

grace farms  
foundation

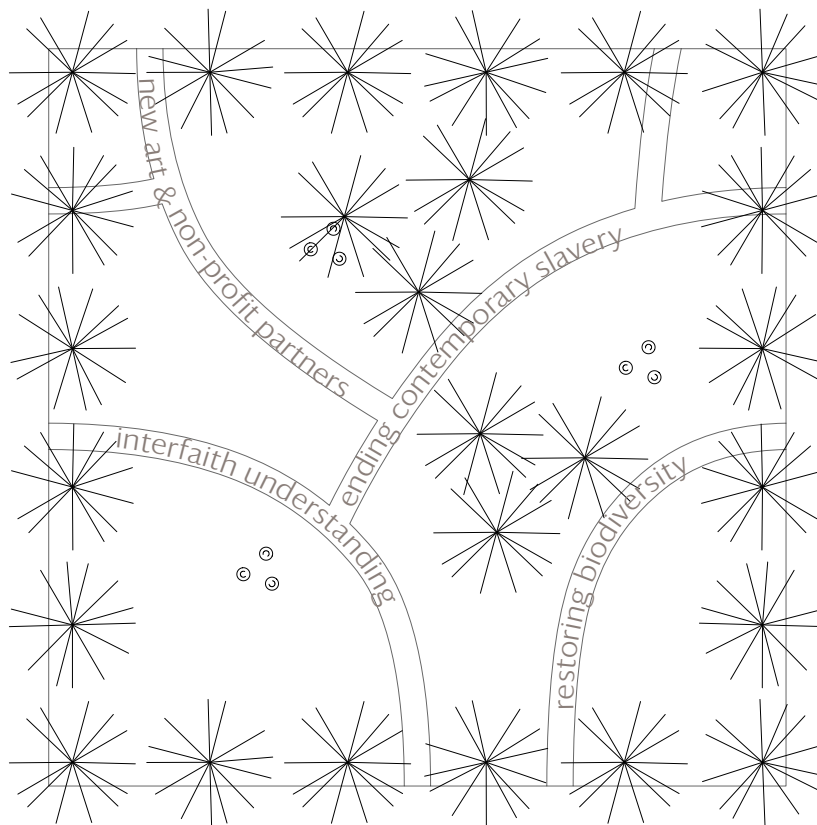
annual report



2017



# annual report



© 2018 Grace Farms Foundation

More of SANAA's architectural plan can be seen throughout this report

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*Double Glass River, a site-specific installation by Teresita Fernández, wraps a curved wall in Grace Farms' Commons and responds to the changing environment and light at different times of the day and seasons of the year.*

## President's Perspective



The River building, with its transparent volumes, abundant communal spaces, and transcendent views of the landscape, provided the ideal environment from which to launch our core initiatives. Thanks to our team and the collaborations forged with our partners, the outcomes have far exceeded what we could have anticipated or achieved alone.

Engaging not-for-profits who work on the front lines and cultivating new community solutions has continued to enhance the life of Grace Farms. We have offered space grants to more than 70 government and not-for-profit organizations, allowing them to do their important work on site and connect with each other through roundtable discussions.

A multi-year process of restoring Grace Farms from its days as an equestrian facility to a healthy and sustainable ecosystem is underway. With the removal of invasive species and the protection of open space, we've seen the return of pollinators, which have in turn brought back threatened bird species like the **American Kestrel**. Birdwatching has become a memorable experience for people of all ages, often enhanced by spectacular glimpses of birds in flight over our meadows.

Artists working at the intersection of the visual, literary, and performing arts gathered to participate in *Practicing Silence*, a year-long collaborative workshop that resulted in a moving public performance. Dancers from **The New York City Ballet**, poet Ilya Kaminsky, a sound designer, and live musicians created a poignant piece that addressed the silence of oppression. In this



time of heightened concern for women and people of color, we engaged issues related to gender, race, and faith with the President of **Auburn Seminary** and two Senior Fellows, and examined the history of racism in the United States with National Book Award-winner Ibram X. Kendi, author of *Stamped from the Beginning*. We wrapped up the third installment of our Race and American Memory series with **The Langston Hughes Project**, led by artist and scholar Dr. Ronald C. McCurdy.

