

W WOODLAWN
CEMETERY • CONSERVANCY

2024 ANNUAL REPORT



About The Woodlawn Cemetery

Founded in 1863 and encompassing 400 acres in the Bronx, New York, The Woodlawn Cemetery is one of the nation's most distinguished historic cemeteries and a certified Level II Arboretum. Recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 2011, Woodlawn holds a unique place in the cultural and architectural history of both New York City and the United States.

Woodlawn remains an active cemetery, offering ongoing burial and funeral services. More than 310,000 individuals are memorialized across its expansive grounds. As one of the finest remaining examples of a 19th-century garden cemetery, Woodlawn is renowned for its landscape design and exceptional collection of memorial art and architecture, including nearly 1,300 private mausoleums crafted by some of the most celebrated architects and artisans of their time.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Supporters of Woodlawn,

Each year, Woodlawn continues to be a place of profound connection—where families gather to honor loved ones, visitors explore our rich history and landscapes, and our dedicated team works diligently to uphold a legacy of service, beauty, and preservation. In 2024 and into 2025, our mission has remained grounded in compassion, dignity, and excellence, guided by our new 2025–2027 Strategic Plan.



This plan, developed through thoughtful analysis and input from across our community, charts a path toward long-term sustainability, operational strength, and expanded public impact. It reaffirms our dual identity: as an active cemetery that provides comfort and care to thousands, and as a nationally recognized historic, cultural, and natural landmark.

Leadership and Governance

This fall, we mark an important leadership transition. Michael Reynolds will conclude his tenure as Chair of the Board after years of dedicated service. We are deeply grateful for Michael's steady guidance during a period of strategic growth and transformation. At the same time, we warmly welcome Ian Rowan as our incoming Chair. Ian brings both vision and deep respect for Woodlawn's mission, and I look forward to partnering with him as we enter this next chapter.

We also honor the memory of Robert "Bob" Hall (1948–2025), who passed away earlier this year. Bob served the Woodlawn Cemetery as a Trustee for over 25 years and as a Director of the Woodlawn Conservancy. His unwavering dedication to our mission and his commitment to stewardship leave an enduring legacy. We are better for his service—and we miss him deeply.

Investing in Our Future

We continue to make bold investments in our future. In 2024, we launched new glass-front niches at the Garden Conservatory Mausoleum and advanced construction of the Maple Mausoleum, slated to open in 2025. These new spaces reflect our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of our community with dignity and innovation.

At the same time, we are tackling long-deferred infrastructure needs across our 400-acre campus—including road and sidewalk repairs, crematory upgrades, and improved landscape maintenance. These efforts are supported by a renewed focus on financial discipline, including departmental budgeting, debt reduction, and a multi-year capital improvement plan.

Preservation, Education, and Public Engagement

Public engagement remains central to our work. In 2025, our Bridge to Crafts Careers (B2CC) program celebrates its 10th anniversary, having equipped hundreds of young adults with valuable skills in stone masonry and landscape preservation. Their hands-on work has helped restore and protect Woodlawn's architectural treasures.

We continue to expand tours, lectures, concerts, and exhibitions that bring to life the stories of those interred here. In the year ahead, we aim to attain Level III Arboretum accreditation and will deepen collaborations with cultural and academic institutions across New York City—further positioning Woodlawn as a living classroom, a center for learning, and a model of sustainable preservation.

Investing in People and Culture

A vibrant future depends on a strong team. With the retirement of Susan Olsen in May, we bid farewell to a visionary colleague whose leadership helped shape Woodlawn's national reputation for excellence in preservation. As we look ahead to 2025 and beyond, we are focused on recruiting new talent, realigning roles, and continuing to build a workplace culture grounded in purpose, collaboration, and growth.

A Living Roadmap

Our 2025–2027 Strategic Plan is more than a document—it's a living roadmap for action, accountability, and aspiration. It guides how we prioritize, allocate resources, and measure success, all while staying true to our values. This plan reflects who we are and who we serve: lot owners and families, visitors, researchers, community members, and the many partners who support our mission.

I remain deeply grateful to our dedicated staff, Trustees, Conservancy Directors, and community of supporters. Together, we honor the past, serve the present, and shape a future that ensures Woodlawn remains a sanctuary of remembrance, a place of learning, and a treasured public space for generations to come.

With gratitude and commitment,



CHRIS JEANNOPOULOS

President & CEO

The Woodlawn Cemetery and Woodlawn Conservancy



LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As my term as Chair concludes, I express my deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve this remarkable organization. Over the past 10 years in the Chair role, I was honored to work alongside a dedicated team committed to serving our lot owners, preserving and enhancing Woodlawn Cemetery's historic fabric, and deepening our ties to the community through a growing array of innovative programs and activities.

Together, we have strengthened our stewardship of this sacred space—advancing conservation efforts, honoring its legacy, and ensuring that Woodlawn remains a place of dignity, remembrance, and historical significance.

I am proud of the progress we have made and the thoughtful care shown across all aspects of our work.

It is with great confidence that I welcome Ian Rowan as the new Chair. Ian brings a deep respect for our mission, a collaborative spirit, and a clear vision for the future. I know he will lead with the same sense of purpose and responsibility that defines this institution.

I will continue to serve on the Board for the coming year to support Ian and contribute to a smooth transition.

Thank you to our board, staff, and supporters for your trust and partnership. Please join me in welcoming Ian to his new role.

Warm regards,

MICHAEL T. REYNOLDS

Outgoing Chair



LETTER FROM THE INCOMING CHAIR

It is an honor to step into the role of Chair at Woodlawn Cemetery, and I do so with deep respect for the legacy of those who have led before me—especially Michael Reynolds, whose incredible dedication has advanced Woodlawn's mission with consideration and purpose.

As one of the nation's most historic and active cemeteries, Woodlawn plays a vital role in serving families with dignity while preserving a rich cultural and architectural heritage. I am committed to continuing this dual mission, ensuring that we remain a place of comfort, remembrance, and beauty for generations to come.

I look forward to working closely with our board, staff, and community as we build on our strong foundation and respond thoughtfully to the needs of the families who place their trust in us.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. It is a privilege I accept with humility and enthusiasm.

Warm regards,

IAN M. ROWAN

Incoming Chair

CEMETERY SERVICES

Since its founding in 1863, The Woodlawn Cemetery has been a non-sectarian cemetery with a range of burial options—from in-ground burial to crypts, community mausoleums, and cremation niches. Woodlawn has a non-denominational chapel available for funeral services, and the staff is dedicated to assuring the most sensitive care at a difficult time for those making interment and cremation decisions. The cemetery's legacy spans more than 160 years of preserving family legacies with dignity in a historic cultural setting.

Genealogy and Historical Research

Woodlawn responds regularly to requests for information from genealogists and historians. Volunteers have completed extensive research, enabling the Conservancy to work with individuals and families with a Woodlawn connection to deepen their appreciation for their personal legacy and the role Woodlawn plays in their lives. In 2024, Woodlawn fulfilled 466 genealogical requests. Many of these individuals now engage with us regularly by participating in events and tours.

