A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-PRESIDENTS

We hope you, your families, friends, and colleagues are healthy and safe. As we move through these surreal months, we would like to take a moment to share Bartow-Pell’s gratitude with you; our most steadfast supporters.

While we have recently made some tough decisions as the harsh economic ramifications of the COVID crisis have been profound, please know that this crisis will not stop Bartow-Pell’s mission; to preserve and protect our 9-acre site and to provide outstanding educational programs for students, scholars, and community members of all ages. With your help, we want to fulfill our vision of becoming one of the most beloved historic sites in the New York metropolitan area.

Each of us appreciates Bartow-Pell for different reasons: the gardens restore our sense of well-being; walking through the mansion’s interiors transport us and the magical setting is a community anchor, bringing us all together. It’s a place for which magical is aptly and repeatedly invoked and we know this descriptor will continue long into the future.

In the meantime, to those who are able, we hope you will consider supporting Bartow-Pell so that we can be ready to relaunch with gratitude, a greater awareness of what’s most important, and a sense of pride knowing that Bartow-Pell survived this unprecedented crisis. ~ Cherrie Greenhalgh and Nora Mazur

A special thank you to all of the volunteers whose contributions are invaluable to this organization.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

This past fiscal year (July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020) was unlike any that we have ever experienced, nor was it one any of us could have anticipated. The year straddled two distinct worlds. The pre-Covid era started out strong and included mission-driven programing and events throughout the summer, fall, and winter. Then the pandemic forced the museum to shutter its doors and close the front gates in March. This was at the same time unprecedented, alarming, and devastating.

Like the rest of the world, Bartow-Pell pivoted and changed much of how it operated. But because Bartow-Pell is very much a place-based resource, we were very eager to re-open when guidelines permitted. We were well into the first quarter of our current fiscal year, however, before we could safely welcome visitors back to the site.

Thanks to ongoing support from the community, Bartow-Pell continues to remain strong. The mansion and carriage house have survived 178 years, and we intend them to be here another 178 years, indeed well beyond that. We will continue to preserve the site and tell the stories of its residents—from the Lenape who called the area home before the arrival of the European settlers, to the Bartow family and the many Irish immigrants who served them, to the decade when the Turnbull family rented the property from the City of New York, to the organization that ran the Day Home and School for Crippled Children from 1904 to 1914, to the International Garden Club, which created the walled, terraced garden in 1916 and began the restoration of the mansion. That history, together with the new stories we create every day at Bartow-Pell, are part of its continuing story, and you can rest assured that we are in it for the long haul. With your help, the journey will continue. Please consider making a gift in support of the efforts to preserve the site and offer dynamic programming for students, scholars, and community members of all ages. As the recently much-used expression goes: “We’re in it together.” Please stay well and stay safe. ~Alison McKay
SOUNDING BOX #11

Upon entering the light-filled Orangerie last summer, visitors were treated to a sound experience created by their own movement and shadows. This installation was one of several small exhibits Bartow-Pell presented in FY20 as part of its initiative to incorporate contemporary elements into this historic setting.

Fabricated as a technically inclined conceptual artwork designed to calm the mind, Sounding Box #11 is a light-reactive sound sculpture that generates magnetic energy to induce vibrations in metal and wood, fusing traditional stringed instrument design with innovative technology that produces tranquil soundscapes. Conceptualized and developed by MJ Claselden, who refers to himself as a Creative Technologist, the piece contains shadow-reactive sensors that detect a change in light and create sounds in response.

The physics behind it is as follows: To make a sound, the system activates a magnet that creates a force to push a metal string upward, creating momentum. Less than a second later, the direction of the magnetic field is reversed, which causes the metal string to move downward. The cycle repeats very quickly, hundreds of times per second, creating what is known as “standing wave.” The fast motion of the string becomes a cyclical oscillation similar to that naturally produced by traditional stringed instruments.

This piece was a custom commission designed for the littleBits Electronics office in the Starrett-Lehigh building in Chelsea, Manhattan. littleBits Electronics is a New York City-based startup that has created an open source library of modular electronics, which snap together with small magnets for prototyping and learning. The company’s goal is to democratize hardware as software and printing have been democratized.

*Sounding Box #11
Creative Technologist MJ Caselden
Light-Reactive Magnetic Sound Sculpture*
WISH YOU WERE HERE...

Before email, Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram, there were postcards!

