



JANUARY/APRIL 2025

NEWSCASTING

Grounds For Sculpture's publication for members and volunteers

GFS: Level II Accredited
Arboretum!

Member Events

Exhibition Teasers

Expanding Access

... and more!

JANUARY | FEBRUARY | MARCH | APRIL

WELCOME

Dear Friends,

Thank you for helping us close out 2024 with joy and a sense of purpose. It is easy to lose sight of what matters with all the noise of Black Friday emails and urgent “buy now” Cyber Monday deals. Or, to simply delete everything and shut out the world. But your generosity made the Giving Season so meaningful for GFS and all the people in our community. Our end of year appeal celebrated and supported the various paths people can take at GFS – from nurturing creativity and appreciating the arts, to finding beauty in the natural world, to gaining personal insight and enrichment through education, to building a wellness practice, and so much more. No matter your age, taste, or background, there really is something for everyone at GFS.

We shared stories of people who have been positively impacted by GFS. If you missed them, please see our “Faces at Grounds For Sculpture” video series, featuring artist Clifford Ward who will be exhibiting a solo show at GFS this Spring; Nancy Hovnanian, a dedicated docent and supporter; and Gayle Kidman with her daughter Alexis, who truly show the multi-generational reach of GFS (and who embody “happy”).

In the year ahead, I’ll continue to share stories and as always, I invite you to reach out and share your GFS experiences with me and the team.

There is so much to see at GFS this winter, so I hope you will bundle up and come see us on a chilly day. There is always a new path to discover.

Happy New Year!

With enduring gratitude,


Gary Garrido Schneider
Executive Director



HOURS THIS SEASON

Wednesday – Monday | 10AM – 5PM *Closed Tuesdays*

Please Note: GFS will be closed January 6 -12, 2025 to prioritize staff wellness after the busy holiday season.

Members may visit spontaneously without reservation on weekdays. Free reservation required on weekends and holidays to ensure your desired entry time.

RESERVE YOUR VISIT: groundsforsculpture.org/timed-admission-tickets

The Access Mobile Tour is a 45-minute tour that is available daily for visitors with disabilities or limited mobility. The cart can accommodate a maximum of five people or four people and a wheelchair. Tours are scheduled at 11AM, 12PM, 2PM, 3PM. Reservations strongly recommended by calling 609.586.0616.

Docent Tours are available based on docent availability. Check in at the Welcome Center to see what pop-up tours are available during your visit!

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP *Register on the GFS website* Registering your membership’s online account allows you to “Sign In” to conveniently reserve your free visits, renew, register for programs, and receive your member discounts where applicable! **If you have not already done so, register your membership’s online account [here](#).**

Discover something new or learn more about a longtime favorite! Explore our collection of 400+ works on our [website](#) and our interactive map (gfsmap.org), which features sculpture and horticulture throughout the grounds, as well as an audio tour offering docent interpretations of 28 sculptures and 2 historical spots. View our tool box of new [self-guided activities](#) to enhance your next visit. [SIGN UP FOR GFS E-NEWS:](#)

CONNECT WITH GFS!
[@GROUNDSFORSCULPTURE](#)



Cover: James Surls, *Standing Vase with Five Flowers*, 2011, bronze, stainless steel, 180 x 84 x 84 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier, © Artist or Artist's Estate, photo: David W. Steele; Emilie Benes Brzezinski, *Lintel*, 1993, bronze, 128 x 117 x 28 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier, photo: David Michael Howarth Photography

Isaac Witkin, *Eolith*, 1994, Blue Mountain granite, 135 x 96 x 48 inches, Grounds For Sculpture, Gift of The Seward Johnson Atelier, © Estate of Isaac Witkin, photo: David Michael Howarth Photography

MEMBER EVENTS



ARTIST TALK WITH PETAH COYNE

Saturday, February 22, 2025 (5- 6:30pm)

Join artist Petah Coyne in conversation with curator Amy Gilman.

Petah Coyne is a contemporary American artist who works in varied and nontraditional materials including her own specially formulated wax, taxidermy, human hair, scrap metal, silk flowers, and religious statuary. Her arrangement of material and juxtaposition of mediums to create large-scale installations, for which she is best known, often evoke themes of life and death, triumph and loss, chaos and stillness, and beauty and darkness. Her work *Untitled, #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)* is currently on view in the Museum building, on view through March 2, 2025. Amy Gilman is the director of the Chazen Museum of Art, in Madison Wisconsin. Prior to the Chazen, Gilman spent 12 years at the Toledo Museum of Art in Toledo, Ohio where she served as deputy director, assistant director for collections and exhibitions and curator of modern and contemporary art.

