

About Planting Fields Foundation

Planting Fields Foundation strives to preserve and make relevant to all audiences the heritage of Planting Fields, an early 20th century 409-acre estate, designed as an integrated composition of the built and natural world. Founded in 1952 by William R. Coe, the Foundation is a not-for-profit public educational foundation chartered by the New York State Board of Regents and tax exempt under the status of a 501(c)(3) organization. Located in Oyster Bay, New York and originally landscaped by the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, the grounds feature 409 acres of greenhouses, rolling lawns, formal gardens, woodland paths, and outstanding plant collections. The original historic estate buildings remain intact including Coe Hall, a 65-room Tudor Revival mansion designed by Walker & Gillette. The interior of the house is a showcase of artistry and craftsmanship and features a distinctly American aesthetic through original ironwork commissions by Samuel Yellin and murals painted by artists Robert Winthrop Chanler and Everett Shinn. Planting Fields is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

www.plantingfields.org

Our Mission

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Our Projects

The four applications that were awarded by the Robert David Gardiner Foundation will enable Planting Fields Foundation to present a series of initiatives that explore the various aspects of the Olmsted Brothers designed landscape at Planting Fields and throughout Long Island. This work will enable us to have a robust presence in the 2022 national celebration of the bicentennial of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth, Olmsted 200, by positioning Planting Fields as a significant extant representative of Olmsted residential design and a leader in the scholarly discourse on the firm's work. All of these projects: symposium, publication, exhibition, guidebook and public programs, will serve as a counterpoint to the landscape restoration we are currently leading, and these projects set a critical framework for the intellectual understanding of Olmsted residential design.

*The national symposium, *Situating the Residential Projects of the Olmsted Firm*, features experts in the field of landscape architecture history and practice who will contribute significant new scholarship on the understudied residential projects of the Olmsted firm spanning from 1857 to 1979, of which Planting Fields is an exceptionally large, extant example. Speakers include major figures in landscape design and preservation including: John Dixon Hunt, Professor Emeritus, Landscape Architecture, Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania; Laurie Olin, Founder and Partner, OLIN landscape design studio; Arleyn Levee, landscape historian and preservation consultant; Patricia O'Donnell, Founder and Partner, Heritage Landscapes LLC; Witold Rybczynski, Martin and Margy Meyerson Professor Emeritus of Urbanism Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania; and Anne Neal Petri, President and CEO, National Association for Olmsted Parks and Managing Partner, Olmsted 200. Symposium Dates: October 19-21, 2022.*

Proceedings from the symposium will be published into a book with new color photographs and groundbreaking content to be released in the fall of 2023. This publication will feature the foremost scholars and practitioners on this topic and include essays examining the understudied residential work of the Olmsted firm. This multi-author book will include new color photographs and never-before-published plans from the archives at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site in Brookline, Massachusetts, and from the archival collection of Planting Fields Foundation and will feature contributions from leading landscape historians, practicing landscape architects, and sustainability experts including: John Dixon Hunt, Professor Emeritus, Landscape Architecture, Weitzman School of

Design, University of Pennsylvania; Laurie Olin, Founder and Partner, OLIN landscape design studio; Arleyn Levee, landscape historian and preservation consultant; Patricia O'Donnell, Founder and Partner, Heritage Landscapes LLC; Witold Rybczynski, Martin and Margy Meyerson Professor Emeritus of Urbanism Weitzman School of Design, University of Pennsylvania; and Charles Birnbaum, President and CEO of The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF).

We will present an exhibition of the photography of designed landscapes featuring the work of important female photographers who were active in the first half of the 20th century that examines the ways in which women behind the camera both captured and produced a key moment in the history of American landscape design. Photographs featuring Mattie Edwards Hewitt, Frances Benjamin Johnston, Jessie Tarbox Beals, and Alice Boughton provides new scholarship on a significant but understudied group of photographers and will give access to a body of work rarely made available to the public. The exhibition will be on view to the public from October 5, 2022, until January 1, 2023; the virtual component on the website will be featured for the remainder of 2023 before being archived on the web.

Additionally, the Foundation will publish a guidebook and create associated programming in partnership with The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) highlighting Olmsted properties and launching a two-day program touring various Olmsted sites throughout Long Island. Through this partnership, a guidebook with illustrated essays and stunning new landscape photography showcasing a selection of the unique Olmsted properties on Long Island called What's Out There will be developed.

For over a century, Planting Fields has stood as one of the finest examples of a still-extant Gold Coast estate, a testament to the cumulative work of some of the most prominent landscape architects, designers, and architects of the first two decades of the twentieth century. As we approach the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted, the visionary landscape architect who created Central Park, Prospect Park, Biltmore, and numerous other sites across the country, Planting Fields' distinct place in the history of American landscape design becomes more relevant and pronounced.