While its doors were closed to the public because of COVID-19, Bartow-Pell brought an in-person exhibit online. Visitors to the Bartow-Pell’s website and YouTube channel were able to tour bygone places and spaces of the east Bronx and Pelham Bay Park through a virtual exhibition of postcards dating to the turn of the 19th century. Views of historic inns, beaches, street scenes, and sports—from the collection of local historian and Bartow-Pell board member Thomas X. Casey—offer insight into changes in landscapes and lifestyles over the past century. Tom Casey’s collection includes more than 6,000 vintage Bronx postcards dating from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century. He is co-author of Northwest Bronx and Bronx Views and a founding member of the East Bronx History Forum. He has lectured at the Bronx County Historical Society, Kingsbridge Historical Society, Westchester Genealogical Society, New York Public Library, City Island Historical Society, and local public schools. This exhibition is ongoing and available at bpmm.org.
GASTON LACHAISE PEACOCKS

Bartow-Pell is very happy to announce that the Public Design Commission of NYC, the NYC Department of Parks Art and Antiquities Division, the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, and Bronx Community Board 10 have unanimously approved a five-year extension of the Lachaise Foundation’s loan of the two Gaston Lachaise Peacock sculptures.

These elegant and graceful peacocks, designed in 1920, were intended for a formal garden like that on the grounds of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. Our garden was conceived and constructed circa 1916 by the prominent architectural firm of Delano & Aldrich and restored in 2013 by the landscape architect Mark Morrison of MKM Design.

Animals were a theme to which Lachaise returned throughout his artistic career. He sculpted peacocks, seagulls, swans, and dolphins, and the species he chose to represent were generally peaceful ones. Born in Paris, Lachaise moved to the United States in 1906 and worked as a sculptor’s assistant for many years to Paul Manship (1885–1956). The commissions for his animal works came through Manship or architects with whom he worked, including Welles Bosworth (1868–1966) and Philip Goodwin (1885–1958).

The industrialist James Deering commissioned Lachaise in 1920 to make two short-tailed peacocks in stone to sit atop eight decorative spiral columns in the Marine Garden of the home he was building outside Miami, called Vizcaya. Philip Goodwin commissioned the long-tailed peacock for a fountain on the wall of his mansion on Long Island. Coincidentally, Goodwin had worked for Delano & Aldrich between 1914 and 1916, making the presence of the peacocks here at Bartow-Pell very appropriate indeed.

Special thanks to the following individuals:
Paula Hornbostel, Director
Gaston Lachaise Foundation
John Krawchuk, Director
Historic House Trust
Elizabeth Masella, Senior Public Art Coordinator, NYC Parks Department
Matthew Cruz, District Manager
Community Board 10

Gaston Lachaise (1882 – 1935)
Long-Tailed Peacock
Short-Tailed Peacock
Bronze with gilding
Cast: Modern Art Foundry, 2002
STORIES BY JEREMY DENNIS

As part of Bartow-Pell’s ongoing series Beyond the Oak Tree Treaty, which highlights both the contemporary and historical contributions of indigenous peoples of the Americas, the museum installed an exhibition of photographs by Jeremy Dennis entitled Stories: Indigenous Oral Stories, Dreams, and Myths at the beginning of Bartow-Pell’s fiscal year 2020. Dennis, a contemporary fine art photographer and tribal member of the Shinnecock Indian Nation in Southampton, New York, explores indigenous identity, culture, and assimilation through his work. Inspired by North American stories, the artist staged supernatural images that transform these myths and legends into depictions of actual experiences within the photographs. These photographic portraits are simultaneously real and surreal.

Dennis was one of ten recipients of a 2016 Dreamstarter Grant from the national non-profit organization Running Strong for American Indian Youth. He was awarded $10,000 to pursue his project On This Site, which uses photography and an interactive online map to showcase culturally significant Native American sites on Long Island, a topic of special meaning for Dennis, who was raised on the Shinnecock Nation Reservation. He also created a book and exhibition from this project. Most recently, Dennis received the Creative Bursar Award from Getty Images in 2018 to continue his series Stories—Indigenous Oral Stories, Dreams and Myths, many of which were exhibited at Bartow-Pell.

