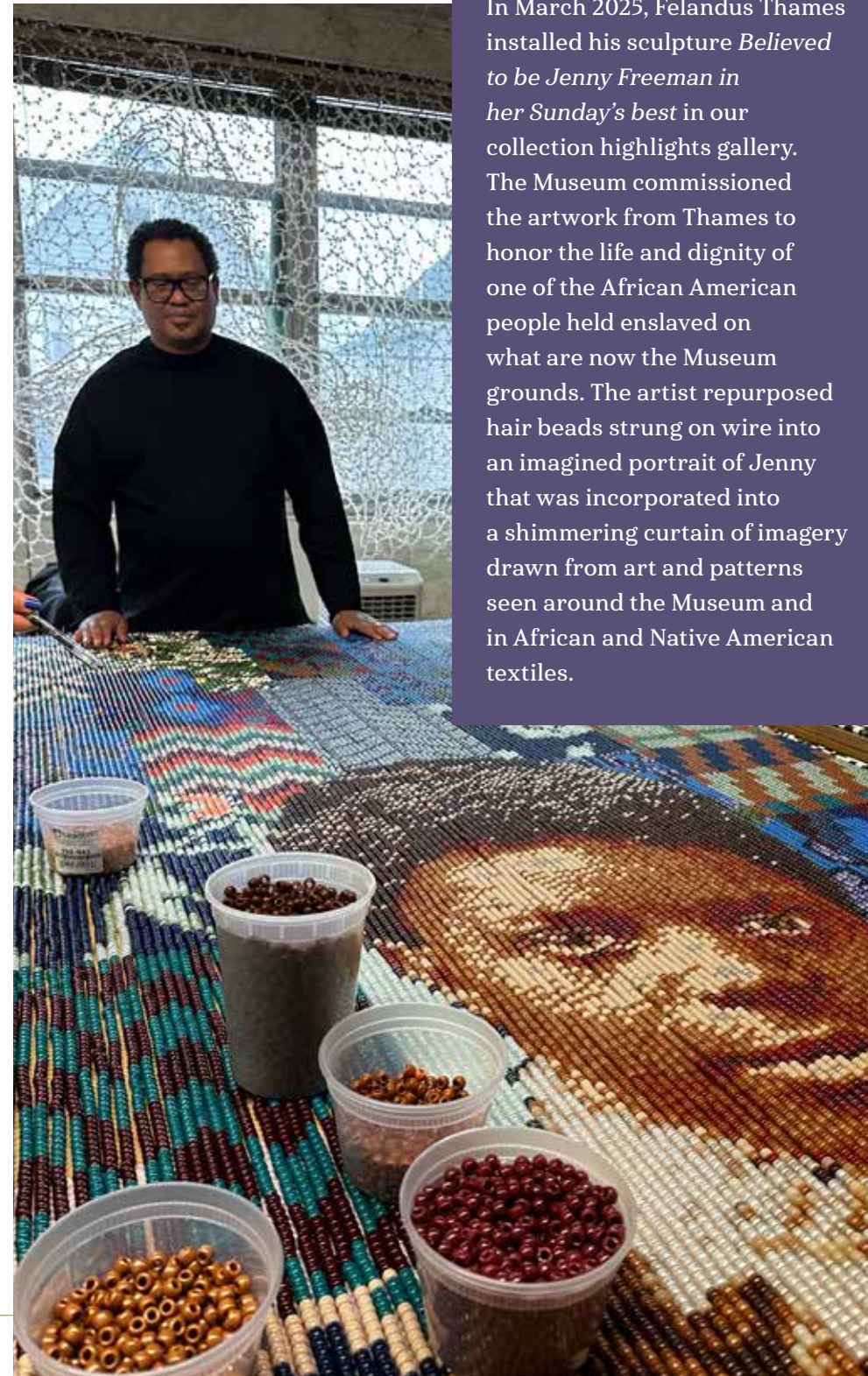
Reginald Clough, *The Black Hall Club-A  
History: How a First-Class Golf Course Got  
Where It Is Today*, Peregrine Press, 1988.  
Gift of Mary Ann Besier

*Eva Hesse: A Retrospective*, Yale University  
Press, 1992. Gift of Charles T. Clark

*A Gallery of American Samplers: The  
Theodore H. Kapnek Collection*,  
E. P. Dutton, New York Copyright 1978.  
Gift of Charles T. Clark

*In Nature's Ways: American Landscape  
Painting of the Late Nineteenth Century*,  
Norton Gallery of Art, 1987.  
Gift of Charles T. Clark

Jelle Zeilinga de Boer and John Wareham,  
*New Haven's Sentinels: The art and  
Science of East Rock and West Rock*,  
Wesleyan University Press, 2013. Gift of  
Charles T. Clark



In March 2025, Felandus Thames installed his sculpture *Believed to be Jenny Freeman in her Sunday's best* in our collection highlights gallery. The Museum commissioned the artwork from Thames to honor the life and dignity of one of the African American people held enslaved on what are now the Museum grounds. The artist repurposed hair beads strung on wire into an imagined portrait of Jenny that was incorporated into a shimmering curtain of imagery drawn from art and patterns seen around the Museum and in African and Native American textiles.