At Grace Farms Foundation, we believe that social impact requires systemic change. Grace Farms is an ideal place to bring individuals, corporations, governmental agencies, and not-for-profits together to initiate multifaceted action. We brought together such a group for a workshop with United Nations University and 100 experts to address human trafficking, which resulted in a **United Nations Security Council Resolution (2331)** and our new Unchain campaign.

The year culminated with the unveiling of **Unchain**, a first-of-its-kind global awareness campaign to eradicate modern day slavery. In partnership with WPP agencies **Geometry Global** and **J. Walter Thompson**, and **Shazam**, we are uniting public, corporate, governmental, and individual efforts to stop the many forms of modern slavery by generating unprecedented public awareness. We are actively fundraising for media placement and solidifying partners to launch Unchain as a movement by 2019.

With innovative experts and people of all backgrounds contributing dialogue, artistic expression, action-oriented strategies, new partnerships, and thoughtful

perspectives to our place and mission, we are beginning to make a lasting difference in the world. We hope that you will join us in our endeavors to contribute to a more equitable, peaceful world.

Strength together,



Sharon Prince  
Chair and President

"Grace Farms is an ideal place to bring individuals, corporations, governmental agencies, and not-for-profits together to initiate multifaceted action."

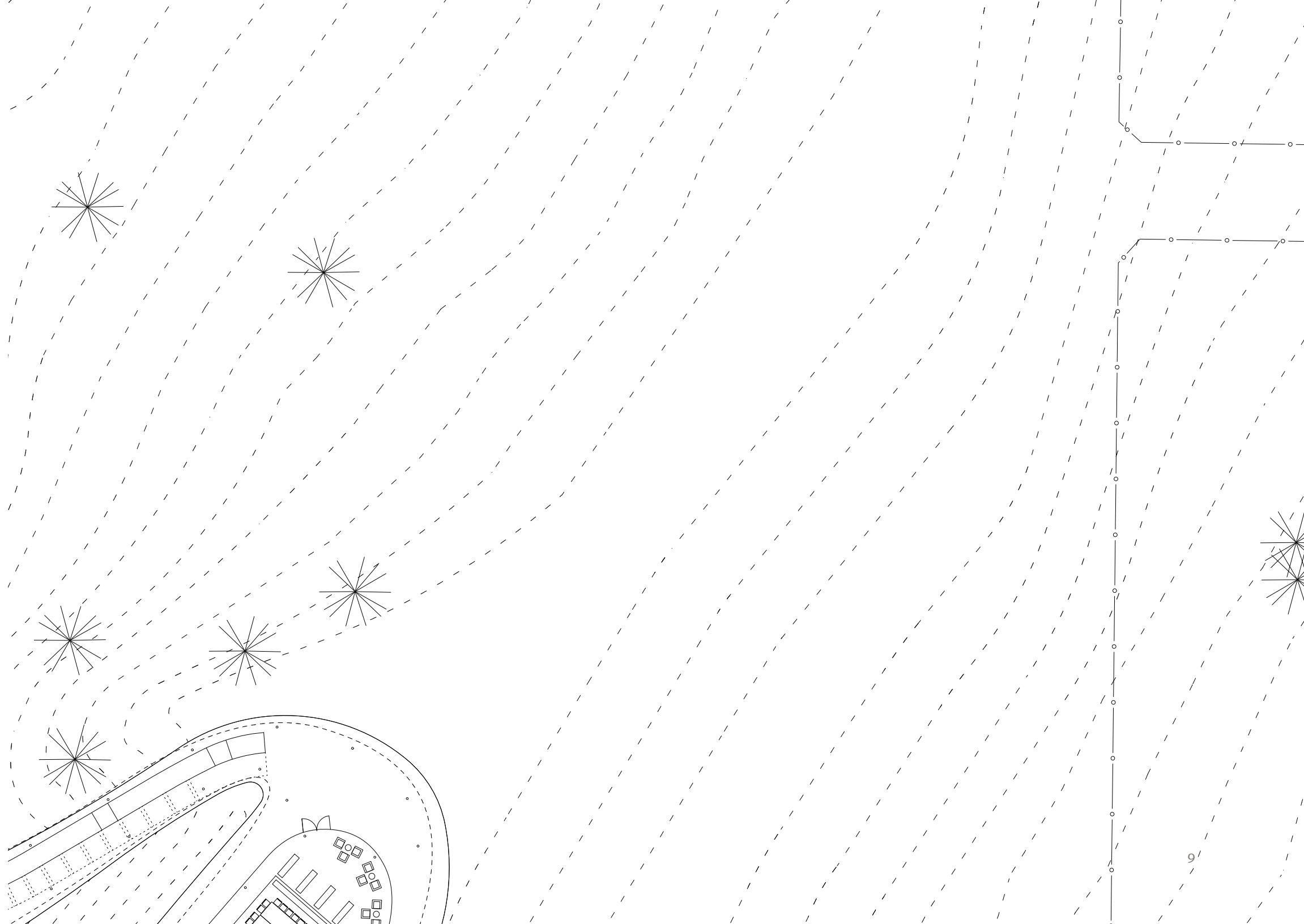
Drop chair  
Design by SANAA, 2005

Cast and polished aluminum drop chair was originally designed for the 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art in Kanazawa, Japan.



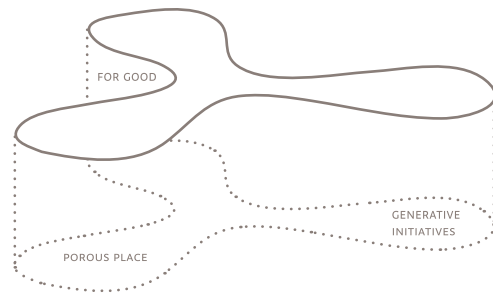


grace farms  
a new kind of  
public space



## Vision

Grace Farms Foundation aspires to advance good in the world, providing a peaceful respite and porous platform to experience nature, encounter the arts, pursue justice, foster community, and explore faith.



*Flower*  
Vitra + SANAA  
Designed by SANAA, 2001

*The Flower bench comfortably accommodates at least three people, allowing them to engage in communication as a group or face away from one another to relax in solitude.*





