



grace farms
space grant
application

nature. arts. justice. community. faith.



© Dean Kaufman

Perspective of the River's all-season covered walkways, with views of the Commons, serving daily light fare and refreshments.

The intersection of landscape, architecture, art, faith, justice, and community will create a new kind of space for visitors and not-for-profits to collaborate for good.

Grace Farms

Grace Farms is a welcoming new place, where a building designed by SANAA is seamlessly integrated into 80 acres of open space for people to experience nature, encounter the arts, pursue justice, foster community, and explore faith.

A diverse natural habitat in the northeast corner of New Canaan, Connecticut, this former horse farm is home to numerous varieties of flora and fauna. Approximately 77 of the 80 acres will be retained in perpetuity as open meadows, woods, wetlands, and ponds.

Grace Farms Foundation

Grace Farms Foundation was established in 2009 as a private operating foundation with 501(c)(3) status in New Canaan, Connecticut. The Foundation supports initiatives in the areas of nature, arts, justice, community, and faith, and encourages participation on a local, national, and global level. Grace Farms Foundation carries out its work principally through the publicly available facilities and integrated programs of Grace Farms, an 80-acre property owned and operated by the Foundation, where individuals and not-for-profit organizations can come together to collaborate for good.



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5 initiatives

Nature

The aim of the Nature Initiative is to draw people into the beautiful 80-acre preserve; restore the native plants and animals around it; and allow nature to inspire the exploration of wilderness, wildlife, and open space.

Arts

The primary directive of Grace Farms Foundation's Arts Initiative is the development of new, collaborative, and site-specific works of visual, literary, and performing arts.

Faith

Grace Farms is a place for people of all faiths or no faith at all to contemplate big questions about the meaning of life, and to consider how to best live in the contemporary world.

Justice

The Justice Initiative emerges from a commitment to protect and support some of the most vulnerable in society. By activating local and international organizations through programs at Grace Farms, the Justice Initiative fosters the development of comprehensive strategies and partnerships to disrupt and combat human trafficking and gender-based violence.

Community

The goal of the Community Initiative is to provide a warm, welcoming environment that fosters meaningful community among people of all ages, socioeconomic backgrounds, and interests, from a range of local and international areas.

5 volumes

“The possibilities at Grace Farms are as open as the landscape. With the programs we present and our partnerships with community partners, these possibilities begin to come to life.”

—Sharon Prince, President, Grace Farms Foundation

The River

Known as the River because of the way it meanders through the rolling terrain, the SANAA-designed building seamlessly integrates into the natural setting at Grace Farms in New Canaan, Connecticut.

Nestled into the landscape, the River begins on a knoll and then flows down the long, gentle slope in a series of bends, forming pond-like spaces on its journey. Structurally, the building of glass, concrete, steel, and wood is in essence a single long roof, which seems to float some 10 to 14 feet above the surface of the ground as it twists and turns across the landscape. The walkways, courtyards, and glass-wrapped volumes that form beneath the roof are remarkably transparent and invite people to engage with the expansive natural surroundings.

The River Volumes

Sanctuary – (20,900 sf) a sanctuary/indoor amphitheater with seating for 700.

Library – (4,550 sf) a staffed library with curated resources to research justice, the arts, nature, and faith. It includes a glass-enclosed conference room for up to 20 and a fireplace for discussion and hospitality. The entire Library has a capacity of up to 60 people.

Commons – (14,400 sf) a community space with seating capacity for up to 250, with communal tables built from trees harvested on-site, a coffee bar, sofas, and a fireplace. A lower level accommodates a lecture hall with cushioned seats for 42 people, and ancillary spaces.

Pavilion – (950 sf) a staffed pavilion where visitors can be oriented to the River building, enjoy a cup of tea, or listen to musical performances. It is the most intimate volume, with 360 degrees of glass and space for up to 30 people.

Court – (16,900 sf) a gymnasium/multi-purpose space built partially below grade, with an adjoining media lab and game room, for recreation, youth activities, film screenings, and arts performances.



+ barns

Modern glass volumes and traditional wood barns;
a peaceful respite and a place for vibrant community;
a place for individual and collective experiences;
Grace Farms is a new kind of place.

The Barns

In addition to the River building, the original barn located on site was renovated by SANAA. Once an equestrian facility, the original h-shaped barn was used for horses. The center section of the barn was removed to create an east and west barn, forming a European-style community plaza in between.