# Exhibition Turns History “Inside Out”

BY JENNIFER STETTLER PARSONS, PH.D., SENIOR CURATOR

Hopefully many of you were able to visit the Museum for the exhibitions on view September 27, 2025, through February 15, 2026, *Inside Out: Contexts for American Art* and *Fall into Impressionism*. For *Inside Out*, Curators Amy Kurtz Lansing and Jenny Parsons, along with Senior Director, Education and Visitor Engagement David D.J. Rau took a deep dive into five works of art from the Museum’s permanent collection. Their approach encouraged visitors to engage with the art on a personal, experiential level in order to more fully appreciate the work’s context and narratives.

How can museums provide context for artworks in ways that help visitors learn about history and culture holistically? A recent exhibition at the Florence Griswold Museum entitled *Inside Out: Contexts for American Art* experimented with different approaches to interpretation and learning by providing the visitor with multi-sensory opportunities to engage with the circumstances surrounding the creation of five works of art from the Museum’s collection: a schoolgirl’s sampler (1774, by Alice Mather), a plaster sculpture (1862, by John Rogers), a still life painting (1888, by Charles Ethan Porter), a watercolor portrait miniature on ivory (1914, by Lydia Longacre), and a tempera painting (1938, by Irving N. Leveton). Working in response to a range of identities, subjects, and social circumstances, the creators of these objects demonstrate how factors such as gender, race, and economy affected how context around particular works is preserved and remembered — or not.

The exhibition concept was inspired by the Museum’s own unique environment, where visitors immerse themselves in history and art by exploring the Griswold Boardinghouse and walking

through some of the same landscapes that the Lyme artists painted. The exhibition placed the five “focus objects” in conversation with supporting art, archives, and artmaking tools, in addition to interactive components that visitors could touch, read, watch and hear, arrange, and smell. Through these elements, we aimed to reveal ways in which each historical artist experienced their worlds, and to help today’s viewers consider how audiences in the past experienced similar works of art like the ones on display. Each section’s text panels offered information about who, what, when, and where each artwork was made, while color-coded tables nearby offered related family-friendly interactive activities for all ages.

Overall, the exhibition aimed to appeal to audiences from preschool to Ph.D. For example, the rich context surrounding Charles Ethan Porter’s *Strawberries* (1888, Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company) encouraged a multi-disciplinary engagement with the seemingly simple still life. Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Porter faced discrimination and adversity as a professional artist of mixed-race

heritage who was raised in poverty. Porter transcended the boundaries of his era in 1869 by becoming the first known person of color to be admitted to the prestigious National Academy of Design in New York. Wall texts posed questions and prompts such as: “What emotions come with being different? Imagine how it would feel to be the only person of your race in an entire school. With his limited resources, did Porter need to choose between buying art supplies, clothing, and food?” In this way, we also considered the role of empathy in understanding history. Paintings displayed in museums are often admired for technical achievement, but how often are visitors asked to consider the personal circumstances of the artist or to reflect on their individual challenges? This approach responds to the Museum’s recently revised mission, which “welcomes people of all ages and backgrounds to get up close and personal with the art of Connecticut.”

Several hands-on activities prompted viewers to contemplate Porter’s racial and economic circumstances in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Stickers instructing visitors to “please touch objects on this table”

invited them to handle a reproduced handwritten letter addressed to Porter by Mark Twain, one of his supporters and patrons. Twain gave the letter to Porter to carry to Paris and mail to sculptor Karl Gerhardt, who might be able to connect with colleagues and help him find affordable housing. A mural-sized photographic reproduction of Twain's Hartford dining room, with one of Porter's floral still lifes on display (as it is now, in the Mark Twain House and Museum) provided the visual Gilded Age context. Beside the photomural and letter, a box of cigars gave a sense of the aroma experienced in the dining room, as Twain famously smoked dozens a day. A toy garden set encouraged visitors to ponder the sources of produce and flowers for Porter's still lifes—perhaps he collected them from his mother's garden in Rockville. Labels asked audiences, "Do you think Porter ever ate anything off his studio table? Would you?" Another box offered additional reproductions of Porter's still lifes, landscapes, natural history studies, and figure drawings. Copies of an 1877 issue of the *Hartford Daily Times* revealed the period language used to describe Porter as "a colored man" with "an extraordinary

eye for color." Finally, a table with props gave visitors the opportunity to organize their own still life and share photographs on social media.

The exhibition was received well by professional colleagues and the public — both adults and children left contributions in the show's other sections, including their own drawings, sculptures, and embroidery samples. The well-worn objects on the interactive tables were a welcome sight as the show reached its midway point. As one visitor wrote in the gallery's guestbook, "We live in New Jersey and have been visiting the Griswold Museum for many years. The *Inside Out* exhibition ranks as the 'best' we have ever seen, as it selects only 5 works and then looks at each from various vantage points. Exceptionally well done!"

