



MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
OF NEW YORK



## Planting Fields Foundation

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Planting Fields Foundation Selected as a Museum Association of New York Museum Partner for Building Capacity, Creating Sustainability, Growing Accessibility**

**Oyster Bay, NY, November 24, 2020** The Museum Association of New York (MANY) is thrilled to announce that 96 museums from across New York State have been selected to participate in “Building Capacity, Creating Sustainability, Growing Accessibility”, an IMLS CARES Act grant project designed to help museums impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic share their collections and reach audiences who cannot physically visit their museums. 200 staff will be trained to use new hardware and software to develop programs that will engage their communities and reach new audiences.

“We are honored to be awarded IMLS CARES act funding and excited to be able to make an impact on the work of our colleagues and their museums across New York State,” said Erika Sanger, MANY Executive Director. “We are living in an age of transition, experience a radical shift in our ways of learning and communicating. The group selected captures the diversity of our shared history in NY and our nation. The stories embodied in the museums’ collections and the storytelling talents of their interpretive staff are the heart of the project.”

In this two-year program, museums will identify a program to virtually deliver to their audiences, focusing on developing programs from stories found in their collections that reveal cultural and racial diversity in their communities.

“It is an honor to be selected for this important grant project,” said Gina Wouters, Executive Director of Planting Fields Foundation. “One of our strategic goals is to develop innovative programming designed to engage new and diverse audiences. We are thrilled to be offered new tools and training that will help us reach our goal. It is our belief that educational and cultural experiences should be accessible to *all* communities, and our team is eager to expand our reach and develop creative and critical educational resources.”

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services [CAGML-246991-OMLS-20].

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### **About IMLS**

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation's approximately [120,000 libraries](#) and [35,000 museums](#) and related organizations. The agency's mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Its grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit [www.ims.gov](http://www.ims.gov) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### **About MANY**

The Museum Association of New York inspires, connects, and strengthens New York's cultural community statewide by advocating, educating, collaborating, and supporting professional standards and organizational development. MANY ensures that New York State museums operate at their full potential as economic drivers and essential components of their communities. To learn more, visit [www.nysmuseums.org](http://www.nysmuseums.org) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

### **About Planting Fields**

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 for a 501C3 organization. Located in Oyster Bay, New York and originally landscaped by the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Massachusetts, the Arboretum 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. Learn more at [www.plantingfields.org](http://www.plantingfields.org)