Generous support for this program provided by Art Bridges. Petah Coyne's sculpture 'Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)' generously lent by The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts as part of Art Bridges' Partner Loan Network.

Art Bridges



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



MEMBER MINGLE

Saturday, February 22, 2025 (4 - 5pm)

Join us for a member-exclusive social in the Van Gogh Café before the Artist Talk with Petah Coyne. RSVP required; Registration opens in mid-January.

MEMBERS' MUSINGS 2024: LIGHT AS MATERIAL

On view through February 23, 2025

Our 15th Annual Exhibition of artwork created exclusively by GFS Members. This exhibition showcases the diversity of the organization's membership through their varied artistic creations and unique inspirations, showcased onsite in our Education Gallery. This year's juror and curator is Caryn Coyle, a visual artist and educator based in the Greater Philadelphia Area.

[LEARN MORE](#)

FAMILY OPEN STUDIOS

First Saturday of each month, 11am – 3pm

Saturday, March 1: Paper Coaster Construction
Saturday, April 12: Busy Beeswax

Reflect, Create, and Share. Join us for Family Open Studios in our Education Studios for this drop-in workshop inviting all ages to create together for experimentation and curiosity on various fun themes. **FREE** for members.

[LEARN MORE.](#) *Children's educational programming at Grounds For Sculpture is supported in part by Nancy and Stephen Hovnanian and PNC Foundation.*

GARDEN RETREAT

Saturday, April 5, 2025

Grab your friends and join us for a day of self-exploration at the Garden Retreat. The Garden Retreat will offer a wide range of opportunities to explore your physical and mental health through nature walks, yoga, Tai Chi, art making and more. We hope the breadth of activities will contribute to your personal wellness practices and inspire you to center your well-being. Each class will be led by an industry expert, who will share valuable tools for how to live a healthy, balanced life. Select one workshop for the morning and come prepared to relax, recenter and breathe. This event is for people of all ages and fitness levels.

Garden Retreat | Mind + Body was made possible in part by Capital Health Systems and the Institute of Museum and Library Services [MA-252851-OMS-23].



FROM OUR GROUNDS TO YOURS – GFS'S ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Saturday, May 3: Members Only 10AM -12PM | Open to Public 12PM

Sunday, May 4: Open to Public 10AM - 4PM

Now in its sixth year, the GFS annual plant sale is a popular fundraiser that supports our horticulture program. The sale features a unique selection of annuals, perennials, and shrubs, as well as a variety of GFS propagated trees, houseplants, and succulent gardens. Patrons are able to take a piece of GFS home with them as many plants for sale are cultivated from the Ground's extensive living collection.

With a broad selection of plants from trees to herbs, this one-of-a-kind event has something for everybody – both experienced gardeners and newcomers alike. Our Director of Horticulture, horticulture team, and volunteers will be on hand during the sale to answer questions and share garden-planning advice. On Saturday, May 3 we will feature a demonstration on gardening by the horticulture staff. All proceeds support GFS's horticulture program. This event is rain or shine. Bring your wagon!



MEMBER PREVIEW DAY

Saturday, May 17, 2024

Save the date for a member-exclusive opportunity to explore behind the scenes of the new artistic season. Join us and participate in a variety of unique programming specifically designed to engage and inspire you! Member Preview Day highlights include:

- Exclusive first access to the new exhibition
- Meet the Artist and Curatorial staff
- Art-making activities

Members may use their Guest Passes to bring additional guests. Full program schedule will be announced in April.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH CLIFFORD WARD

Thursday, June 5, 2025 (5:30pm-7:00pm)

FREE for Sustainer and Benefactor level members.

Meet artist Clifford Ward of new exhibition *Clifford Ward: I'll Make Me A World*, which opens in the Museum Building in May. Learn about his inspirations and artistic process. Enjoy a tasting, specially curated by Constellation Catering with Clifford!

Sustainer and Benefactor level members receive exclusive invitation in May. Current members may upgrade or new members may join at Sustainer or Benefactor to attend by calling the Membership Office at 609.249.0225.



SWIRL – AN EVENING OF FOOD AND WINE

Friday, April 25 + Friday, September 19

Grounds For Sculpture's *Swirl* is returning for a third year. This sensory journey around the grounds will highlight five sculptures and five premium food and wine pairings, each curated by the chef and the sommelier from the Zagat-rated Rat's Restaurant.

Each of the two Swirl dates – features a different selection of sculptures and pairings amongst our lush gardens.

Swirl is supported, in part, by Capital Health Systems. Additional support provided by Donna M. Murray SA Fox & Roach Realtors.