Interested in learning more about *Inside Out*? Check out the Museum's website for a virtual tour [FloGris.org/InsideOut](https://FloGris.org/InsideOut)



## CONNECTIONS

We are grateful for our relationships with the families of Lyme Art Colony artists and their friends. It's through these connections that we learn details about the artists' lives that we can share with researchers and our visitors.

### LYDIA LONGACRE

Siblings Bill and Greg Revill and Barb Lund reunited at the Museum to see art by their grandmother Breta Longacre and her sister Lydia Longacre during *Inside Out*. They, along with their mother, Breta's daughter Eleanor DelMar Revill, donated many of the pieces seen in the exhibition along with her children. The blue silk kimono behind them was worn by Breta in a miniature painting by Lydia that was on view in the galleries.



### IRVING N. LEVETON

In November 2025, late artist Irving N. Leveton's granddaughter Kellyn Leveton and daughter-in-law Maria Leveton visited *Inside Out* to see his painting *Millinery Shop* and to share examples of his art with the curators. The ladies brought a small painting that appears to be a study for the black-haired hat seller, shared notebooks from his studies at Yale, and held a video call in the galleries with the artist's daughter Charlotte so we could learn as much as possible from them about Irv and his art.



### LAWTON S. PARKER

Siblings Yuka Parker Vinagre and David Parker visited the Museum with family members and friends in October 2025 to share and study works by their grandfather, artist Lawton S. Parker. The family brought with them several paintings as well as the gold medal Parker received from the Paris Salon for his prize-winning canvas *La Paresse*. Here, Yuka and



David hold the medal alongside the paper "gold medal" certificate for painting from the Museum's collection, held by Curator Amy Kurtz Lansing. Following their visit, Yuka wrote, "David and I just kept talking about how much we learned about our grandfather that we had never known, and how fascinating it was for us. Thank you once again for all your expertise and hospitality!" The Parker family returned to the Museum in March 2026 to view *La Paresse* in the galleries—the first time they had seen it in decades.



### MATILDA BROWNE

By researching their family's history, cousins Hugh Barton and Susan Barton Young have helped the Museum piece together information about artist Matilda Browne, particularly the trip she and her sister Jessie made to Puerto Rico in 1912 with their friends the Hoisingtons (Hugh and Susan's ancestors). Here they look through Matilda Browne's album in the Museum's collection. Read more about the relationship between the Browne and Hoisington families

in an article from *The Journal*, written by the cousins last year. [Flogris.org/Journal2](https://www.flogris.org/Journal2)



## EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

### SCHOOLWIDE ART PROGRAMS

Emma Hart Willard School, Berlin  
Lyme Consolidated School, Lyme  
Mile Creek School, Old Lyme

### FLOGRIS ON THE GO OFFSITE ART PROGRAMS

Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford  
Connecticut College Arboretum, New London  
East Lyme Summer Youth Camp, Niantic  
Essex Elementary School, Essex \*  
Essex Meadows, Essex \*  
Groton Early Learning Center, Groton \*  
LiveWell Adult Community, Plantsville  
Mile Creek School Ace Program, Old Lyme  
The Friendship School, Waterford  
\*recurring program

### LIBRARY OUTREACH

Acton Public Library, Old Saybrook  
Canterbury Library, Canterbury  
Cromwell Public Library, Cromwell  
Janet Carlson Calvert Library, Franklin  
Plainfield Public Library, Plainfield  
Rathbun Free Memorial Library, East Haddam  
Saxton B. Free Library, Columbia  
Southington Library, Southington  
Trumbull Library, Trumbull  
Welles Turner Library, Glastonbury  
Wheeler Public Library, North Stonington  
Westerly Library, Westerly, RI  
Woodbury Public Library, Woodbury

### MARKETING OUTREACH

Connecticut Flower & Garden Show, Hartford  
The Big E, Springfield, MA

### SCHOOL FIELD TRIPS

A. Fowler Homeschoolers of CT  
A.W. Cox Elementary School, Guilford  
Calvin Leete Elementary, Guilford  
Charles Wright Elementary, Wethersfield  
Chester Elementary, Chester  
Center School, Old Lyme

Deep River Elementary, Deep River  
Emma Hart Willard, Berlin  
Groton Early Learning Center, Groton  
Grove School, Madison  
Haddam Killingworth High School, Haddam  
Harding High School, Bridgeport  
H.C. Wilcox Technical High School, Meriden  
Hubbard Elementary, Berlin  
Jack Jackter School, Colchester  
Kingswood Oxford School, West Hartford  
Lillie B. Haynes School, Niantic  
Mary E. Griswold School, Kensington  
Melissa Jones School, Guilford  
Mile Creek School, Old Lyme  
Norwich Free Academy, Norwich  
Norwich Technical School, Norwich  
Old Saybrook High School, Old Saybrook  
Oswegatchie Elementary School, Waterford  
Peck Place School, Orange  
Race Brook School, Orange  
Red Barn Pre-K, Clinton  
SARAH Tuxis, Madison  
The Country School, Madison  
The Williams School, New London  
Turkey Hill School, Orange  
The Unquowa School, Fairfield  
Voluntown Elementary School, Voluntown  
Wethersfield High School, Wethersfield  
Wheeler High School, North Stonington  
Wild and Free Homeschool, New London