Space Grants in the Barns

The West Barn serves as a welcome center for Grace Farms and houses most of the day-to-day community programming in meeting rooms, an art studio, a rehearsal space with sprung floor, and a lecture hall. Rooms were designed for multi-purpose functionality, and most not-for-profit small space grants will find ideal space in the West Barn. Meeting rooms accommodate up to 24 people, and the West Barn Hall accommodates up to 100 people, equipped with a projector and screen.

The East Barn has been offered as a permanent space grant to the local non-denominational Grace Community Church, with offices, a lounge, a nursery, and a drop-off food pantry.

To create porosity, Grace Farms was purposely built with no front door. With five separated volumes, 80 acres of landscape, and renovated barns, diverse communities can all feel welcome to make the space their own.



Select not-for-profit institutions will benefit from the gift of program space at Grace Farms to leverage their ability to advance justice in the world and provide new opportunities for visitors to become involved in helping others.

Overview

Grace Farms Foundation offers not-for-profit organizations grants of space in lieu of monetary grants. With the ultimate goal of developing partnerships and programs in collaboration with not-for-profit organizations, Grace Farms is committed to providing opportunities for people to experience nature, encounter the arts, pursue justice together, develop community, and explore faith. Grace Farms serves as a platform for collaboration and the advancement of the good work of not-for-profit organizations that are **directly connected** to one or more of our five initiatives. We welcome local, regional, state, national and international not-for-profit organizations with proof of 501c3 status to apply for a space grant.

“I leave here looking forward to the work; the hard, hard work. I am grateful for you and the space you provide that holds us as we move forward.”

- Anonymous Polaris participant, after a day-long retreat with 20 caseworkers

Commons



West Barn Breezeway,
book drive with Horizons Student Enrichment Program



how will you activate Grace Farms?

2016 Sample Space Grant Recipients

Arts for Healing – A not-for-profit organization dedicated to providing integrated music therapy and art therapy for individuals with emotional, physical, developmental, and social needs.

Space Grant: Recurring space grant; program space Tuesdays & Wednesdays 11 am–6 pm.

Norwalk Community College – The educational center of the community, Norwalk Community College provides opportunities for intellectual inquiry, open dialogue, multicultural awareness, and lifelong learning.

Space Grant: One-time space grant; A full-day strategic planning meeting held in the West Barn Hall for approximately 60 participants, with a catered continental breakfast, lunch, and snacks.

NAMI – NAMI is dedicated to the eradication of mental illnesses and to the improvement of the quality of life of all whose lives are affected by these diseases.

Space Grant: Recurring space grant; six week “Basics” course training caregivers of children with mental diagnoses ages 14 and under.

Family ReEntry – Family ReEntry’s mission is to develop, implement, and share innovative, sustainable, cost-effective solutions to the unprecedented number of people involved in the criminal justice system.

Space Grant: One-time space grant; Fundraiser featuring a social justice speaker.

Panel discussion in the West Barn Hall



West Barn Art Studio with Arts for Healing



Communication

To ensure smooth communication throughout the application process, and to receive relevant information about your potential grant, please participate in the following steps:

1. **Submit Application:** To be considered as a potential space grant recipient, please submit applications online at gracefarms.org/for-good.
2. **Notification:** All applicants will be notified of either an acceptance or deferral on **December 1, 2016**. Recipients are encouraged to confirm acceptance within one week of notification. Please note that deferred applicants are encouraged to re-consider or propose new meaningful programming aligning with the Foundation's initiatives.
3. **Toolkits:** Grace Farms Foundation will offer space grant recipients: 1) a Communications Toolkit (including photos, videos, logo standards, information about Grace Farms, and processes for approving save the dates, invitations, and press releases); 2) a Preferred Vendor List; 3) Grace Farms' Catering Price Sheet; and 4) our Space Grant Guidelines.
4. **Event/Program Details:** Grace Farms' Events team will contact each space grant recipient for an appointment to discuss particular event or program details.

Process and Criteria

Not-for-profit space grants waive the rental fee of the space used at Grace Farms. However, **the Grantee is responsible for covering any incremental costs**, including (but not limited to) equipment rental, audio visual, production, food and beverage, cleaning fees, additional security costs, and any additional labor needed.

There are two basic types of not-for-profit space grants:

1. **A Small Space Grant** – This is a smaller program that could occur multiple times, involves minimal setup, and uses only one space.
2. **A Large Space Grant** – This is a one-time event that has more than 100 people or an event that uses more than one space.