DONNA M. MURRAY
Sales Associate, REALTOR®



Petah Coyne, *Untitled #1383 (Sisters – Two Trees)*, 2013-2023, apple trees, taxidermized Silver Pied peacocks, taxidermized white peacocks, aniline dye, specially-formulated wax, pigment, silk flowers, pearl-headed hat pins, silk/rayon velvet, felt, thread, plastic, wood, steel, concrete, chicken wire, wire, screws, bolts, washers, steel pipes, picture hangers, paper, glue, epoxy, shellac, paint, 168 x 245 5/8 x 278 7/8 inches, Generously lent by The Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts as part of Art Bridges' Partner Loan Network, photo: Aaron Richter

On Sunday, October 6, GFS hosted a very special program **Behind the Scenes with Colette Fu and Noodle Mountain**, an exclusive event for **Sustainer and Benefactor level members**.

Attendees met *Slow Motion* artist Colette Fu and heard her personal stories and inspirations. Colette showed examples of pop-up books she's made over the years and shared insight into her process for creating the intricate works. After the talk, members experienced a tasting of noodles and teas, specially curated by Constellation Catering with Colette.



Artist Colette Fu opening up her pop up book *Noodle Mountain*

On Monday, November 4, we celebrated the season and early sunset with a **Members' Candlelight Yoga + Meditation program**.

Debbi Gitterman of Sault Haus led us in a wellness session while surrounded by the beauty of twinkling candlelight and exclusive activation of the captivating sculpture *Altar II* by artist Michele Oka Doner.



On Saturday, November 16, **Benefactor level members** were welcomed to the home of GFS Board Member Jerry Wind and Barbara Eberlein in Philadelphia for an exclusive **Trustee's Toast**.

Guests viewed their private art collection, learned about GFS's innovative art and wellness programs, and toasted the season!

GFS hosted its first **Artisan Holiday Market on Saturday, November 30 and Sunday, December 1**.

The whimsical holiday shopping experience showcased over 40 talented artisans offering handcrafted jewelry, pottery, woodworking, original art, skincare, gourmet treats, and much more. The festive event was free with park admission, which means Free for Members!

While GFS is grateful for its members all year long, a **Member Appreciation Day** was celebrated on **Saturday, December 7!**

Members enjoyed 20% off holiday shopping in the Museum Shop and seasonal tastes at the Van Gogh Café. The cozy Member Lounge offered complimentary coffee, tea, hot cocoa, and cookies while members made their own holiday greeting cards. In the evening, we hosted an opening reception for the 15th annual *Members' Musings* exhibition featuring an impressive array of creativity by fellow GFS members. *Thank you for your support of GFS!*



VISIT US IN THE MEMBER LOUNGE!

Friday – Sunday, 11AM – 2PM

Located in a bright corner of the Welcome Center overlooking the gardens, the Member Lounge is an inviting space for members to take a break with a complimentary refreshment. Read museum publications, learn about upcoming programs, or connect with a staff member.

MEMBER DISCOUNTS AT GFS

Members enjoy **10% off** on all merchandise in the Museum Shop and **10% off** dining at the Van Gogh Café and Rat's Restaurant (including special themed dinners, cooking classes, and comedy nights!) Be sure to note "GFS Member" when making your reservation, and plan to show your valid eMembership card to your eMembership card at check-out or to your server.

VIEW RAT'S SEASONAL MENU & EVENTS: ratsrestaurant.com/

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

GFS membership is the gift that lasts all year, sparking the imagination and encouraging wellness through art and nature. To give a gift of GFS membership, visit: bit.ly/join-gfs

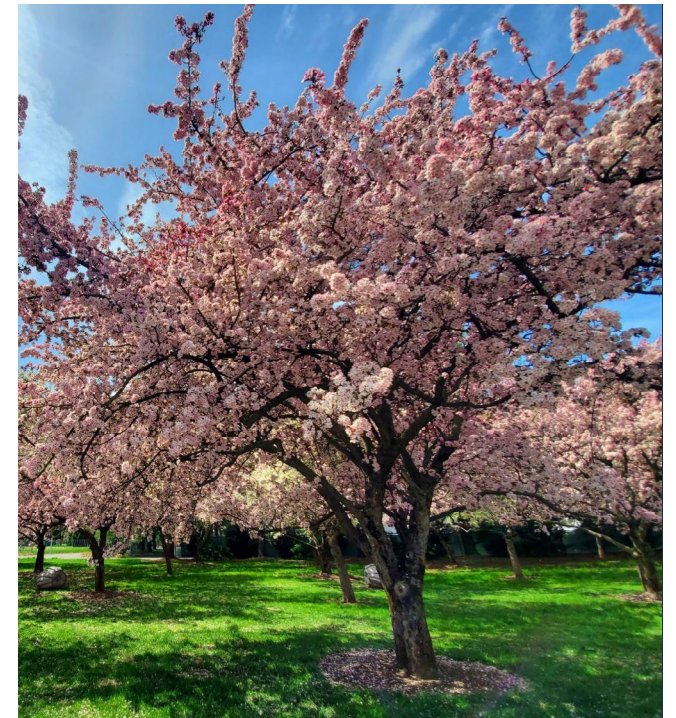
Colette Fu, *Noodle Mountain*, 2024, pigment ink printing on canvas, corrugated board, gator board, vinyl, wood, metal, antique altar table, 114 x 134.5 x 87.5 inches, Courtesy of the Artist, photo: David Michael Howarth Photography