### SELF-GUIDED SCHOOL GROUPS WEE FAERIE VILLAGE

Bergh Homeschool Group  
Bonzagni Homeschool Group  
CREC, Strive Program  
Cutillo Homeschool Group  
Deep River Elementary School  
Expresiones Cultural Center  
Girl Scout Troop 63034  
Guilford Center for Children  
Kingswood Oxford School  
Old Lyme Center School  
Seymour Homeschool Group  
Steward Outdoor Day School  
Voluntown Elementary School  
Wequonnoc Arts & Technology Magnet School  
Wesley Elementary School

### SCOUT PROGRAM

Girl Scouts of Ansonia  
Girl Scouts of Branford  
Girl Scouts of Clinton  
Girl Scouts of Guilford  
Girl Scouts of Meriden  
Girl Scouts of Old Saybrook  
Girl Scouts of Waterbury  
Girl Scouts of Wethersfield

### GROUP TOURS

356NE Porsche Club  
AAUW - Connecticut  
American Cruise Lines  
Ballard & Friends  
Branford Senior Center  
Choate Rosemary Hall  
Connecticut College, Museum Studies Students  
CT Historic Gardens  
CT Master Gardeners Association  
Encore of Avon  
Evergreen Woods Senior Living Community  
Friendship Tours  
Hill and Dale Garden Club  
Hines & Friends  
Historic New England  
Island People's Project  
JC Tours  
Kingswood Oxford School  
Middletown Senior Center  
Newly Retired Newington Women  
On With Life (OWL)  
Parkville Senior Center  
Roxbury Senior Center  
Southbridge Garden Club  
Temple Emanu-El  
The Overlook Charlton Self Guide  
Trinity College, Public Policy Students  
Trivella & Friends  
Trumbull Senior Center  
West Haven Senior Center Docent Guided Tour  
White Star Tours  
Whitney Center Life Plan Community  
Woodbury Senior Center  
Yale University, Koerner Center  
Yale University, School of Art



Programming for the exhibition *Their Kindred Earth* provided exploration into creativity and culture. For one event, gifted teacher and community leader Ed Johnetta Miller worked with participants including Senior Curator Jenny Parsons to explore the personal and complex themes of social justice, memory, and resilience through collage.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Museum staff prioritize collaborations with businesses, agencies, and other cultural organizations from next door to across the region.

Acorn Club	Lyme Consolidated School
Always Home	Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School
American Association of University Women, Lower Connecticut Valley	Lyme Public Hall & Local History Archives
American Cruise Line	Lymes' Youth Services Bureau
Avery-Copp House Museum	Lyman Allyn Art Museum
Cade Tompkins Projects	Mark Twain House & Museum
Childe Hassam Catalogue Raisonné Project	National Trust for Historic Presentation
Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT Foundation	Nautilus Architects
Collette Travel	New Britain Museum of American Art
Community Foundation of Eastern CT	New England Museum Association
Connecticut Art Trail	New Haven Museum
Connecticut College	Niantic Children's Museum
Connecticut Explored	Niantic Community Church
Connecticut's Historic Gardens	Office of the Lt. Governor
Connecticut League of Museums	Old Lyme Arts District
Connecticut Public	Old Lyme Children's Learning Center
Connecticut River Museum	Old Lyme-Phoebe Griffinn Noyes Library
CT Humanities	Old Lyme Senior Center
CT Visit (Connecticut Tourism Office)	Old Lyme Town Band
DBI Projects	Old Saybrook Rotary Club
Deep River Historical Society	Oudens Ello Architecture
Dominion Energy	Playhouse on Park
East Haddam Historical Society & Museum	Real Art Ways
Essex Meadows	RiseUP for Arts
Essex Preschool	Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center
Estuary Magazine	Smith College Club of Southeastern Connecticut
Eugene O'Neill Theater Center	St. Ann's Episcopal Church
First Congregational Church of Old Lyme	Stimson Landscape Architects
Gilead Community Services	The Country School
Gourmet Galley Greenwich Historical Society	The Estuary (Estuary Council of Seniors)
Hartford Stage	The Friendship School
HSB	The Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center
Historic Artists' Homes & Studios	The Last Green Valley
iCRV Radio	The Williams School
Jewish Federation of Southeastern Connecticut	Vista Life Innovations
Jon Schueler Foundation	Westerly Museum of American Impressionism
Juliet Long Elementary	Witness Stones Old Lyme
Lyme Academy of Fine Arts	WSHU Public Radio
Lyme Art Association	Yale Henry Koerner Center
	Yale School of Art



The Museum was chosen as Connecticut's pick for the Jan/Feb 2025 *Yankee Magazine's* article "The Great Indoors." In her beautifully-written article Courtney Hollands describes the historic dining room: "as I took in the wall panels painted by one-time guests Childe Hassam, Willard Metcalf, and William Chadwick and wandered the mansion's period-perfect rooms, I got a real sense of the lived experience of the painters and sculptors who found Miss Florence's home to be, as Hassam called it, a 'little excursion into Bohemia.'" Lovely photos by Connecticut-based Allegra Anderson Photography accompanied the article.