In 2024 there were:

- 2205 Cremations
- 895 Interments
- 164 Foundations Poured
- 159 Mausoleums Restored
- 1,107 Monuments Restored

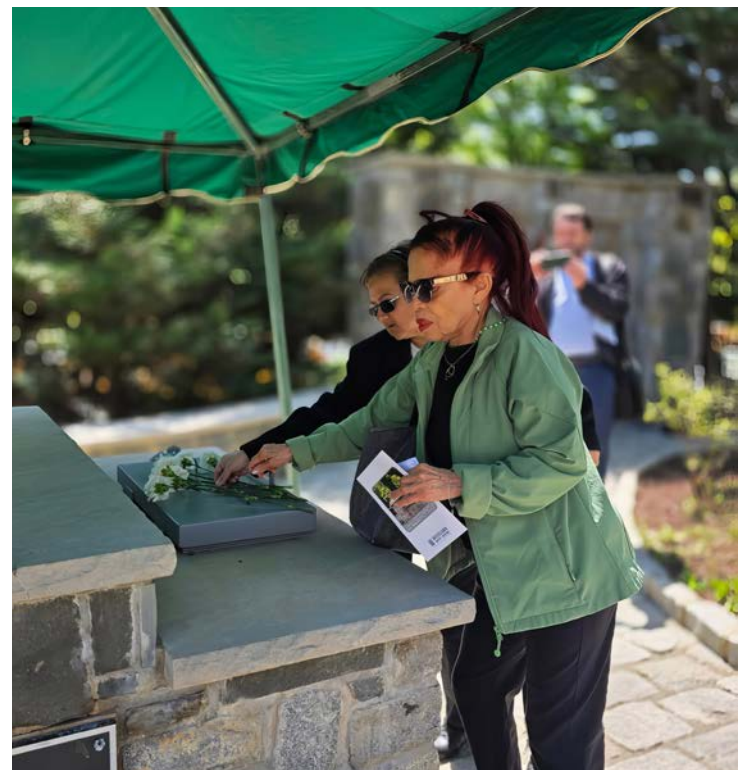


Monument & Mausoleum Care

The Woodlawn Cemetery and Woodlawn Conservancy prioritize care for its grounds, historic structures, and welcoming landscape. In 2024, Woodlawn invested more than \$1,000,000 protecting and repairing the extraordinary ensemble of mausoleums, bronze doors, fine interiors, and assessment of the collection of stained-glass windows. In addition, there is ongoing maintenance of the trees, flowers, lawns, and landscape features that make Woodlawn a unique destination.

Promises Day

Promises Day, held annually at Woodlawn, is an opportunity to honor the memory of a loved one at a special ceremony to accompany the placement of cremated remains in a permanent location. This ecumenical ceremony is open to all and is a moving tribute to those we lost. Last year, family members and friends were able to gather together for a ceremony of reflection. A harpist provided music, prayers were recited, and those in attendance were able to express their love once again for someone whose remains will now be permanently in the care of Woodlawn. An attendee recently wrote to Woodlawn to express his happiness with the ceremony, which eased his grief and he left feeling certain that Woodlawn would care for his loved one long into the future.





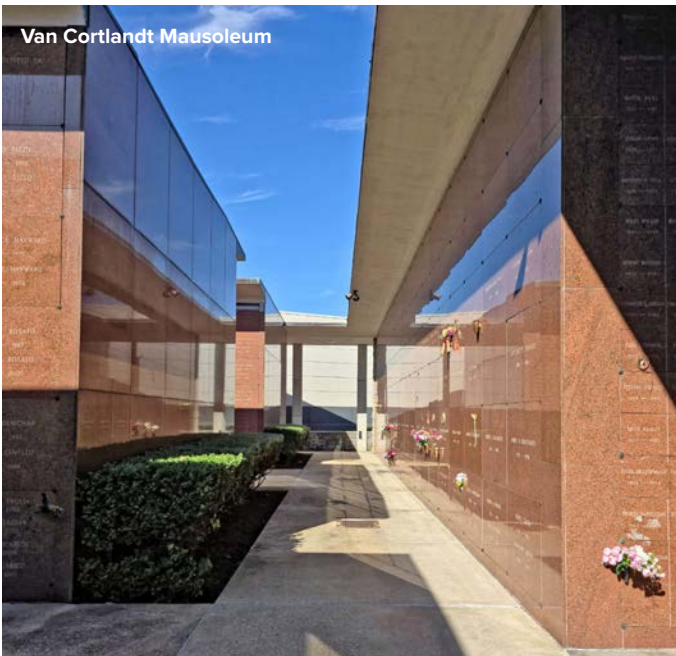
Glass Front Niches

New Developments

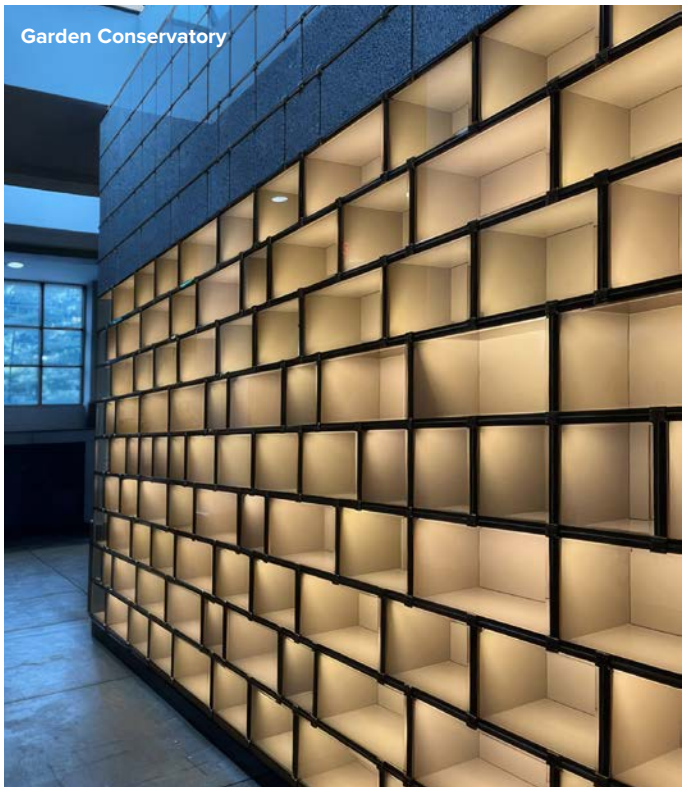
Woodlawn serves its community in a variety of ways, including adapting to the changing needs of families as they make their choices for honoring the wishes of deceased family members. Our most recent innovation is the installation of glass-front niches in the Garden Conservatory and Van Cortlandt Mausoleums. These niches offer a beautiful and serene setting to personalize the memory of a loved one. The Garden Conservatory also features granite niches, as does our newest outdoor development, Maple Court, which is set in a tranquil, beautifully landscaped area of the cemetery.