GFS is now a Level II Accredited Arboretum

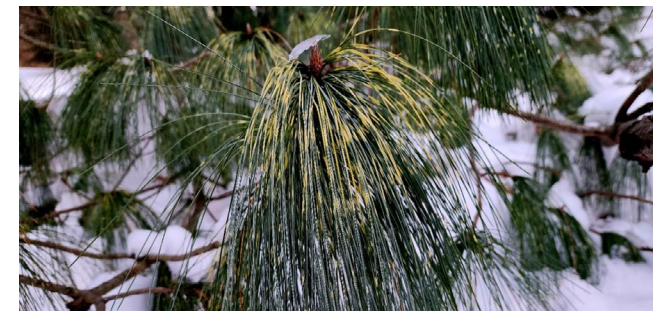
Cat Swiderski | Manager of Horticulture

We are excited to share that Grounds For Sculpture has been accredited as a Level II arboretum by The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and The Morton Arboretum for achieving particular standards of professional practices deemed important for arboreta and botanic gardens. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism. GFS is also recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants. As of October 2024, GFS is one of only 221 arboreta worldwide that has the Level II accreditation.

GFS earned its initial accreditation as a Level I arboretum in 2022. Since then, efforts have continued to elevate and strengthen horticulture at GFS. Achieving Level II status required additional labeling of tree and woody plant taxa, resulting in over 100 labeled specimens throughout the grounds, as well as enhanced public and educational programming. Another essential component of this achievement was the establishment of a living collection policy. Created through the collaboration of GFS staff and the Horticulture Advisory Committee, the policy was approved by the Board in June 2024. The purpose of this policy is to guide the development of the living collection in alignment with GFS's mission and programs. It establishes criteria for care, documentation, management, acquisition, deaccession, and engagement with the living collection. With these steps, we look forward to an exciting future for horticulture at GFS, where our living collection can continue to inspire and educate those who visit us.

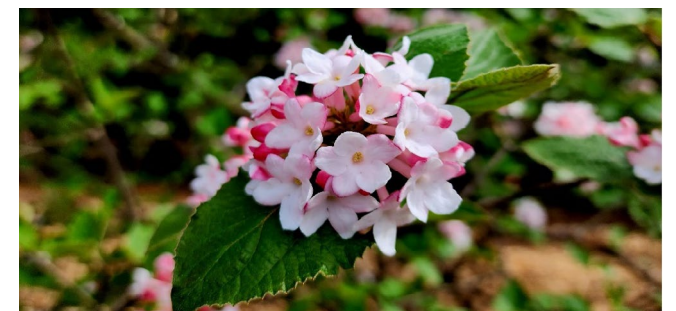


Bloom Watch



Late Winter (January/February)

Adjacent to *Skyhook* you'll find one of our most dazzling conifers, *Pinus wallichiana* 'Zebrina,' commonly known as the variegated Himalayan pine. Highly unusual for a pine tree, the needles sport yellow bands of variegation that are especially striking during the winter season. This particular variety of pine has been in cultivation for quite some time, with its origin dating back to the late 1880s in France. On a windy day, the movement of the striped needles gives the tree a shimmering effect. Be sure to visit soon and see this beauty for yourself if you haven't already!



Early Spring (March/April)

Of all our early spring bloomers, *Viburnum carlesii* (commonly known as Koreanspice viburnum), is likely the most fragrant you'll find on the grounds. A woody shrub native to Korea and Japan, its pink to white clusters of flowers make their presence known in late March to early April, filling the garden with a sweet and spicy fragrance. You'll find Koreanspice viburnum throughout the grounds, including in the Warming Hut woods, at Rat's Restaurant, and a recently planted cultivar named 'Spice Girl' in between *Circular Rest* and *Southern Star*.