## BENEFIT AUCTION DONORS

Acer Gardens  
 Ms. Kathryn Anderson  
 Andrew Rubenoff: Design  
 Ann Lightfoot, Inc.  
 Art Emporium of Old Saybrook  
 Artisan Framing & Gallery  
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 Ballek's Garden Center  
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 Stephen and Susan Bates  
 Bella Estetica Spa  
 Best Buds Flower Farm  
 Blithewold Manor, Gardens &  
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 Wil and Deetsie Bradford  
 Broken Arrow Nursery  
 The Bushnell Center for the  
 Performing Arts  
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 Christine Darnell Gardens  
 Cynthia and Lawrence Clark  
 Kay Knight Clarke  
 Cold Spring Farm  
 Connecticut Renaissance Faire  
 Connecticut River Museum  
 Connecticut Sun  
 Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo  
 Jeffrey and Betsey Cooley  
 Cortland Park  
 CT Audubon Society/RTP Estuary  
 Center  
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 Rob Debartolo and Mair Miller  
 Deep River Jewelry Design

Robert and Mary Ann Del Russo  
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 Hartford Stage  
 Hartford Yard Goats  
 Hawthorne Hotel  
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 Old Sturbridge Village  
 Outdoor Lifestyles  
 Christopher Owens  
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 Penny Lane Pub  
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 Frank Racette  
 John and Dyanne Rafal  
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 Sylvina Rollins  
 Ruth Hendel Productions  
 Salem Witch Museum  
 Salon Pure  
 Saybrook Point Resort & Marina  
 Seabird Cruises  
 Serena Bates Sculpture  
 Shannon's Fine Art Auctioneers  
 Sift Bake Shop  
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 Tate's Property Care, LLC  
 The Glass House  
 The Kate  
 TheaterWorks Hartford  
 Tidewater Lighting & Design  
 Skyren and Alan Todd  
 Tree Trails Adventures  
 Linda Turner  
 Two Sisters Design  
 United Theatre  
 Kathleen Valliere  
 Van Wilgen's Garden Center  
 Caitlin Vickers and Necia Stevens  
 Wounded Eagle Farm  
 Yale Athletics  
 Yale Center for British Art  
 Wounded Eagle Farm  
 Yale Athletics  
 Yale Center for British Art  
 Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Wilson  
 Wounded Eagle Farm  
 Yale Athletics  
 Yale Center for British Art



At this year's annual Benefit Auction and Dinner partygoers enjoyed cocktails and canapes overlooking the Lieutenant River while bidding on 200+ bewitching items. Over \$140,000 was net on the event from 263 guests and over 100 online bidders from across the country. It truly was an Oz-inspired night, reminding us that there is indeed no place like our home, the Florence Griswold Museum.



## GIFTS AND GRANTS

The Museum is most grateful to this wonderfully diverse range of individuals, foundations, businesses, and government agencies whose committed support equips us to achieve our mission and make great things possible here.

### GRANTS

Alice Shirley Powers Irrevocable Trust  
The Aeroflex Foundation  
Bouvier Insurance  
Charter Oak Federal Credit Union  
Chelsea Groton Bank  
The Cooley Gallery  
Community Foundation of Eastern CT  
Community Foundation of Middlesex County  
Connecticut Humanities  
Connecticut Office of the Arts  
David T. Langrock Foundation  
Decorative Arts Trust  
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Frank Loomis Palmer Fund  
Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection & Insurance Company  
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Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford  
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Traditional Fine Arts Organization

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Christine Darnell Gardens  
Cynthia and Lawrence Clark  
The Cooley Gallery  
Deborah DeHertogh  
Barbara Fisk Gibson  
Garde Arts Center/Arts Alliance

Gourmet Galley Catering  
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Mr. and Mrs. George J. Willauer  
Winter Associates, Inc.  
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For Juneteenth, the Museum welcomed the community for a multifaceted afternoon celebrating the culmination of the Witness Stones Old Lyme program with jazz and poetry on the north lawn, as well as the release of the *Their Kindred Earth* exhibition catalogue, distributed by Wesleyan University Press. Artist-in-Residence William Earle Williams signed copies of the book, and the Witness Stones poets greeted friends and fans.

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Neil Demers, who plays saxophone in the Old Lyme Town Band, made a visit to see Childe Hassam's *The Ledges, October in Old Lyme, Connecticut*. Along with Willard Metcalf's *Kalmia* and Matilda Browne's *Peonies*, *The Ledges* served as inspirations for composer Anthony Susi's *Impressions of New England*—a work commissioned in honor of the band's 50th anniversary. Susi assigned specific instruments to represent the predominant colors in each painting, creating a “musical palette” that Demers wanted to see in person in preparation for the debut concert in April 2025. *Impressions of New England* has been published by Print Music Source and will be accompanied at performances by reproductions of the Museum's paintings.