Van Cortlandt Mausoleum



Van Cortlandt Mausoleum



Garden Conservatory

ENSURE THE LEGACY OF YOUR FAMILY LOT WITH PERPETUAL CARE

Have you considered establishing an endowment, commonly known as perpetual care, for long-term upkeep of your burial site? Creating an endowed care fund is one of the most meaningful ways to ensure that your family's resting place remains beautifully maintained for generations to come.

As of the end of 2024, Woodlawn proudly manages 8,828 individual endowments, with a combined net asset value of over \$200 million. In the past year alone, we welcomed seven new endowments totaling over \$200,000. These funds directly support the ongoing care of mausoleums, headstones, grave markers, and other memorial features across our grounds.

Endowed care funds are also used to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of Woodlawn, providing for the planting and maintenance of trees, shrubs, and flowers associated with specific lots. In many cases, income from these funds is even used for seasonal

decorations, such as palm crosses and wreaths—ensuring that your site remains vibrant and remembered throughout the year.

Establishing an endowment is more accessible than many families realize: a single grave lot and monument can be endowed for as little as \$4,000. When you establish an endowment, your contribution is held in trust in accordance with New York State's Not-for-Profit Corporation Law. The principal is invested carefully, and only the income is used to provide maintenance that goes far beyond basic lawn care—offering personalized attention and stewardship well into the future.

If you're considering starting an endowment, adding to an existing one, or including Woodlawn in your estate plans, we invite you to contact us at endowments@woodlawn.org. Let us help you preserve your family's legacy in one of America's most historic and beautiful cemeteries.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

There are always special projects ongoing at the Cemetery. The Conservancy is most often focused on very specialized preservation activities that are exciting and remind us of the legacy of the extraordinary

individuals and families whose long-term care has been entrusted to Woodlawn. The cemetery undertakes work that makes a difference to the visitors and community who come to Woodlawn every day. One such notable project in the last year was the replacement of 1,200 feet of sidewalk along Jerome Avenue. This daunting task was completed and makes an enormous difference to those walking adjacent to the Cemetery grounds and vastly improves the visual impact of arriving at Woodlawn.

Along with the improved Jerome Avenue sidewalk, many signs were replaced and repaired within the cemetery grounds, making it easier to navigate through the paths and offering visitors better information on moving through the cemetery on foot or in a car.

It's natural at Woodlawn that we speak about the extraordinary landscape, the unparalleled ensemble of funerary art and architecture, and the accomplished people laid to rest within these grounds. The dedicated

leadership and staff of Woodlawn spend an equal amount of time attending to the needs of the cemetery to assure it remains a cherished destination. At Van Cortlandt Mausoleum in the last year, we improved the entryway, installed a new bathroom, installed a new tile floor, and upgraded the HVAC for the comfort of visitors.

We also improved the public bathrooms, improved lighting,

restored the guard booths, and have improved the WiFi system, making it easier for staff to respond to requests no matter where they are throughout the Woodlawn grounds. Each year, these types of capital investments assure the sustainability of Woodlawn and the cemetery's ability to serve families and visitors.



Signage was upgraded throughout the cemetery

SUSAN OLSEN RETIRES AFTER 24 YEARS

After 24 years of visionary service, Susan Olsen retired at the end of May 2025 as Director of Historical Services at Woodlawn Cemetery and Conservancy. Widely respected for her expertise in historic preservation, Susan has elevated Woodlawn to national prominence through groundbreaking educational initiatives, landmark recognition, and archival stewardship.

In 2025, she was deservedly honored with the Preservation Leadership Award from the New York Landmarks Conservancy, recognizing her dedication to Woodlawn Cemetery. Throughout her tenure, Susan led numerous initiatives that enriched the cemetery's mission. Among her many achievements, three stand out for their scale, impact, and vision.

- In 2015, she launched the Bridge to Crafts Careers Program with the World Monuments Fund and International Masonry Institute, caring for Woodlawn's monuments while training young adults in masonry and landscape restoration.
- She led the successful effort to designate Woodlawn as a National Historic Landmark in 2011, highlighting its historic monuments by renowned architects including McKim, Mead & White, Cass Gilbert, and Beatrix Farrand.
- She played a pivotal role in the donation of Woodlawn's extensive archives to Columbia University's Avery Library, ensuring permanent access for scholars and researchers.

A Grateful Farewell

Susan Olsen's transformative work has preserved Woodlawn Cemetery's physical and cultural heritage while expanding its role as a center for conservation training and scholarship. Her vision, energy, and dedication have touched countless lives—Lot Owners, craftspeople, students, and historians.

Susan's legacy at Woodlawn will be felt for generations through the preservation she championed, the knowledge she shared, and the programs she built. We thank her for her extraordinary contributions and lasting impact.

Left: Susan Olsen and great, great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Coline Jenkins, at an event celebrating the renowned suffragist. Right: in 2025, Susan received the Lucy G. Moses Award for Preservation Leadership.



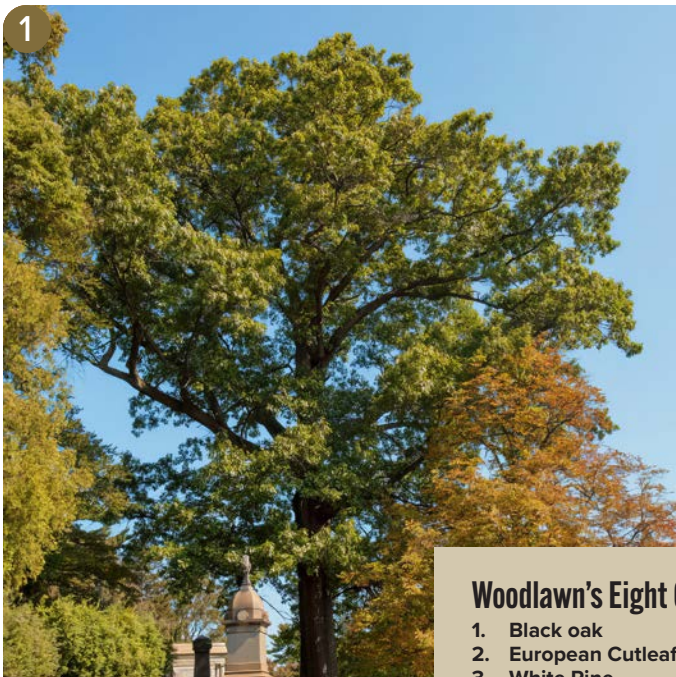
ARBORETUM

CARING FOR OUR URBAN FOREST

Woodlawn Cemetery is truly a vibrant green oasis in the Bronx. From the moment you enter the grounds, the serenity and majesty of our tree canopy makes a lasting impression. Even without knowing their names, one can feel how the trees shape the character and beauty of the Cemetery. In 2024, Woodlawn continued its commitment to preserving and enhancing this treasured urban forest. Over the past year, we planted 404 new trees and 170 shrubs, including 105 canopy trees that will one day provide broad shade and