The Art of Possibility

Faith McClellan | Director of Collections & Exhibitions

Imagine a version of the future that embraces differences rather than fears them, a future that holds space to celebrate multi-culturalism rather than marginalizes the “other.” Two artists whose work will be exhibited in upcoming exhibitions at Grounds For Sculpture look at cultural history through a contemporary lens to create work that is not just speculative fiction but says - we are still here, we have always been here, and we will continue.

In the spring, *Clifford Ward: I'll Make Me A World* opens in the Museum building on May 18, 2025. Guest Curated by Noah Smalls, the Director of Exhibitions and Collections Management at the esteemed Williams College Museum of Art in Massachusetts, as well as the Director of the vibrant Rush Arts Philadelphia, the exhibition includes more than 50 works created by Clifford Ward in his studio on the GFS campus. While Ward's artistic journey began before the term Afro-Futurism¹ was formally recognized, his work is broadly influenced by a diverse array of cultural influences, including contributions from the African diaspora, Australian Aboriginal people, Native American, and Māori cultures.

His work often explores geometry, mythology, and anthropomorphism, which is epitomized in his "Animism" series, a grouping of more than twenty totemic guardian figures.

At the core of my creative journey stands an “army” of 24 guardian sculptures, Animism, sentinels imbued with the resilience of ancestors whose stories traverse continents and centuries thus safeguarding the essence of diverse mythologies, spirituality, and diasporic histories.

Clifford Ward

This series explores intricate geometries, mythologies, and textures, blending cultural symbols into a future mythology. These works also demonstrate a sculptural process that Ward has developed and refined over many years: wrapping plaster bandages around a supporting armature which is reinforced and shaped with a variety of materials, such as steel, wood, Styrofoam, cardboard, and newspaper, and subsequently finished with shellac, brown wax, and acrylic paint.

This solo exhibition offers an opportunity for a unique collaboration between Grounds For Sculpture and Artworks in Trenton, NJ which will present the prologue exhibition introducing select works, on view, February 1 – April 12, 2025, curated by Addison Vincent, Artistic Director of Artworks. The inaugural exhibition at Artworks presents a first look at a sampling of Ward's works, highlighting the individual impact of specific works from multiple series. The exhibition at Grounds For Sculpture will build on the Artworks exhibition by presenting Ward's work in a larger context, revealing the complete narrative and the interconnectedness of his greater oeuvre.

Clifford Ward, *Animism*, 2013-2024, plaster bandage, acrylic paint, cowrie shells, bamboo, dimensions variable, Courtesy of the Artist

Opening in August 2025 is an exhibition of work by Chicago based artist Salvador Jiménez-Flores which will be on view in the East Gallery in the Seward Johnson Center for the Arts building, curated by GFS Executive Director Gary Garrido Schneider. Jiménez-Flores, who is Assistant Professor & Graduate Coordinator in Ceramics at the School of Art Institute of Chicago, participated in the 2022 group exhibition *Fragile: Earth* which was co-produced with The Color Network, a network of ceramic based artists of color of which Jiménez-Flores was one of the organizers. Since that exhibition Jiménez-Flores has continued to explore other mediums in addition to clay, producing cast metal sculptures, woven garments made from palms for performance-based work, and most recently, explored glass through a residency at the Museum of Glass in Tacoma, WA. While he has experimented with many different ways of making, he considers his work to be Rasquache Futurism, “making the most from the least,” a nod to an industrious and creative look at using what's on hand or repurposing other materials for new uses.

For the exhibition at GFS, Jiménez-Flores will recontextualize existing work and create new work, including a new cast bronze sculpture that will be on view outdoors. A motif that Jiménez-Flores has often explored in his work in both clay and metal, is a hybridization of portraits and plant-life, often combining his face and the structure of a cactus or nopal.

The cactus is a resilient plant that can survive extreme weather conditions and I use it as a symbol of resilience and hope for a better future. Growing up in México, we used to make our toys with anything we had available. My friends and I would inscribe our names on trees or cactus leaves to record our existence and, years later, we revisit those places and look for our mark.

Salvador Jiménez-Flores

Both Clifford Ward and Salvador Jiménez-Flores characterize resilience and resourcefulness in their work, using a wide variety of materials in their creative practice that offer new entry points to explore the medium and processes for sculpture. These projects support GFS's curatorial vision to support the growth and expansion of sculpture as a medium while addressing the issues and ideas of our time.

¹The term Afro Futurism is attributed to writer Mark Drery's 1993 article titled “Black to the Future” though the thematic blending of science fiction and African or African American cultures and themes predates that article.