## Mission

Grace Farms Foundation supports initiatives in the areas of nature, arts, justice, community, and faith, and encourages participation locally and globally. The Foundation carries out its work through the publicly available facilities and integrated programs of Grace Farms, an 80-acre property owned and operated by the Foundation. Grace Farms was established as an essential platform for the Foundation, serving as a welcoming place where individuals, not-for-profit organizations, and government entities come together to collaborate for the common good.

"I think that this place is practically a world heritage site. That's how strongly I feel about its mission."

— Richard Weiss, Emmy Award-winning producer and Explorers Club President





# Grace Farms History

Grace Farms is situated in the northeast corner of New Canaan, a suburban town with proximity to metropolitan Manhattan, New York, and New Haven, Connecticut. The expansive 80-acre landscape is one of the last remaining large parcels of open space in Fairfield County, now made available to the public by Grace Farms Foundation.

In the 1940s, Grace Farms was a patchwork of small rural properties, cleared of the former hardwood forests in favor of fields for crops. This land became Comstock Farms, with a private residence and small farm, until it was sold in 1991 to Windsome Farms and converted to a private equestrian facility with 24 paddocks, a harnessed exercise ring, and a 30,000 square foot barn lined with 52 stalls.

The land and its facilities were purchased by a developer, Pacific Farms LLC., in early 2000 and rezoned for a 10-lot subdivision. Many groups tried to save this scenic land, including the Town of New Canaan, but they were unable to reach a cost agreement with the owners. In 2007, a group of individuals that would later come together to form Grace Farms Foundation were inspired by the unique character of the parcel and purchased 48 acres in order to preserve the land, share it as a gift of open space, and utilize it to advance good in the world. The full 80 acres were acquired by the Foundation between 2007 and 2015.

Today, Grace Farms Foundation has retained the property's open beauty and wild serenity as a rare piece of Fairfield County landscape.