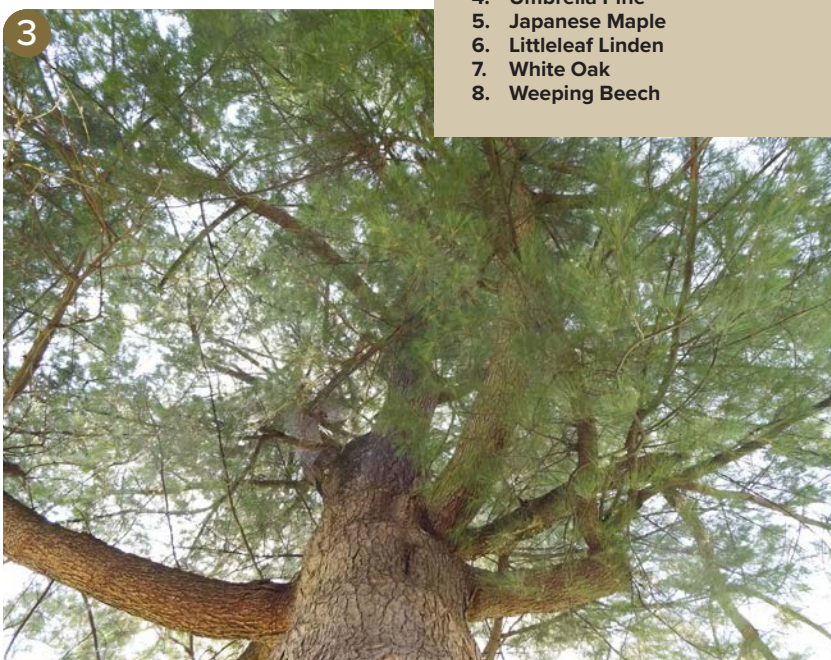
ecological benefits. Thanks to a generous donation, 299 of the 404 plantings were flowering trees added throughout the grounds.

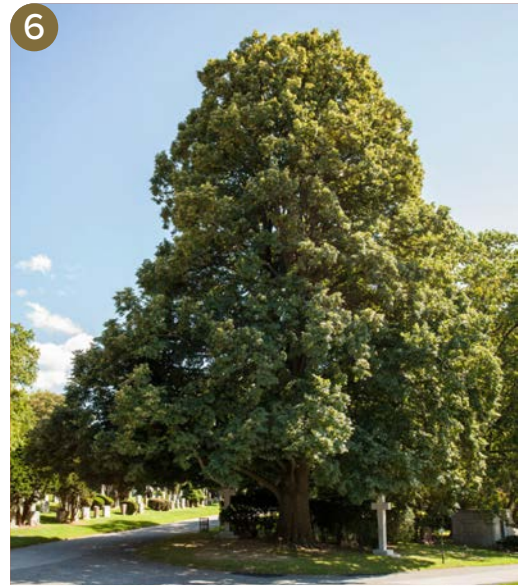
We also undertook significant maintenance efforts to ensure the long-term health of the landscape. 395 trees were pruned for safety and vitality. At the same time 173 trees, many at the end of their natural life, were respectfully removed. Among these, 45 trees had sustained damage from deer, an increasingly common challenge in our urban environment. Today, Woodlawn's landscape includes an impressive 484 species and varieties of trees and shrubs, making it one of the most diverse and significant collections in New York City. To further enhance the visitor experience, over 3,600 annual flowers were planted near the cemetery offices and along border graves, bringing vibrant color to the landscape throughout the seasons.



Woodlawn's Eight Great Trees

1. Black oak
2. European Cutleaf Beech
3. White Pine
4. Umbrella Pine
5. Japanese Maple
6. Littleleaf Linden
7. White Oak
8. Weeping Beech





Cemeteries as Havens for Nature

Cemeteries exist to memorialize cherished family members, friends, and notable figures. Yet they also play a vital, frequently overlooked role in urban ecology. At Woodlawn, the peaceful grounds provide sanctuary for migratory birds, bees, native plantings, and a wide variety of tree species. The Cemetery has quietly become one of the city's most ecologically rich green spaces. Since 1984 NYC Parks has recognized trees for their exceptional age, size, rarity, or cultural importance. In October of 2024 Woodlawn's Great Black Oak, Duke Ellington's Linden tree, and Woodlawn's Collection of Japanese Maples were designated part of NYC's Great trees. Woodlawn is now proud to be home to eight of the 29 officially designated Great Trees in the Bronx and 120 Great trees citywide. These iconic trees are living landmarks and commanding witnesses to generations of history. We invite you to enjoy the photographs of Woodlawn's Great

Trees featured in this report and learn what makes each one special. And when you come to visit, we encourage you to take special note of the majestic trees that you will see throughout the grounds. Stroll beneath their canopies, breathe in the peace they offer, and experience firsthand the natural heritage that Woodlawn protects and nurtures every day.

Woodlawn Received New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Grants

In the last two years, Woodlawn Cemetery has benefited from four Environmental Grants. The Department of Environmental Conservation has awarded Woodlawn \$94,200 to plant 200 large canopy trees, \$100,000 for invasive species removal, and two grants totaling \$1,300,000 for pruning and removals.



Bridge to Crafts Careers interns caring for Woodlawn's grounds.

BRIDGE TO CRAFTS CAREERS

Each year, Woodlawn's Bridge To Crafts Careers Program trains young people in masonry preservation, landscape restoration, and metals conservation.

In the Spring of 2024, there were 15 interns enrolled in the Masonry Preservation cohort and 15 interns in the landscape preservation cohort.

The masonry interns learned documenting, cleaning, pointing and caulking. To begin the process of learning documentation and basic hand cleaning, each intern was given a white marble monument to document (photo and hand draw), assess the condition, and clean using hand sprayer, soft nylon brush, and Prosoco Revive (a biodegradable biocide). This activity took place in several plots in the older section of Woodlawn (Sycamore, Maple, and Forest plots). This gave the interns an opportunity to work on stones that have never been restored. The interns also worked in Filbert Plot to clean headstones and clean and point mausoleums. Interns then moved to the Fairview Plot where they cleaned a variety of monuments, using hand brushes, brooms, and pressure washers. Monuments selected represented a variety of stone types (granite, marble, slate, and limestone) and finishes including polished, rough-cut ashlar, and honed. Prior to cleaning, lichens and algae blooms were scraped from the surface and dry brushed.

