



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PLANTING FIELDS FOUNDATION IS RECIPIENT OF UNPRECEDENTED MULTIPLE AWARDS FROM THE ROBERT DAVID LION GARDINER FOUNDATION

Oyster Bay, New York – January 13 – Planting Fields Foundation (“Planting Fields” or “the Foundation”) is honored to be the recipient of \$177,210.45 from the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation (RDLGF) in an unprecedented award of multiple projects in celebration of *Olmsted 200*. The collection of projects will serve as a catalyst for the broader awareness of the Olmsted heritage at Planting Fields and on Long Island, as well as ensure Planting Fields has a robust presence in the 2022 national celebration of the bicentennial of Frederick Law Olmsted’s birth, *Olmsted 200*.

The four projects funded by the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation include a **national symposium, *Situating the Residential Projects of the Olmsted Firm***, in partnership with the National Association for Olmsted Parks and the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, on October 19-21, 2022. The symposium will feature 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 1857-1979, of which Planting Fields is a rare extant example. Also included is a partnership between Planting Fields Foundation and The Cultural Landscape Foundation (TCLF) that will result in a **guidebook highlighting Olmsted properties on Long Island and launch a two-day program** touring various key Olmsted sites throughout the region. Through this partnership, we will create the guidebook *What’s Out There?* with illustrated essays and stunning new landscape photography highlighting a collection of the unique Olmsted properties on Long Island. Also supported through funding from the RDLGF, is the **exhibition, *Still Life Photography and Designed Landscape***, that in addition to serving the scholarly interests of historians and admirers of photography and landscape design, will focus on women working as photographers in the early 20th century, a subject intended to appeal and inspire an audience of women and girls. Finally, the culminating project of the totality of the *Olmsted 200* initiatives funded by the RDLGF is the **first ever major publication on Planting Fields**, positioning the site as a complex, comprehensive, and still intact example of private Olmsted commissions. Partnering with a major publisher, this monograph will catapult our site onto an international stage and firmly position Planting Fields as a world class destination and heritage site.

"The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation is delighted to support this national celebration. We are grateful for the Planting Fields Foundation role in recognizing Olmsted's influence on Long Island as a significant piece in this offering. This is RDLGF's first multi-faceted award allowing more complete and extensive programming," said Kathryn M. Curran, Executive Director of the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation.

Gina Wouters, Executive Director of Planting Fields Foundation stated: “We are indebted to the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation for investing in us by being the primary sponsor of our four *Olmsted 200* initiatives. Our ambitious vision and ideas would not be realized without RDLGF’s shared commitment to the work and for recognizing the transformative role the series of events will have on the heritage of Long Island.”

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 early 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's distinct place in the history of American landscape design becomes more relevant and pronounced. Nationwide celebrations are taking place to firmly situate the legacy of the Olmsted firm on the American landscape creating momentum for all the work Planting Fields has been leading with the restoration of our Olmsted landscape.

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. To learn more about Planting Fields, please visit our website at <https://plantingfields.org/>

About *Olmsted 200*, April 26, 2022, marks the 200th birthday of Frederick Law Olmsted, author, journalist, public official, city planner and father of American landscape architecture. Olmsted and his successor firms designed thousands of landscape projects across the country, transforming American life and culture. His vision of public parks for all people — and their ability to strengthen communities and promote public well-being — are now more important than ever. Through events, education and advocacy at the local and national levels, *Olmsted 200* ensures that Olmsted's legacy lives on by renewing public and policy commitments to the preservation and maintenance of our historic parks and places.

About the Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, The Robert David Lion Gardiner Foundation, established in 1987, primarily supports the study of Long Island history and its role in the American experience. Robert David Lion Gardiner was, until his death in August 2004, the 16th Lord of the Manor of Gardiner's Island, NY. The Gardiner family and their descendants have owned Gardiner's Island since 1639, obtained as part of a royal grant from King Charles I of England. The Foundation is inspired by Robert David Lion Gardiner's personal passion for New York history.

<https://www.rdlgfoundation.org/history>

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