BLOOMBERG FOUNDATION ARTS INTERNSHIP

Last summer, Bartow-Pell had the opportunity to host two rising high school seniors through an internship program sponsored by the Bloomberg Foundation. The program places rising seniors in various arts and cultural organizations throughout New York City and provides many of them with their first paid job experience. Bartow-Pell’s interns worked on a variety of projects designed to expose them to different types of museum work at a historic site. Projects included assisting in planning and providing support for the museum’s two-week summer camp for elementary age students; creating content for social media posts on collection objects and programming for our Instagram and Facebook accounts; organizing and documenting items in the collections; and creating a social narrative for visiting adult and school groups that is currently posted on the museum’s website. These projects were designed to provide the interns with an opportunity to develop research and writing skills by investigating the historical and contemporary relevancy of our collections. The projects also helped the students improve their public speaking skills and better understand techniques for welcoming diverse audiences into public spaces. The interns also learned how to approach work professionally, critically, and creatively. We look forward to a continued partnership with the Bloomberg Foundation and this internship program.

Interns Malaika Johnson and Zulnorain Ahmed with Bartow-Pell’s Director, Alison McKay at the Bloomberg Foundation for final presentations, August 2019
HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES WITH A BRONX THEME

December 2019 was a month filled with fun, festive programs and fundraisers that both support the museum and drive its mission. The co-chairs of the Holiday Committee were Katy Gary and Laird Tolan, each of whom brought their extraordinary creativity, energy, and untriring enthusiasm to Bartow-Pell and made last year’s event one of the most successful on record. The Committee chose to highlight remarkable places and ideas inspired by the Borough of the Bronx. Throughout the mansion, the rooms and trees were decorated by volunteer designers. The entrance hall was decorated with a New York Botanical Garden tree designed by Alice Pirsu; a Yankee baseball tree decorated by Tom Casey graced the dining room, and a Hip-Hop-themed tree was decorated by Amelia Zaino and Oleana Graham. The Bronx Zoo tree was designed by Laird Tolan and the Edgar Allen Poe Cottage tree by Joe Burck was featured in the formal parlors, the latter crafted entirely from origami-like paper decorations. Dawn Pintauro’s tree design featured Pelham Bay Park in the upstairs sitting room; Tracee Newman’s verdantly decorated front sitting parlor was inspired by Wave Hill; Arthur Avenue was Colleen Zale’s theme for the Lannuier bedroom, and Katy Gary’s peacock tree paid homage to the two Lachaise sculptures overlooking the terraced gardens behind the mansion. We are very grateful for all of their efforts on behalf of Bartow-Pell.

THE SNOW QUEEN PAYS A VISIT TO BARTOW-PELL

Although the Holiday Party and Luncheon are decidedly adult-oriented events, Bartow-Pell’s beloved Teddy Bear Tea Party was offered to nursery school-aged children who were accompanied by parents, grandparents, or favorite adults. Attendees celebrated the season with a child-approved, bright, colorful, and deliciously decadent holiday-themed menu, a sing-along, and a visit by the Bartow Snow Queen who entertained the children with stories in the formal parlors. While several children brought their own teddy bear to the tea party, each child received a stuffed bear upon arrival. We hope to be able to continue this tradition when safety and guidelines allow.
THANK YOU TO OUR FY20 SUPPORTERS

$10,000+
Mary Collins
Jane Cooke
Carolyn Cram
Nancy David & Fred Rothman
Alice Dean
Marilyn Dengler
Veronica Dennison
Aldo Di Vito
Kathleen Donohue
Donna & Len Elmer
Diane Essig
Elaine Fierman
Regina & Chris Gallagher
Ursula & Steven Huff
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Ellen Lasch & Alexander Sade
Leah Lenney
Teresa Leste
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Joanna Schoff
Christine Spana
Laird Morgan Tolan
Dart Westphal

$100+
Pam Alabaster
Stacy Allen
Nandini Anandu
Ann Anderson
Joe Auer
Ann Auwarter
Michael Bachmann
Kim Campisano
SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDING

FY19 Revenue

- Corporate Support: 17,093
- Earned Income: 72,321
- Foundation: 1,100
- Fundraising Income: 76,701
- Individual: 96,610
- Investment Income: 8,353
- Restricted Income*: 67,777
- Total Revenue: 339,955

FY19 Expenses

- Buildings & Grounds: 37,475
- Fundraising: 35,649
- Educational Programming: 142,588
- Administration: 102,000
- Other: 15,619
- Total Expenses: 333,331

Net Operating Revenue: 2,075

*Restricted income includes government and corporate grants, foundations, and individual donations designated for specific uses.