The most precious object in our collection is the Griswold House. The 1817 structure's wood siding and moldings need periodic repainting to protect the materials and to improve the exterior's chipped and faded appearance. From analysis of prior paint layers supported by earlier grants, we have identified Benjamin Moore Goldfinch as the yellow color appropriate for the house as it looked circa 1910. Thanks to a grant from the CT State Historic Preservation Office and to support from the "Raise the Bid" at our 2024 Benefit Auction, work was completed in the summer. Thank you to Jonathan Bristol and his wonderfully professional team at PaintStar in East Haddam!

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While going through his mother's estate a local man found a copy of *Black Beauty* inscribed with Florence Griswold's name. He kindly offered it as a gift to the collection!

English author Anna Sewell published *Black Beauty* in 1877. The edition owned by Florence Griswold was published by an American company that specialized in issuing uncopyrighted material at low prices to a broad audience. The firm name and address from the title page suggest the copy dates from around 1894.

Miss Florence's ownership of *Black Beauty* fits with her love of animals. The book is currently on view in the parlor of the Griswold House.



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We're excited to share that our Members' magazine *The Journal* won first place in the Newsletters and Magazines category in New England Museum Association's publications competition. Thank you to our writers and to CO:LAB for a brilliant design.

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The American Institute for Conservation (AIC) and Foundation for Advancement in Conservation (FAIC) awarded the Museum a Tru Vue Conservation and Exhibition Grant to conserve and re-house an important work of material culture—a needlework sampler c. 1774—featured in *Inside Out: Contexts for American Art*. Without such preservation, this exemplary historic textile could not have been safely displayed for public view. We are thankful that we are able to share this work with our audiences now, and can continue to do so for many years to come.

Alice Mather (1762–1842), Sampler (Norwich, CT), 1774. Silk on linen with printed chintz border, 13 x ¾ x 11 ½ in. Florence Griswold Museum, Purchase with additional funds provided by Jane Rapport, Barbara and Wayne Harms, Anonymous, Sally and Larry Lawrence, Julie and James Alexandre, The Paul Foundation, Lee and John Pritchard in memory of Paul Holt, Elizabeth Webster in memory of Robert Webster, David W. Dangremond, Kay Knight Clarke, Jeb and Dianne Embree in memory of Robert Webster and Paul Holt, John and Barbara Noyes, Stephen and Susan Bates, Deborah Butler, Jeff and Betsey Cooley, and Elizabeth Frame in memory of Robert Webster.

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Native Artist Jason Lamb discussed a variety of indigenous art traditions at a special Museum program including making wampum and using seal fur and birch bark in creative endeavors. He displayed examples of his work in the gallery during *naqtiwowok/continuanace: Connecticut's Tribal Communities Create*.

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The Museum approached Chad Fisher, Head of Sculpture at the Lyme Academy of Fine Arts to create a demo as a teaching tool in the exhibition *Inside Out* suggesting how American sculptor John Rogers' would have worked in the 1860s. Fisher donated his time and talent to fashion *The Poet*, a 24-inch tall sculpture inspired by model Kyle Tamosaitis. From rough handfuls of green oil-based clay squeezed onto a metal armature to an elegant final work, the process of conjuring form was magically captured by John Christon of K & P Inc. [Click to view the 20-minute film.](#)

Additional collaborations included Fisher presenting the 2025 Annual Samuel Thorne Memorial Lecture, several class visits to the Museum, and four remarkable Advance Sculpture Student/Instructors offering sculpture demonstrations in our galleries. We look forward to continuing this partnership of inspiration and education.

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The Communications team spearheaded a partnership with Channel 3 WFSB News to promote *Their Kindred Earth: Photographs by William Earle Williams*. Advertising and editorial segments with Museum curators on the broadcast program *Great Day Connecticut* drove visitor awareness and engagement for this important exhibition, as well as the Museum in general.

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# WILLIAM EARLE WILLIAMS



The Museum's Marketing Coordinator Emily Clark hosted Director of Tourism for the State of Connecticut Rachel Lenda and our Connecticut Art Trail colleagues for a semi-annual convening. They discussed opportunities to collaborate on marketing arts organizations in Connecticut and enjoyed a productive roundtable about the state of tourism in our region.



Thank you to the many visitors who left such kind comments—and art!—in our comment book for the summer exhibitions. It looks like *Cow Tales* really moooved people.

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Once again our partnership  
 with Gourmet Galley  
 delighted visitors from  
 May through October with  
 seasonal specialties from  
 Café Flo.



Photographer Adrien Broom (far right) staged a photo shoot in the Griswold House dining room in April 2025 in preparation for her exhibition *Holding Space: The Historic Homes of Artists and Writers* at the Mark Twain House in Hartford. Her models include (from left) artist Mary Collins, Senior Curator Jenny Parsons, artist Hollis Dunlap, and the enigmatic (and furry) Beastie.

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The center bed in the historic garden was cleared of ornamental plants and developed as a new spot for vegetables. This was due to the proximity of the black walnut tree in front of the Rafal Landscape Center. That variety of tree produces a toxic chemical called juglans. Vegetables vulnerable to that toxin such as tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant were planted further from the tree in the center bed location. The former vegetable area is still used for tolerant plants such as lettuce, carrots, and onions.