Clifford Ward: I'll Make Me A World is made possible by generous exhibition support from Julie and Michael Nachamkin. Additional support is provided by NRG Energy and Marjorie Ogilvie. Support is provided in part by the Atlantic Foundation, The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the NJ Department of State, and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



Salvador Jiménez-Flores, *La vida cósmica de un nuevo mundo que está por venir / The Cosmic Life of a New World That Is Yet To Come*, 2022, brass, cast iron, rose gold plating, brass hose, and clay slip, 180 x 180 inches, Courtesy of the Artist, photo: Ken Ek

Expanding Access for DeafBlind Visitors | Touch Tours and Sculpture Making

Callie Lasch | Lead Museum Educator

What do Marilyn Monroe, Vincent Van Gogh, Jazz Legend Louis Armstrong, and a NYC businessman have in common?

Quite a lot, it turns out. On November 1, 2024 the GFS Education Team worked in partnership with Guest Services to host a Touch Tour and Sculpture Workshop for members of the DeafBlind Community Access Network of New Jersey. DBCanNJ is a member of our GFS Access Advisory Council and is also providing valuable guidance as GFS expands accessibility for our visitors. The group of approximately 20 people consisted of five Deaf/Blind participants, with certified tactile interpreters, student interpreters in training, a few family members, and a support dog.

The day began in the Welcome Center's Cecelia Joyce and Seward Johnson Gallery with a touch tour of various figurative works – *Forever Marilyn*, *My Sixteen-Year-Old Jazz Dream*, and *Double-Check – Makeshift Memorial*, a sculpture memorializing the NYC businessman at the World Trade Center on 9/11. The tour concluded with an experience in one of Seward Johnson's signature works, a three-dimensional interpretation inspired by Van Gogh's painting *The Bedroom*. Johnson created an actual room that visitors can step into, that features all of the elements featured by Van Gogh within the painting.

"For sighted guests, visiting Johnson's *The Bedroom* is a dynamic and fun experience. For our DeafBlind guests, it is transformational," said Callie Lasch, GFS Lead Museum Educator. "Seward's interpretation provides a way to connect with a painting that they could not otherwise 'see.' It also feels special because not many people in the world get to 'touch' a Van Gogh painting.

The Touch Tour was followed by a Sculpture Workshop in which participants created individual sculptures that represent something about themselves or how they would like to be portrayed in sculpture. Each of the five participants made the shape of a heart as central to their work. Jon (pictured here) formed a hand expressing "love" in sign language. The day ended with a walk through the scented gardens to visit the sculpture *Flukes* by artist Gordon Gund, a sculptor who is blind and a former board member of GFS.

"Exploring *Marilyn* and the musicians – I could feel in depth all the folds, the wrinkles, the hair, the sweat - it gave me an in-depth appreciation of the work," said Jon. "Knowing the artists' stories was also inspiring and added to my understanding of each piece. I also enjoyed creating my 3D sculpture because it gave me the opportunity to express myself and create a memory of an amazing day at GFS."

"Yes, you could just go and feel sculptures, but the history and the story tell so much more, and then the feeling of the sculpture becomes even more meaningful," said Betsy.

As for what the Johnson Gallery sculptures have in common? Each sculpture represents world-renowned icons of an era. Each icon struggled with life-changing challenges and finding resilience in the face of adversity. Each has been recreated here, in another era, by our own world-renowned artist, Seward Johnson. Each and all were discovered for the first time at GFS by an amazing group of DBcanNJ visitors.

For the mission of the GFS Education Department, the accessibility of sculpture to all our visitors serves as a testament to the ongoing legacy and impact of our founder and artist Seward Johnson. Thanks to his vision, the experiences we can build at GFS are limited only by our own imaginations and expressions of love for all in our community.



DBCAN Art Workshop

GFS received an award from the Hamilton Township School District – Thank you all for helping to make a difference for our local schools!



John Ben Snow Memorial Trust Funding

Recent funding from the John Ben Snow Memorial Trust expands the frequency and depth of GFS' afterschool programs for students in the Trenton and Hamilton area through our established partnerships with Hamilton YMCA, HomeWorks Trenton, and The Father Center of NJ. Held at GFS and other offsite locations, these collaboratively developed programs explore a variety of art-based concepts through a STEAM-based curriculum and aim to build participants' socio-emotional well-being and leadership skills.



Hamilton YMCA Group

GFS began partnering with the Hamilton YMCA in 2022 through its Before & After School Enrichment Program (BASE), which provides nearly 1,000 Hamilton Township children with a safe, fun, and supervised environment before and after school. With this generous support from the Trust, GFS will help the Hamilton YMCA offer monthly arts enrichment programming that will enhance BASE's offerings. YMCA programs like BASE intend to prevent adverse outcomes and/or improve functioning with at-risk youth in several areas, including academic achievement, crime and behavioral challenges, socio-emotional functioning, and school engagement.