The final group project for 2024 was the cleaning and repointing of the Borden monument and surrounding mausoleums and monuments, near the Jerome entrance to the cemetery. Constructed by various engineers and utilizing different quarries, the monuments were made of different materials (limestone and granite) and require different treatment approaches. The center monument required on-the-ground treatment and gentle cleaning due to marble and slate being incorporated into the design. The courtyard structure needed resetting to allow proper drainage and to be able to act as a safe walking space. There is more resetting required, but this presented a great learning opportunity. The other monuments in the circle could be cleaned and repointed using scaffolding and a manlift. Fifteen interns were supervised by the Resident Master Craftsman and two Assistant Craftsman, all long-term members of Local 1. In addition, two apprentices from the previous classes assisted with the project coordination.

The landscape restoration interns spent 10 weeks working at Woodlawn and at local parks and gardens to gain a great knowledge of entry-level careers in arboriculture. While at Woodlawn, the interns performed Spring cleanup duties by raking up tens of thousands of Sweetgum tree seed capsules. They also worked on a variety of tasks that assisted the Cemetery with its work and learned valuable skills

for those who might seek employment in the landscaping sector. Some of the highlights of the work were:

- Pruned hundreds of shrubs throughout the Cemetery grounds.
- Learned how to operate power hedge trimmers, string trimmers, mowers and backpack blowers and hand tools such as hand pruners, loppers and shovels—all with safety protocols in place.
- Mulched over 100 existing and donated trees.
- Renovated the landscaping around the Jerome office building with new perennials and blueberry shrubs that were donated by Con Edison.
- Conducted volunteer landscape work field trips at The High Line, Untermyer Gardens, Wave Hill Gardens, Randall's Island, The Bronx Zoo, Central Park, New York Botanical Gardens and Site One Landscape Supply Company.
- Learned to identify over fifty species of trees and shrubs.
- Through the Davey Institute instructional staff provided college-level daily classes, interns were introduced to tree biology, identification, pests and diseases, turf

management, proper planting of trees, shrubs, perennials and annual plants and water management as well as being introduced to the many careers in the horticulture field.

In the Fall of 2024, 10 interns in the Bronze Restoration cohort were trained to power wash and point mortar joints, they learned the identification of metal types and were able to determine proper treatments, hot and cold waxing of memorials, removing and applying acrylic lacquer coatings, and removing and applying colored patinas. In addition to bronze care, the interns learned important maintenance skills for entry-level park and maintenance jobs. The interns also spent two weeks at the Central Park Conservancy working with the staff of the antiquities department to clean fountains and other monuments in the park.

The program also includes work-ready certifications. All interns receive OSHA—40, 10-hour site safety, aerial lift, scaffolding and flagging certifications. Woodlawn interns have gone on to entry-level employments with The Bronx Zoo, The High Line, Allen Metals, Central Park Conservancy, and have joined Local 1 Bricklayers Union.



The Borden monument before and after cleaning and repointing.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Educational Partners

- Bronx Lab High School
- Bronx International High School
- Summer Youth Employment Program/
United Activities Unlimited
- Columbia University
- Manhattan University
- New York University Tisch School
of the Arts Opera Lab

Program Partners

- Bronx Borough President's Bronx Week
- Municipal Arts Society Jane's Walk
- Open House New York
- Tour De Bronx

Community Groups

- Boy Scouts Troop
- 47th Precinct Council
- Woodlawn Tax Payers Association
- Woodlawn's Volunteer Corps

Media Projects

- Law and Order SVU
- Ellsbeth
- Piccirilli Factor

OUTDOOR LEARNING LAB

Academic Partnerships

Woodlawn is proud of the B2CC program and its decade of success. In addition to this skills training program, Woodlawn is an educational venue for many other schools throughout the city. We are thrilled to note some of our partnerships with schools include the NYC Museum High School, which comes on trolley tours throughout the year for their students to learn about significant figures in history, famous authors, and the many immigrant groups who have called the city home. St. Anthony's Catholic School in the Bronx brings their

Bronx International High School



NYC Museum School

7th- and 8th-grade classes for an annual tour focusing on the many important figures who are buried at Woodlawn. Fieldston students participate in an annual scavenger hunt, discovering many facets of the city's history and learning about Woodlawn's legacy. Many schools participate in the flagging program that acknowledges the many men and women who served in the US military who are laid to rest at Woodlawn. This year Democracy Prep and Steppinac High School joined us. We also have a long-standing partnership with Bronx International High School. Many other school visits occur throughout the academic year from elementary schools, high schools, and colleges. We look forward to welcoming more groups in the coming year.



NYC Summer Youth Employment Program

Once again Woodlawn was proud to be an immersive learning site for the NYC Summer Youth Employment Program. In summers 2024 and 2025, participants in SYEP at Woodlawn had opportunities to work with office staff, landscape specialists, the maintenance team, and be exposed to conservation activities on site. The students, from Bronx International High School and the Bronx Lab School, assisted with cleaning mausoleums, tending to tree maintenance, planting seasonal flowers, scanning historic documents, and learning the history of Woodlawn's art, architecture, and important status as an arboretum. On the final day of the program, each student offered a short presentation on what the group learned and talked about what they might like to pursue next either at school or in the workforce.

HONORING OUR VETERANS

Memorial Day Flagging of Veterans' Graves

Each May, Woodlawn honors our veterans by placing flags on the graves of over 8,600 veterans who have served our country.

This effort engages community groups, scout troops, neighbors and lot owners who participate in this annual tradition. Through online promotion and requests for support of this project, we have seen an increase in the number of flagging volunteers to more than 300 volunteers. If you have a loved one at rest at Woodlawn who is a veteran and want to ensure they receive a flag, please contact us at flagging@woodlawn.org.



Eagle Scout Honors Historic Figure

In the fall of 2024, James Dibra completed his Eagle Scout Project by resetting and cleaning headstones in Woodlawn's historic Lot 3. Buried in this lot, in an unmarked grave, is Ah Sam, a Chinese cook and cabin steward who was on the *USS Jeanette*—a vessel that sailed from San Francisco on an ill-fated Arctic Mission in 1879. He is not buried with the other crew and Lieutenant Commander George Washington DeLong, who are in Woodlawn's Chapel Hill Section. Initially, we thought that Ah Sam might have been segregated from the rest of the crew because he is Chinese. However, we later discovered that Chinese delegates had attended his funeral, and his family planned on sending Ah Sam's body to China for burial. While they were making arrangements, Ah Sam was placed in Woodlawn's receiving tomb. Years passed, and the plan to move Ah Sam to China never came to fruition. That's why Ah Sam was buried in Lot 3 and was unmarked. This year, with the attention from James' Project, Woodlawn received a headstone for Ah Sam, donated by Westchester Memorials. At our flagging kick-off event, we gave James an award and displayed the new headstone. We plan on having an unveiling ceremony when the headstone is placed in Lot 3. There is no date for this yet.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Woodlawn proudly serves its Bronx community through a variety of activities throughout the year. Whether it is sponsoring the Tour de Bronx, Chamber of Commerce events, or hosting a tree-lighting ceremony each December, we support our colleagues and neighbors in our collective efforts to contribute to the betterment of our home borough.