Visitors of all ages were delighted by *Nancy Friese: Living Landscapes*. Friese immersed our viewers in scenes that percolate with texture and color. Her vivid paintings and prints burst with life, expressing how invigorating it is for her as a contemporary artist to make art inspired by nature.

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 Janice L. Wiley  
 Deborah G. Willard  
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 Margaret Wilson  
 Barbara-Jan Wilson  
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 Linda Winters  
 Ms. Linda Winzer  
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 Irene Woloszyn Lipchus  
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 Baldwin Lawn Furniture & Pergolas  
 Barn for Artistic Youth  
 Billie Beads  
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 Burnett's Landscaping, Inc.  
 Captain Daniel Packer Inne  
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 Connected Systems, LLC  
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 Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra  
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 Eugene O'Neill Theater Center  
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 HP Broom Housewright  
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 iCRV Radio  
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Shoreline Web News, LLC  
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Tate's Property Care, LLC  
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The Bowerbird  
The Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts

The Cooley Gallery  
The Frame Shop on Wall Street  
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The Griswold Inn  
The Hangry Goose  
The Inn at Stonington  
The Mohegan Tribe  
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TheaterWorks Hartford  
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North Kingstown Free Library  
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Waterford Public Library  
Welles Turner Memorial Library  
West Hartford Public Library  
Westbrook Public Library  
Westerly Library & Wilcox Park  
Weston Public Library  
Westport Library  
Wethersfield Public Library  
Wheeler Library  
Willington Public Library  
Willoughby Wallace Memorial Library  
Windsor Public Library  
Woodbridge Town Library  
Woodbury Public Library

## VOLUNTEERS

The Museum would like to thank this special group of Members who work both in a public role and behind the scenes to make a lasting impression on behalf of the Museum.

### DOCENTS

Janet Adams  
Linda Ahnert  
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Mary Avery  
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Tara Bennett  
Dale Bernardoni  
Carolyn Boyle  
Corinne Brodie  
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Carolyn Cook  
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Barbara Gibson  
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Cynthia Goetz  
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Diane Holtzworth  
Gail A. Laferriere  
Carol MacDonald  
Diane Macris  
Olga Manos  
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Nancy Mol  
Pat Norton  
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Patricia Sileo  
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Janet Mansfield Soares  
Bette Taylor  
Eileen Thompson  
Maria Varga  
Fred Verillo  
Robin Wallace  
Diane Webb  
Corinne Weber  
Julia Whalen  
Mary Ellen White

### DOCENT COUNCIL

Jane Ciaccia, *Chair*  
Karen Bull  
Nancy Fairchild  
Nancy Mol  
Judy Peritz  
Maria Varga

### NEW DOCENT TRAINERS

Jane Ciaccia, *Chair*  
Nancy Fairchild  
Nancy Mol  
Judy Peritz  
Maria Varga

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Karen Bull  
Judy Peritz  
Maria Varga

### EDUCATORS

Karen Bonitz  
Jane Ciaccia  
Nancy Mol  
Maria Varga

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Joan Baffaro  
Norm Bender  
Diane Charnok  
Hyla Cohen  
Teddie Curtiss  
Suzanne Derry  
Nancy Farrell  
Christina Gotowka  
Kathi Green  
Francine Gumkowski  
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Lauren Plage  
Maggie Phillips  
Barbara Rayel  
Carolyn Reed  
Tanya Salnikova  
Emily Snow  
Brenda Wiley  
Richard Wirth

### ARCHIVES WORKING GROUP

Charlie Beal  
Carla D'Arista  
Patricia Devoe  
Mary Guitar  
Dini Mallory



306 Members, guests, and friends of the Museum joined us for our annual Garden Luncheon. Not only was it a wonderful afternoon celebrating and supporting the Museum's gardens and grounds, but over \$25,000 was net on the day, making it one of most successful in the event's history! Lauren Stimson of Stimson Studio Landscape Architects had our guests enrapt through her keynote presentation on the development, process, and plans that led to the Museum's Robert F. Schumann Artists' Trail.

John Noyes  
Carolyn Wakeman  
George Willauer  
Rodi York

### **CURATORIAL VOLUNTEERS**

Anne Czepiel  
Patricia Devoe  
Mary O'Connor  
Rodi York

### **CURATORIAL INTERNS**

Paige McCarthy, Occidental College  
Riley Nelson, Villanova University

### **BLOOMS WITH A VIEW**

#### **Floral Artists**

Pamela Atkins  
Elizabeth Berlenbach  
Deborah Cooney  
Lawrence Huzi  
Peg MacDonald  
Trish Manfredi  
Lois Nadel  
Donna Richmond  
Barbara Rosenblume  
Allison Sloane, Ashleigh's Garden  
Marlee Spencer, Mar Floral  
Linda Turner  
Darcy Van Ness, Montville Florist  
Leah Van Ness, Montville Florist  
Caitlin Vickers

