

Planting Fields Foundation Earns Nation's Highest Museum Honor

Historic Long Island Estate Receives Accreditation from the American Alliance of Museums

In a landmark moment for Long Island's cultural landscape, Planting Fields Foundation has achieved accreditation by the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), the highest national recognition for museum excellence in the United States. This prestigious designation places Planting Fields among the top three percent of museums nationwide and affirms its position as a leader in preservation, education, and cultural innovation.

Of the estimated 33,000 museums in the country, only about 1,100 hold this distinction. Planting Fields Foundation is now one of 70 museums across New York state to receive this honor.



The Main House at Planting Fields. Image courtesy of David Almeida.

Notably, Planting Fields is the first New York State Parks site to receive AAM accreditation, a historic achievement that sets a new precedent for public parks and historic sites across the state.

"Achieving AAM accreditation is a profound milestone that underscores the dedication of our team, board, and partners to thoughtful stewardship, inclusive interpretation, and creative programming," said Gina J. Wouters, Ph.D., President and CEO of Planting Fields Foundation. "This honor affirms the Foundation's mission to preserve and activate this extraordinary site through the lenses of history, art, horticulture, and community. It also signals our readiness to grow boldly into the future as a national model for the reimagining of historic and cultural sites."

The American Alliance of Museums' rigorous, multi-year accreditation process assesses every aspect of a museum's operations, from governance and collections care to financial health and public service. It includes a comprehensive self-study and an intensive site visit by independent museum professionals. Final decisions are made by the AAM Accreditation Commission, composed of leaders from across the field.

"Accreditation is a monumental achievement," said Marilyn Jackson, AAM President and CEO. "The process demonstrates an institution's commitment to best practice and is flexible enough to be accomplished by museums of any size."

This national recognition comes at a transformative time for Planting Fields Foundation. In addition to recent expansions in public programming and interpretation, the Foundation is preparing to unveil a major new Piet Oudolf-designed garden, an innovative contemporary landscape opening in 2026. This milestone complements a growing roster of seasonal exhibitions, performances, and educational initiatives that reinforce Planting Fields as a vibrant year-round global destination for history, horticulture, and the arts.

Visitors are invited to experience the nationally recognized excellence of Planting Fields through tours of the historic Main House. Guided tours are available Friday through Sunday from 10am to 1pm and are led by knowledgeable staff who illuminate the Coe family's story and the unique Tudor Revival architecture of the historic house-museum. Tickets: \$18 general admission, \$17 seniors (62+), \$5 children (ages 6 – 17), children ages 5 and under are free. Self-guided tours are offered Friday through Sunday from 1 to 4pm. Tickets: \$15 general admission, \$14 seniors (62+), \$5 children (ages 6 – 17), children ages 5 and under are free. Tours can be booked in advance [here](#) and on-site, but reservations are recommended.

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About Planting Fields Foundation

Through a balanced approach to preserving and creating, the Foundation stewards the built and natural environment of Planting Fields as a public center of learning and life. Planting Fields is a dynamic and vibrant site that features numerous historic structures, Olmsted Brothers-designed landscapes, and world class art and horticultural collections. Established in 1952 by W.R. Coe as a 501(c)(3), Planting Fields Foundation works in partnership with New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation to steward Planting Fields. As a former Gold Coast estate, it is preserved today as a celebration of art, architecture, landscape, and the people that resided on its land. Annual festivals and seasonal 5Ks, as well as year-round programs, lectures, symposia, exhibitions, concerts, performances, and family events take place, ushering in over 200,000 visitors each year. Thousands of school-aged children engage with Planting Fields to learn about the sciences and humanities through varied offerings that are uniquely reflected at the site. Learn more at plantingfields.org.

About the American Alliance of Museums

The American Alliance of Museums (AAM) is the only organization representing the entire museum field, from art and history museums to science centers and zoos. Since 1906, we have been championing museums through advocacy and providing museum professionals with the resources, knowledge, inspiration, and connections they need to move the field forward. For more information, visit aam-us.org.

Contact

Kayla Cheshire, Communications and Marketing Manager

✉ kcheshire@plantingfields.org ☎ 516.922.8690

Planting Fields Foundation

1395 Planting Fields Road

Oyster Bay, NY 11771