Each year, Woodlawn hosts more than 50 events to enhance the public's knowledge about the special character of Woodlawn, celebrating and honoring those for whom the cemetery is their final resting place. The programs educate and engage the public around all manner of topics from the special trees planted on the grounds to the extraordinary ensemble of art and architecture, to the unparalleled stories that can be told about the transformation of this part of the city from rural landscape to an oasis of tranquility within a bustling city. Most importantly, our programs connect the past with the present because Woodlawn reflects the diverse, vibrant lives of all who are here.

Woodlawn enjoys a variety of collaborations throughout the year with our neighbors and colleagues. From the Free Ossuary Day for families seeking guidance on memorialization for loved ones to the lighting of the Christmas tree with the Woodlawn Heights Taxpayers & Community Association, participating in Yonkers Senior Law Day, the Community Financial Literacy Forum, local festivals and parades, Woodlawn staff are here to welcome you and look forward to meeting you here or at these many events in the area.

Celebrating Arbor Day at Woodlawn



Woodlawn staff participate in National Night Out



Woodlawn awards scholarship at Bronx Chamber of Commerce Women of Distinction event

Trolley Tour visitors discovering Woodlawn's history



AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Over the years, we are proud to note that Woodlawn has received awards for its commitment to the community and our work is recognized by civic leaders, journalists, authors, and others who acknowledge the ways in which Woodlawn Cemetery & Woodlawn Conservancy offer their resources in myriad ways to the public.

In 2025, Woodlawn was grateful to be acknowledged by the NYPD 47th Precinct Community Council as an Organization of the Year. Woodlawn values its many relationships with the local community.



Also in 2025, Bronx Borough President Vanessa Gibson conveyed a Black History Month Award to Woodlawn for its commitment to elevating the stories associated with the Harlem Renaissance. This year's Bronx Black History Month theme was Telling Our Story, and we are grateful to the Borough President Gibson for acknowledging Woodlawn in this way.

In 2025, we were thrilled to be in the audience when the New York Landmarks Conservancy conveyed their Lucy Moses Award to Susan Olsen for her unfailing commitment to history, preservation, and sharing her knowledge through education.

IN THE NEWS

We hope you caught some of the articles that appeared in the last year noting Woodlawn's work. We are proud to say *Amsterdam News*, PIX-11, *Time Out NY*, and others carried great stories about Woodlawn including coverage on Harlem Rests and special stories such as that of Ah Sam noted on the previous page.



CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Visit from Moldovan Cultural Leaders

In August 2024, Woodlawn was honored to host the Director and Deputy Director of the Jewish History Museum of the Republic of Moldova. Their visit, organized under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), reflects ongoing global efforts to preserve Jewish cultural heritage.

The Moldovan delegation is currently spearheading the restoration of the historic Beit Kadishim funerary hall within the Chişinău Jewish Cemetery—an effort to revive a site long neglected and rich in cultural significance. Their time at Woodlawn offered an opportunity to explore best practices in preservation, education, and workforce development, highlighting our nationally recognized Bridge to Craft Careers training program.

This international exchange highlights Woodlawn's growing reputation as a leader in cemetery preservation and education, and its role in shaping conversations on historic memory across borders. We are proud to support the State Department's mission of fostering global partnerships through cultural exchange and professional collaboration.



Chişinău Jewish Cemetery in Moldova



St. Louis Cemetery No. 2 in New Orleans

New Orleans Conference

In October 2024, Meg Ventrudo, attended the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. Meg toured many of New Orleans' famous cemeteries, learning about the ongoing conservation and management of these historic urban sites. The cemeteries in New Orleans have long struggled with the effects of climate change, exposure to harsh weather conditions, and flooding. Many of the discussions around resiliency in New Orleans provide valuable lessons and insights for historic cemeteries in the northeast, which are increasingly looking for ways to protect fragile landscapes, mausoleums, and burial grounds through harnessing knowledge of the environment. The National Trust conference offered opportunities for the stewards of historic urban cemeteries to share expertise and talk about the best tools for welcoming the public and maintaining the historic character of these extraordinary places.

Met Museum American Wing Visit

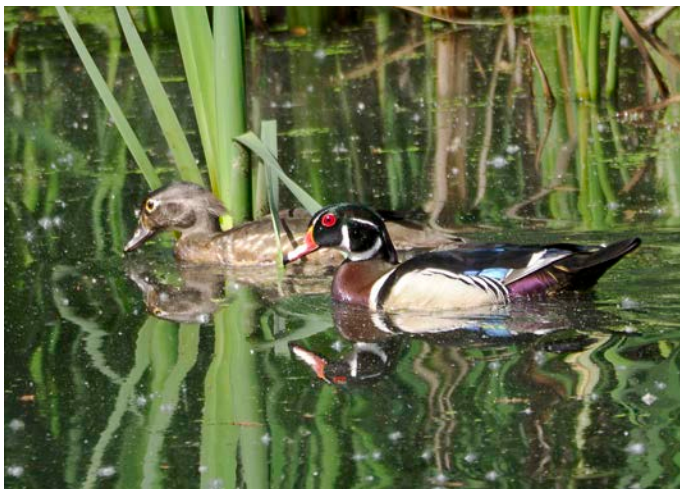
Woodlawn hosts a variety of colleagues and institutions each year. Of special note this year was a visit from Friends of the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art for a trolley tour that explored Woodlawn's diverse mausoleums, monuments, and extraordinary collection of funerary art. Many of the architects, artists, and patrons connected to the Met Museum's history are represented at Woodlawn. The Friends of the American Wing were treated to an opportunity to compare works they know well from the museum's collection with monuments and art designed specifically for Woodlawn's landscape. Additionally, The Friends viewed many impressive works of stained glass in Woodlawn's care.



Friends of the American Wing visit a mausoleum.

WILD WOODLAWN

Woodlawn's 400 acres and 6,000 trees are a haven for local wildlife and migrating birds. Each year, NYC Bird Alliance conducts fall and spring bird-watching tours and document the species they've observed. Teams of NYC Park Rangers have also explored Woodlawn Cemetery for their annual raptor survey and they have spotted hawks and eagles in the Cemetery. You never know what you will see in our unique greenspace in the northwest Bronx.



Clockwise from top right:
white-tailed deer, wild turkey,
wood ducks, red-tailed hawk,
and great egret.

BRINGING WOODLAWN TO LIFE

ENGAGING THE PUBLIC

Woodlawn's calendar remains vibrant year-round, offering programs and events for lot owners, historians, students, culture lovers, and neighbors alike. Whether visiting to honor a loved one, explore New York's rich history, or simply enjoy a peaceful walk through our landscaped grounds, the public continues to engage with Woodlawn in meaningful ways.

In 2024, thanks to the creativity and leadership of our Board, we proudly launched the Legacy Lecture Series, a new program celebrating the lives and contributions of those buried at Woodlawn. The inaugural event, *El Maestro Johnny Pacheco: The Man and His Music*, paid tribute to the legendary bandleader, flutist, and co-founder of the Fania All-Stars.