#### **Community Cow Artists**

Emily Clark  
Jeff and Betsey Cooley  
Lucy Filiatreault  
Tammi Flynn  
The Friendship School led by Visual Art Educator  
Lisa Freeman  
Matthew Greene Marshall  
Paul Michael, Gallery Director and Curator Lyme  
Art Association  
Old Lyme Children's Learning Center  
Old Lyme Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library  
Peppermint Ridge Neighborhood led by  
the Linden-Constantine Family

Pat Procko  
Julie Garvin Riggs  
Rita Rivera  
Roger Tory Peterson Estuary Center  
Matt Strekel and Family

### **WEE FAERIE VILLAGE**

#### **Gardener's Grove Artists**

Troy Antoniewicz  
Samantha Barlow-Beamer, Little Small & Co.  
Mary Ann Besier  
Sherry Block  
Vanessa Bunnell, Botanical Beauty Designs, LLC  
Diana De-Wolfe Carfi  
Lynda Cmara  
Merina Corby  
Deep River Elementary Students, Deep River  
T. Arthur Donnelly  
Barbara Eaglesham  
Sarah Emerson  
Pam Erickson  
Expresiones Cultural Center Students, New London  
Ian Evertson  
William Evertson  
Guido Garaycochea  
Carlos Garrett  
Dave Graybill  
Molly Greenberg  
Nora Greenberg  
Elizabeth Harney  
Lillian Harney  
Michael Harney  
Betsy Himmelman  
Marc Hors  
Lisa Kenyon  
Kingswood Oxford School Students, West Hartford  
Madeline Kwasniewski  
Kaya LaPointe  
Lavender Pond Farm, Killingworth  
Lori Lenz  
Rich Lenz  
Jean Linville  
Nancy MacBride  
Paul Maulucci  
Michele Mergy  
Jenn Millas  
Aaron B. Miller

Katherine Nicholson  
Alison Palo  
Michaelle Pearson  
Promethea Arts Pottery  
Studio Members, Deep River  
Kristin Quinn  
Lisa Reneson  
Julie Garvin Riggs  
Rita Rivera  
Jesse Rodgers  
Steve Rodgers  
Don Rossi  
Bettina Rowlands  
Jessica Southwick, Second Wind Artist™  
Carol Stanland  
Linda Turner  
Edie Twining  
Darcy Van Ness  
Leah Van Ness  
Gerry Urbanik  
Indira Urrutia  
María Vargas  
Bill Vollers  
Jared Welcome  
Wesley Elementary Second Grade Students,  
Middletown  
Verónica Ximénez  
Lynn Zack  
Jessica Zeedyk

#### **Green Thumb Buddy Helpers**

Janet Adams  
Dale Bernardoni  
Karen Bonitz  
Maryellen Brousseau  
Karen Bull  
Debbie Carney  
Ruth Eren  
Michelle Flowers  
Kate Haggans  
Diane Macris  
Olga Manos  
Nancy McNicol  
Nancy Mol  
Mary Lyn Page  
Rosemary Palmer  
Judy Peritz

Jody Perkins  
Sherri Scully  
Janet Soares  
Diane Webb  
Julia Whalen

### **HOLIDAY MAGIC Exterior Designers**

Linda Turner  
Randy Robinson

#### **Palette Trees Designers**

Penelope Quelis  
David D.J. Rau  
Julie Garvin Riggs  
Sam Swap

#### **Palette Artists**

Alexis Audette  
Maria Frese Campbell  
Rosemary Cotnoir  
Mark Dion  
Christina Kilar  
Pam Hartz Miller  
Timothy Lai  
Mike Laiuppa  
Jacqueline Scott  
Spencer Tinkham

#### **Griswold House & Mantel Décor**

Jana Balsamo  
Amy Kurtz Lansing  
Penelope Quelis  
David D.J. Rau  
Julie Garvin Riggs  
Sam Swap

#### **Marshfield House**

Emily Clark  
Tammi Flynn  
David D.J. Rau

#### **Food Donations Collectors**

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Tim Baffaro

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Dianne Embree  
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Patrick Gingras  
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Kevin McGlinchey  
David Rau  
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Valerie Koif  
Sally Lawrence  
Kevin McGlinchey  
Peter Steere  
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Sally Lawrence  
Kathy Parsons  
Lee Pritchard  
George Willauer  
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 Kay Knight Clarke, *Treasurer*

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 Patrick Gingras  
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 David Kuehler  
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 Sally Lawrence  
 Marybeth Marx  
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 Timothy McLaughlin  
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 Barbara Smith

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 Jana Balsamo, Registrar and Exhibitions Coordinator  
 Emily Clark, Marketing Coordinator  
 Carla I. Corcoran, Associate Business Director  
 Joanne Cymbala, Visitor Engagement Associate  
 Dana Evans, Visitor Engagement Associate  
 DeeDee Filiatreault, Grants Manager and Writer  
 Tammi Flynn, Senior Director, Communications  
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 Amy Kurtz Lansing, Curator  
 Beth Linden, Associate Director, Museum Operations  
 Caryn Mickle, Visitor Engagement Associate and Educator

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 Jonathan P. Peterson, Senior Accountant  
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 Randy Robinson, Facilities Manager  
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