



**Contact:**

Winn Keaten  
Planting Fields Foundation  
Director of Marketing and  
Communications  
516-922-8678  
[wkeaten@plantingfields.org](mailto:wkeaten@plantingfields.org)  
[www.plantingfields.org](http://www.plantingfields.org)

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**PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION APPOINTS  
NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSEUM AFFAIRS AND CHIEF CURATOR AND ELECTS TWO NEW  
MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Oyster Bay, New York – October 22** – Planting Fields Foundation (“Planting Fields” or “the Foundation”) announced today the appointment of Meredith A. Brown as Director of Museum Affairs and Chief Curator, in addition to the election of two new members to its Board of Trustees, Stephanie Clark and Thomas McPartland. The first-ever senior curatorial position at Planting Fields will shape and implement the organization’s collections and curatorial objectives and priorities while fostering a vibrant and innovative approach to art, preservation, and scholarship.

In making the announcement today, said Executive Director, Gina Wouters, “While this year has brought many challenges and hurdles, it is an exciting time for the Foundation as we expand our staff and Board of Trustees with individuals whose professional experience both in the arts and in not-for-profit leadership will help advance the strategic plan we have completed this year. Tom and Stephanie bring much needed criticality and expertise in the arenas of strategic thinking and contemporary art, respectively. Meredith’s appointment ensures that our exhibition development and audience engagement meet the highest caliber of professionalism, innovation and relevance.”

**About Meredith A. Brown**

On November 9, Meredith Brown will join the Foundation after seven years with the curatorial team at the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s department of Modern and Contemporary Art. Prior to the Met, she held positions at Resnicow + Associates in New York, as well as the education department at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Meredith brings over a decade of experience in collection building, curatorial commissions, special exhibition organization, building institutional identity, strategic planning, and educational programming. She holds an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Courtauld Institute in London where she wrote her dissertation on feminist art, as well as a B.A. in Art and Art History from Stanford University. In her new role, Meredith will lead all collections and curatorial initiatives as well as educational programming to ensure that all content dissemination related to Planting Fields is streamlined.

**About Stephanie Clark**

Stephanie Clark is the Founder and President of the Findlay Institute in New York City. Prior to this role, she held the position of Vice President of Findlay Galleries International. Her extensive background in community leadership includes serving on the Board of Trustees of the American Federation of the Arts, the East Side Settlement House in the Bronx, and more than a decade of service with the Wildlife Conservation Society.

**About Thomas McPartland**

Tom McPartland is the Chief Executive Officer and member of the Board of The ELMA Philanthropies Services (US), Inc. He is also a board director of The ELMA Philanthropies Services (Africa) (Pty), Ltd., The ELMA Philanthropies Services (East Africa), Ltd. and The ELMA Music Foundation (U.S.) and ELMA Investments, Ltd. Tom's for-profit history includes senior leadership positions with the Redwood Capital Group, Liberty Digital (public company founder and CEO), the Zomba Group of Companies (North America) and the Bertelsmann Entertainment Group. Tom also brings extensive not-for-profit experience and commitment through prior Board positions including the New York State Association of Independent Schools, The Cloud Forest School Foundation, Old Westbury Gardens (former Co-Chair of the Preservation Committee) the Russian Gift of Life (Co-Founder), the Green Vale School (former Board Chair).

**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, the official list of the Nation's historic sites worthy of preservation.

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