This special evening was made possible through the efforts of Conservancy Board President, Dr. Aramina Ferrer, with Hon. Jeanette Ruiz, a retired Family Court Judge and Conservancy Director, serving as moderator. Judge Ruiz has been a Woodlawn lot owner since 2017, when her beloved husband, Mario A. Torres, a well-known music promoter and President of MAT Productions, was laid to rest here. Judge Ruiz and her late husband were dear friends of Johnny Pacheco, and today, she remains close with Mrs. Maria Elena

NYU Tisch's Opera Studies Graduate Program



Mrs. Pacheco and friends visit the grave of Johnny Pacheco

Pacheco. The two often visit Woodlawn together to pay tribute to their beloved spouses.

Held on June 1, 2025, the event drew an enthusiastic audience and set a high bar for future installments of the Legacy Lecture Series—demonstrating how Woodlawn continues to honor not only history but living memory.

Just one month earlier, on May 4, we hosted NYU Tisch's Opera Studies Graduate Program. In the fall, they toured Woodlawn Cemetery for inspirational figures. They then composed three short operas. The first was inspired by Bert Savoy, a famous female impersonator, and his partner Jay Brennan. The second was inspired by the artists Alexander Archipenko and Anna Hyatt Huntington. Patricia Cronin's Memorial to a Marriage inspired the third opera. The operas were also performed at NYU and may be performed at BAM in the spring.

On May 21, we held our annual memorial event at Woodlawn Cemetery to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Hideyo Noguchi, a renowned Japanese physician and bacteriologist whose pioneering research in infectious diseases left a lasting mark on global medicine. In attendance were the Consul General of Mexico, Consul General of Ghana, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, Representatives from the Rockefeller University, and representatives from the Japanese American Medical Society including Dr. Homma, an advisor to the Woodlawn Conservancy.

Also in June, Andrew Dolkart, a Woodlawn Board Member, led a Pride tour at Woodlawn in collaboration with NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project. Patricia Cronin, another Woodlawn Board Member, made a surprise appearance during the tour at her sculpture, *Memorial to a Marriage*.

On October 26, 2025, we will host our second installment of the Legacy Lecture Series, featuring A'Leia Bundles' new book, *The Joy Goddess of Harlem: A'Leia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance*.

This fall, we will release our self-guided Harlem Renaissance exhibit, curated by historian Eric K. Washington.

Expanding Access Through Virtual Engagement

This year, we significantly increased the number of virtual book talks and lectures, partnering with acclaimed authors and scholars to bring Woodlawn's stories to a broader audience. These programs allow us to connect with supporters and encourage further exploration of the historical and cultural significance of those at rest within our grounds.

Highlights from this year's virtual programming include:

- Harlem Rests at Woodlawn—A conversation with A'Leia Bundles and historian Eric K. Washington
- Dorothy Kenyon—Lecture by Jenn Brinkley
- Book Talk: *The Poisoner's Handbook* with author Deborah Blum and Quinn Embrey
- Book Talk: *Satan's Circus* with author Mike Dash
- Book Talk: *Double Indemnity Murder: Ruth Snyder, Judd Gray, and New York's Crime of the Century* with author Landis MacKellar
- Book Talk: Dorothy Parker with author Kevin Fitzpatrick
- Woodlawn's Stained Glass—Lecture with Brianne Van Vorst

These programs continue to enhance our mission to educate, inspire, and preserve the rich legacy of The Woodlawn Cemetery.

Join us on January 27, 2026 for our first event of the season. It will be a virtual talk and we will be sending out details soon. In 2026, you can join us for free trolley tours on May 6, June 3, July 8, August 8, and September 9. Visit the website for more information on registration for these tours. We will be planning events for Earth Day, Women's History Month, Fall Foliage, and many other topics.



Yuki Haba, Ph.D., winner of the Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Scholarship



NYU Tisch Opera Lab performing work inspired by Woodlawn's history



Patricia Cronin's *Memorial to a Marriage*.

2024 FINANCIAL REVIEW

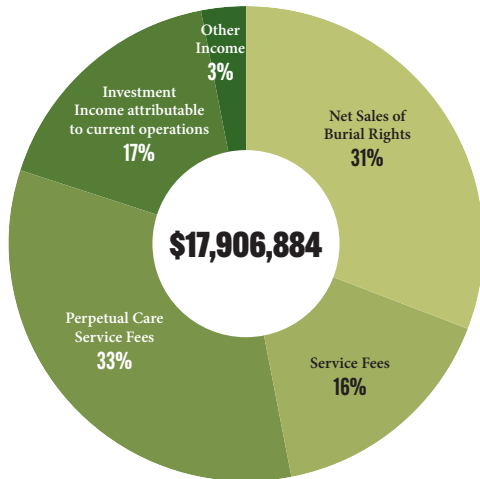
THE WOODLAWN CEMETERY

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT 501 (c)13 CEMETERY CORPORATION

The Woodlawn Cemetery, established in 1863 in the Bronx, is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian cemetery corporation under the laws of New York State. It is designated as 501(c)(13) by the IRS and is subject to the New York State Cemetery Law. Woodlawn was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011.

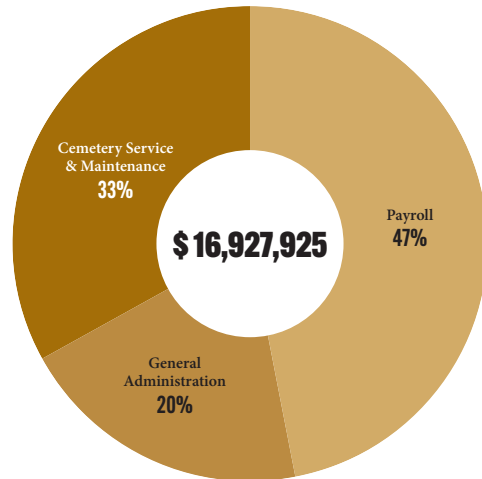


2024 OPERATING REVENUE



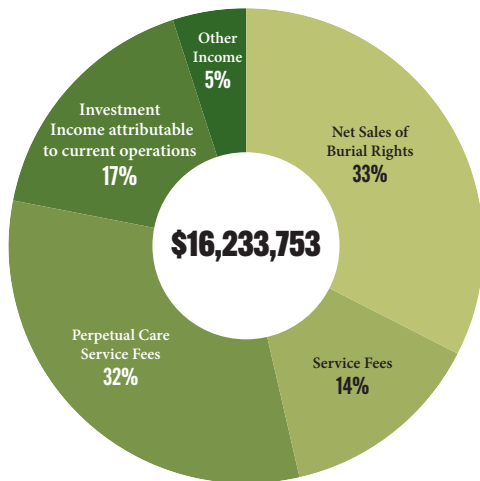
| | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------|
| Net Sales of Burial Rights | \$5,590,746 | 31% |
| Service Fees | \$2,775,810 | 16% |
| Perpetual Care Service Fees | \$5,893,327 | 33% |
| Investment Income attributable to current operations | \$3,061,024 | 17% |
| Other Income | \$585,977 | 3% |
| | \$17,906,884 | 100% |