Not-for-profit space grants are provided at the discretion of Grace Farms Foundation based on criteria that includes: application information; proof of not-for-profit status; date flexibility; and alignment with one or more of Grace Farms' initiatives. A Grace Farms Foundation committee reviews each application.

Small Space Grants

Grace Farms Foundation will provide small event/program space grants for 2017. Please note that requests for small space grants can be recurring programs. Examples of small events include strategic planning sessions, private or public programming, and small meetings or trainings. Small space grants should meet the following requirements:

- 100 people or less in attendance

- Minimal setup

- Use of only one space

- No interruption of the daily activities of Grace Farms

Application: If you are interested in applying, please fill out our Not-for-Profit Space Grant Application on our website at gracefarms.org/for-good. A paper copy of the form is also available at the end of this packet. We also request that you send an electronic copy of proof of not-for-profit status and an initialed copy of our Space Grant Guidelines indicating that you have reviewed the document to events@gracefarmsfoundation.org.

Applicants for space grants should ensure they meet the criteria. All applications should be thoroughly completed; incomplete applications will not be considered. Follow-up conversations may or may not be requested by Grace Farms Foundation.

Large Space Grants

Grace Farms Foundation will provide a **limited number** of large space grants for 2018, from Tuesday through Friday of each week. A large space grant is defined by any of the following:

- A one-time event

- More than 100 people in attendance**

- Events that use more than one space

- Events that require more than 70% of parking spaces (170 spaces)

In the case of a large space grant, the Foundation is only responsible for providing the space in which the event is being held.

Application: If you are interested in applying, please fill out our Not-for-Profit Space Grant Application on our website at gracefarms.org/for-good. A paper copy of the form is also available at the end of this packet. We also request that you send an electronic copy of your annual report, proof of not-for-profit status, and an initialed copy of our Space Grant Guidelines indicating that you have reviewed the document to events@gracefarmsfoundation.org.

Applicants for space grants should ensure they meet the criteria. All applications should be thoroughly completed; incomplete applications will not be considered. Follow-up conversations may or may not be requested by Grace Farms Foundation.



Not-for-Profit Space Grant Application

Space Grant Application Type:

- Large Space Grant (100+ people)
- Small Space Grant (up to 100 people; use of one space)

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed quarterly. Completed applications may be submitted by the first of March, June, September, and December to be considered for mid-month reviews.

Today's Date: _____

Name of Not-for-Profit: _____

Do you have not-for-profit status? Yes No

Main Contact Name: _____

Main Contact Title: _____

Main Contact Work Phone: _____

Main Contact Cell Phone: _____

Main Contact Email: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Website Address: _____

Mission Statement: _____

Year Founded: _____

Name and Title of Highest Ranking Executive: _____

Email: _____

Space Grant Program Name: _____

Is this a recurring or one-time event? _____

Will it be private or open to the public? _____

Please provide a brief overview of the purpose, goals, and benefiting population of your event/
program(s):

Anticipated number of attendees: _____

Proposed Event Day(s): *Grace Farms is available Tuesday through Saturday (Saturdays are limited;
we are not available on Sundays or Mondays)*

Proposed Event Date(s): *Month, Day, Year*

First Choice _____

Second Choice _____

Third Choice _____

Preliminary Agenda (example: 10 am–12 pm strategic meeting; 12–1 pm lunch; 1–2 pm nature walk):

Note: start/end times are not guaranteed and will be confirmed during the planning process

How will this grant of space impact your organization?

grace farms foundation

Not-for-Profit Space Grant Application

What Grace Farms Initiative(s) does this event align with?

Nature

Community

Arts

Faith

Justice

Please provide a brief statement describing how the event aligns with Grace Farms' initiatives:

What audio visual needs do you anticipate?

What are your general food and beverage needs during the event (i.e. snack, lunch, etc.)?

Is this a sports and recreation event? Yes No

Please note that all recreational programming is subject to approval from the Town of New Canaan.

If yes, do you require sports equipment from Grace Farms? Yes No

If yes, please specify:

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Not-for-Profit Space Grant Application

Please submit your final application online at gracefarms.org/for-good.

In addition, please email the following documents to events@gracefarmsfoundation.org:

- Proof of not-for-profit status
- Annual report or operating budget
- Initialed copy of our Space Grant Guidelines

Applications are due **November 15, 2016**. All applicants will be notified of either an acceptance or deferral on **December 1, 2016**.