"We're grateful for our partnership with Grounds For Sculpture, which has allowed us to add arts enrichment to our after-school programming," shared Diana Zita, CEO of the Hamilton YMCA. "This has inspired children who don't normally participate in art activities to be incredibly attentive and engaged. In total, our partnership will help serve over 540 children across 13 schools. Partners like GFS assist us in our mission to focus on youth development academically, emotionally, and physically. We look forward to seeing the amazing art the children will create during the coming school year."

GFS began a relationship with HomeWorks Trenton (HomeWorks), a 501(c)(3) non-profit that operates a free, after-school residential program for marginalized high school girls, in 2020 with online workshops exploring various foundations in art.

This relationship expanded in 2021-2022, with HomeWorks' scholars visiting GFS monthly for open studios where they painted and created sculptures and went on garden walks that allowed them to explore art and nature. With the grant's support, GFS' 2024-2025 academic year collaboration with HomeWorks will provide students monthly visits to GFS to explore the grounds and participate in workshops focused on art, wellness and team building.

HomeWorks provides its participants academic and identity-driven leadership enrichment to supplement their public-school education and develop community leaders. With its supportive and educational residential environment, HomeWorks inspires and equips young women from marginalized communities to achieve their potential and positively transform the world around them.

"HomeWorks Trenton is proud and grateful to be partnering with Grounds For Sculpture," commented Natalie Tung, Executive Director of HomeWorks. "Through this partnership, our scholars have the opportunity to experience GFS' art collection, practice and explore different crafts, and present their social justice capstone projects to the community on their beautiful grounds. Thank you to the entire team at Grounds For Sculpture for making this possible for our scholars and HomeWorks community."

GFS revived a dormant partnership with The Father Center of New Jersey (The Father Center) in 2020 with virtual programming, scaling to a school year long program from 2021 onwards, incorporating team building, communication skills, and art. The Trust's grant support will help GFS present educational programming as a part of The Father Center's Healthy Relationships Healthy Choices (HRHC) program, a curriculum designed for a group of approximately 15 ninth grade boys. The program gives students the chance to learn life skills—such as budget management and stress relief—early on and helps prepare them for healthy relationships throughout their lives. With 28 weekly, two-hour sessions throughout the school year, the program focuses on leadership & life skills development, healthy & productive relationships, community service, career development, and educational experiences.

"At The Father Center of New Jersey, we believe in exposing our Healthy Relationships Healthy Choices boys in various ways," remarked Andre Thomas, Youth Specialist and Program Manager at The Father Center of New Jersey. "Grounds for Sculpture checks off a lot of boxes for us. They engage the HRHC boys in meaningful conversations, expose them to the arts and they learn GFS' rich history, all of which really fascinates the boys. The GFS staff do an amazing job facilitating all the educational activities, which are engaging and meaningful; the mindfulness exercises are one of my favorites. Seeing the boys have fun while they learn is all I could ask for."



Volunteer Stories

Melissa Kelly | Manager of Volunteer Services

Grounds For Sculpture is proud to highlight stories from our vibrant volunteers. Every day at GFS, this group shares their knowledge, enthusiasm, and spectrum of experiences with our guests, creating an unmatched environment of joy.

Around Spring 2000, I was between jobs and attended an event in Princeton where I met someone who was Seward Johnson's chef. He suggested I consider working in the food service area at GFS. I ended up running the Gazebo for a few months and getting to know many of the key people who worked at GFS at the time. It was idyllic, fun, and very relaxing. There weren't as many visitors like today, so I had plenty of time on my hands, periodically serving ice cream, sandwiches and coffee. One day Seward Johnson stopped by. I was working alone and we ended up talking for a while. He described his vision for GFS and how he envisioned its growth and evolution over time. I listened intently and thanked him for sharing.

Years later as I returned to GFS, I saw that many of the things Seward spoke about had come to pass. I guess at the time I spoke to him his vision seemed a bit of a stretch. However, I was pleasantly surprised (if not, amazed) at just how accurate he was in predicting the evolution of GFS. — Jamie Schnitzer

I believe it was in 2017 or 2018 that GFS had a Tribute to African American Women and showed a documentary on Nina Simone and it was so touching for me, an inspiration that GFS was a very diverse museum. It was awesome to then find out about Clifford Ward's onsite studio. His artwork is very intriguing. I said, "Oh, wow! What a diverse culture!" and I was sold. I decided to submit my application to volunteer my time at GFS and was accepted. I'm very diverse in my volunteer ventures and GFS has not let me down. GFS continues to build a Culture of Growth with diversity of thought shown in all the events. GFS is a very hidden gem to say the least. I am so proud and inspired to be a volunteer at GFS. — Marcia Davis