2024 OPERATING EXPENSES



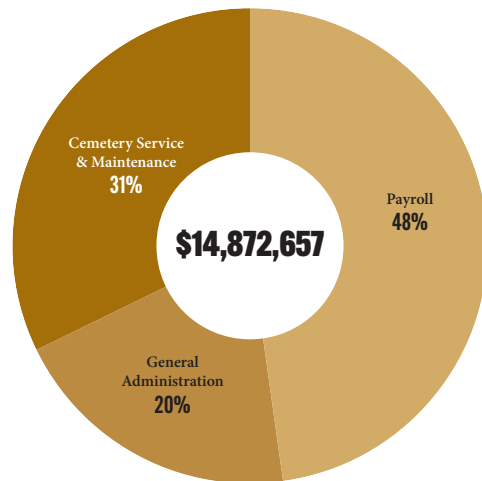
| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Payroll | \$7,979,829 | 47% |
| General Administration | \$3,375,241 | 20% |
| Cemetery Service & Maintenance | \$5,572,855 | 33% |
| | \$16,927,925 | 100% |

2023 OPERATING REVENUE



| | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------|
| Net Sales of Burial Rights | \$5,394,812 | 33% |
| Service Fees | \$2,245,376 | 14% |
| Perpetual Care Service Fees | \$5,145,147 | 32% |
| Investment Income attributable to current operations | \$2,712,385 | 17% |
| Other Income | \$736,033 | 5% |
| | \$16,233,753 | 100% |

2023 OPERATING EXPENSES



| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Payroll | \$7,184,633 | 48% |
| General Administration | \$3,007,367 | 20% |
| Cemetery Service & Maintenance | \$4,680,657 | 31% |
| | \$14,872,657 | 100% |

For a copy of The Woodlawn Cemetery's financial statement for the year ended 2023, please contact the main office, 718-920-0500.

2024 FINANCIAL REVIEW

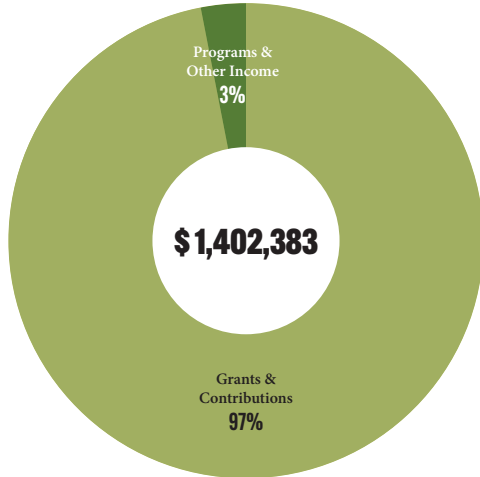
WOODLAWN CONSERVANCY

A NOT-FOR-PROFIT 501 (c)(3) CORPORATION

Woodlawn Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) established to protect and promote the history, art, architecture, and horticulture of Woodlawn Cemetery, offers a broad range of educational and cultural programs throughout the year, both in-person and virtually, to engage the public and enhance knowledge of the Cemetery through a broad range of programs.

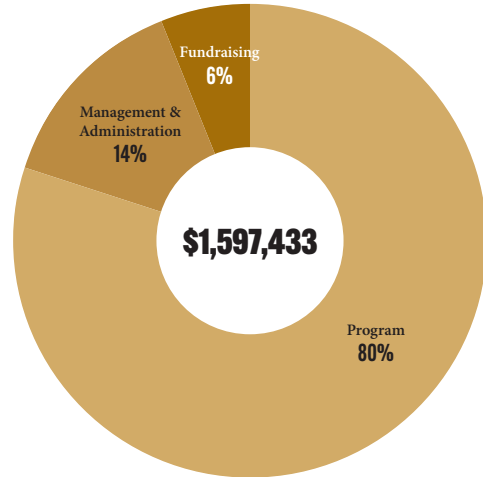


2024 OPERATING REVENUE



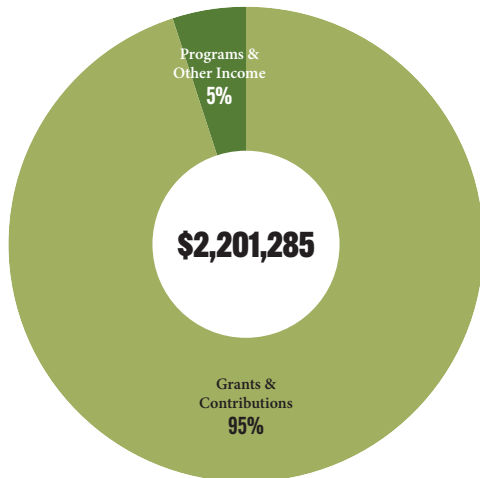
| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Grants & Contributions | \$1,359,384 | 97% |
| Programs & Other Income | \$42,999 | 3% |
| | \$1,402,383 | 100% |

2024 OPERATING EXPENSES



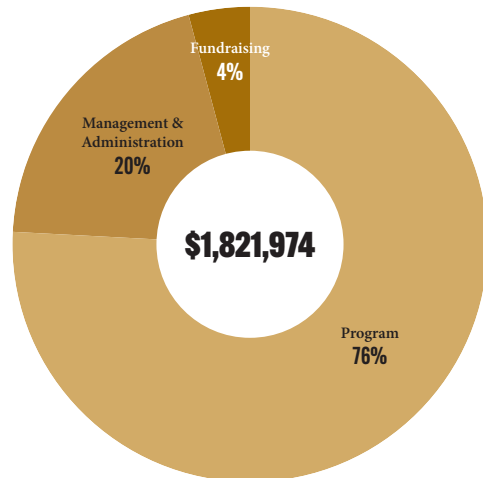
| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Program | \$1,274,947 | 80% |
| Management & Administration | \$229,291 | 14% |
| Fundraising | \$93,195 | 6% |
| | \$1,597,433 | 100% |

2023 OPERATING REVENUE



| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Grants & Contributions | \$2,082,699 | 95% |
| Programs & Other Income | \$118,586 | 5% |
| | \$2,201,285 | 100% |

2023 OPERATING EXPENSES



| | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Program | \$1,390,811 | 76% |
| Management & Administration | \$358,700 | 20% |
| Fundraising | \$72,463 | 4% |
| | \$1,821,974 | 100% |

For a copy of The Woodlawn Cemetery's financial statement for the year ended 2023, please contact the main office, 718-920-0500.



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Woodlawn Cemetery and Conservancy is deeply grateful to the individual donors, foundations, and government agencies that support our public programs, workforce development initiatives, and horticultural enhancements.

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