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**PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION  
ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

*–Gina Wouters Selected to Lead Next Growth Phase of Organization–*

Oyster Bay, New York – December 18, 2018 – Planting Fields Foundation (“Planting Fields” or “the Foundation”) today announced that Gina Wouters will join the Foundation as Executive Director as of January 1, 2019. Ms. Wouters replaces Henry Joyce who is retiring after having served in the role for over ten years.

Commenting on the new hire, Hal Davidson, president of the board of trustees of Planting Fields Foundation, said “We are thrilled to welcome someone of Gina’s caliber to help take us to the next level and realize our ambitious development goals. Gina’s experience and expertise are broad and deep and match everything we were looking for in the position: strategic leader and manager, engaged ambassador, accomplished scholar in the field, and with a genuine passion for our mission.”

“We are grateful for Henry Joyce’s valuable contributions to the Foundation over the past decade, particularly in returning the interior of Coe Hall to its former splendor through an extensive furniture acquisition plan, and in the expansion and enhancement of public events. We will miss him, but we are extremely eager to have Gina on board as we embark on our next phase,” he added.

“I am so excited to have the opportunity to lead an organization with the potential to have major impact on, not only the local and regional New York community, but on a national and international level as well. Planting Fields has all the attributes necessary to evolve as a world-

class site and a relevant and engaging destination for a broad constituency. I very much look forward to repositioning the organization, advancing art scholarship and best museum practices at this extraordinary and important historical treasure,” said Wouters.

Ms. Wouters spent a large part of her professional career at Vizcaya Museum and Gardens in Miami since 2007, serving as Curator from 2013-2018. At Vizcaya, she oversaw all curatorial initiatives, including research, exhibitions, development and implementation of the furnishing plan for the interior. In addition, she developed related programming and managed and negotiated the reacquisition of original Vizcaya objects housed at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Ms. Wouters was also oversaw the Contemporary Arts Program (CAP), which commissions site-specific work from living artists. Her most notable project at Vizcaya was the research, advocacy and preservation of Robert Winthrop Chanler’s work, which included the organization of a national symposium on the artist and authoring and editing the award-winning book, *Robert Winthrop Chanler: Discovering the Fantastic* (published by the Monacelli Press, 2016). Most recently, Ms. Wouters served as Vice President of Museum Affairs and Chief Curator at Cheekwood Estate and Gardens in Nashville, where she led the artistic, scholarly and educational vision of the museum, and was part of the small leadership team that oversaw the organization’s strategic plan and major campaign initiatives. During her tenure she developed a comprehensive interpretive plan, implemented a multi-year exhibition schedule and successfully positioned conservation and preservation of the collection as institutional priorities.

Ms. Wouters is a frequent participant, speaker and presenter at various curatorial and museological conferences and symposia throughout the US and UK; she is the author of two books and numerous exhibition materials; and is the recipient of a number of awards related to her work in the field. She holds a bachelor of fine arts in Photography and Art History from Barry University and a master of arts in Seventeenth-Century Dutch Art from the Universiteit van Amsterdam in her native country, the Netherlands. Ms. Wouters is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom where she researches the impact contemporary art in historic contexts has on cultural sustainability.

### **About Planting Fields Foundation**

Planting Fields Foundation is a New York State chartered educational organization established to preserve the renowned Planting Fields estate consisting of Coe Hall and the surrounding Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park on the north shore of Long Island, New York. The 409-acre estate was initially leased and then purchased in 1913 by William Robertson Coe. The originally house was destroyed by fire and rebuilt as a Tudor Revival, beginning in 1919, and was designed by Walker & Gillette. Today it is one of the few estates that remains intact and in pristine condition.

The Foundation, established in 1979, works in partnership with the New York State Office of Parks to preserve and enhance Coe Hall and the historic structures and landscape of the property. The Coe Family continues to be actively engaged in the activities of the Foundation. Coe Hall is open to the public for guided tours from April to September and conducts educational programs and events year-round. Coe Hall contains many original pieces and furnishings once belonging to the Coe family and features meticulously restored formal rooms and family living quarters. The Tudor-style interior of the house is a showcase of artistry and craftsmanship in its wood and stone carvings, ironwork, stained glass windows and original commissioned murals by American artists Robert H. Chanler and Everett Shinn.

To learn more about Planting Fields Foundation, please visit the website at [www.plantingfields.org](http://www.plantingfields.org)

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**PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM STATE HISTORIC PARK  
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