Special Occasions at GFS

Lauren Shepard | Director of Events

On October 19, GFS members Bill Osman and John Wind celebrated their wedding in a very special way at Grounds For Sculpture. You may know John from his charm bar pop-ups at our Museum Shop, his fabulous vintage-inspired jewelry line, or his sculptural assemblage art practice. What you may not know is that John's late mother was sculptor Dina Wind, whose monumental piece *Harp of David #1* is a prominent fixture at GFS. Bill is a New Jersey native, educator, and creative, so when John decided to propose, he did so at GFS in front of *Harp of David #1*, representing their lives coming together as one. This theme continued at the wedding, where John and Bill were married beneath *Harp of David #1*, the sculpture serving as a nontraditional chuppah and the stunning backdrop for their meaningful ceremony. The reception continued in the Van Gogh Café and the East Gallery, with a post-dinner dance party and even a stilt walker in the West Gallery! It was a night to remember, and we are grateful to be part of their story.

In other exciting events news, Eden Autism, a non-profit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of people with autism, will hold its annual gala at GFS on January 25, 2025. GFS is honored that Eden Autism has chosen to hold its major fundraiser at GFS for the past three years. This year Eden Autism is celebrating 50 golden years—Congratulations!



WHAT GFS VOLUNTEERS ARE READING:

The Secret life of Sunflowers by Marta Molnar
The Butterfly's Daughter by Mary Alic Monroe
The Paris Deception by Bryn Turnbull

At GFS we foster intentional partnerships to achieve our vision of inclusivity, partnering with corporations and foundations to underwrite access. Built into many of our supporter benefits are tickets to GFS for community members at no cost. These tickets are distributed through the Community Access Ticket program which distributes complimentary tickets for local nonprofit groups to share with their patrons. We distributed 635 tickets in 2024 to the groups below as part of this program:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Mercer County | Community Action Service Center Rise Youth Group | Dawn of Hope Inc. | Dress For Success Central NJ | HISPA | Kindersmile Community Oral Health Center Wellness Program | Legacy International Foundation for Education Youth Camp | LUCY Outreach Summer Camp | LUCY Outreach Teen Group | Mobile Minds of NJ Inc | Project Freedom | The Age-Out Angels Foundation | The Global Youth Transformation Initiative Service-Learning program | The Lenora M. Green Freedom School of Trenton | Trenton Children's Chorus/Capital Harmony Works | We Care Special Sports

In 2024, the Community Access Ticket Program was supported by Lead Supporter Stark & Stark Philanthropic Fund. Additional support was provided by Bloomberg Philanthropies, NJM Insurance Group, NRG Energy, Oliver Construction Enterprises, and PSE&G. Additional tickets are provided through corporate supporters Anthony Yaros Industries, Donna M. Murray – Fox & Roach Realtors, Geoscape Solar, Organic Green Lawn Solutions, Power Place, and TD Bank.

STARK & STARK
ATTORNEYS AT LAW



Corporate Volunteering

Organizations that support GFS have exclusive volunteer opportunities with our Horticulture department.

Bank of America volunteers helped to clean up the grounds near the Gazebo. They removed vines and trimmed shrubs to help our plants continue to grow and thrive.



Bank of America

Part of supporter benefits of the *Slow Motion* exhibition is the underwriting of access for community youth groups to visit the exhibition at no cost. The visit includes an introduction and tour of the exhibitions led by our skilled guides, as well as time to create in the Public Engagement Space. 105 young community members were able to visit this exhibition in 2024, including Capital Harmony Works Trenton Children's Chorus and multiple RISE Summer Camp groups through this program.



Trenton Childrens Chorus

Slow Motion is made possible by generous exhibition support from Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Brooke Barrie Art Fund, NRG Energy, and Julie and Michael Nachamkin. Support is provided in part by the Atlantic Foundation, The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a division of the NJ Department of State, and a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Additional generous support is provided by Holman.

Bloomberg Philanthropies **nrg**



Made possible by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



Kenvue volunteers helped prune bushes and clear vines near our Main Loop and removed several large branches, beautifying the area. Bloomberg Volunteers worked hard on tropicalis bamboo to help beautify the Eastern Garden.

We appreciate the hard work of our corporate volunteers, who make a huge difference on the Grounds in a short time.



Kenvue

If you are interested in joining the volunteer team or would like more information, please contact Melissa Kelly at mkelly@groundsforsculpture.org