### Tours

We share the history of Grace Farms and our vision for a new kind of public space through weekly tours.

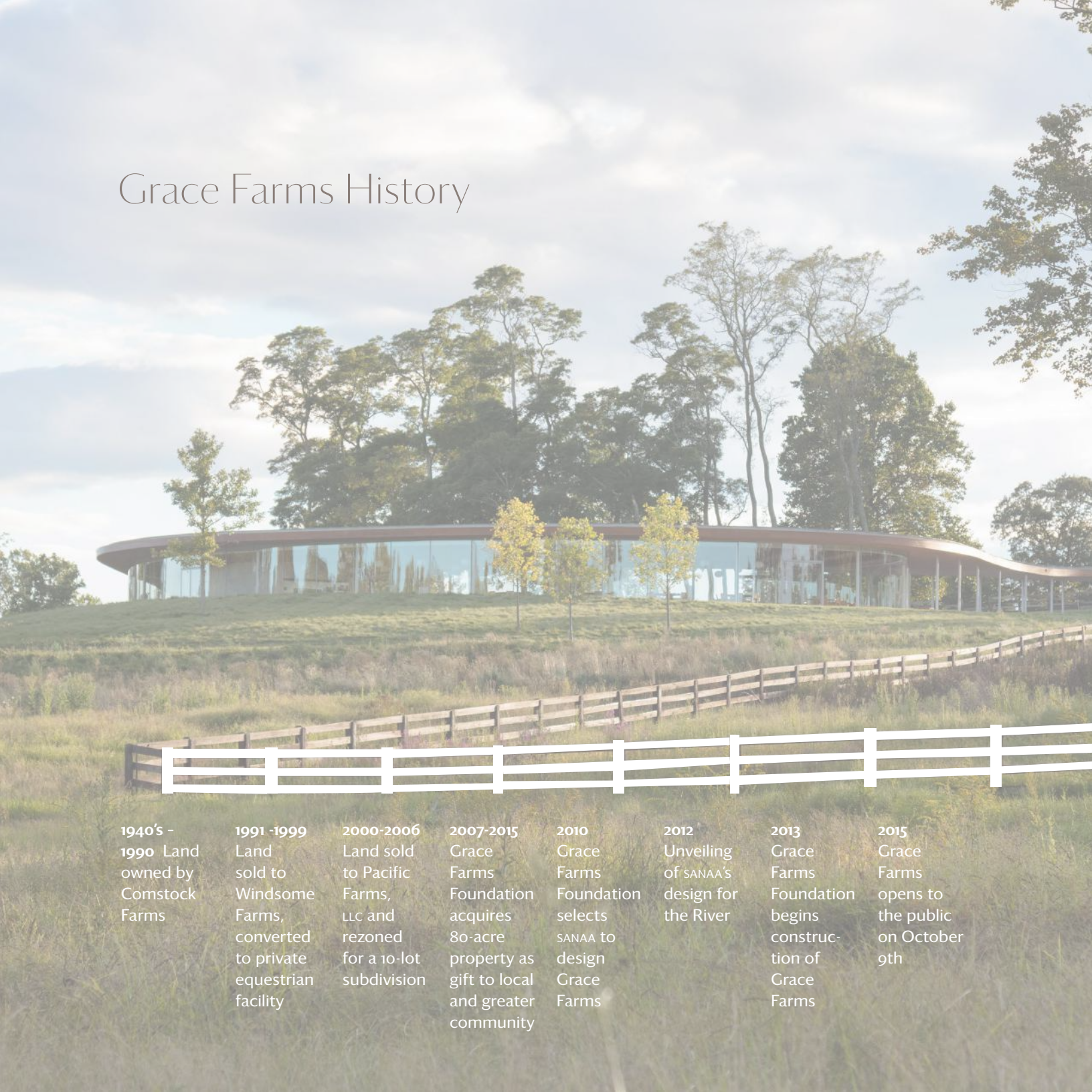
64

Tours in 2017. Each guided Grace Farms tour is 90 minutes, and includes conversations about the Foundation's history, design process, and programs.

212

Architecture and design students enjoyed tours of Grace Farms

# Grace Farms History



1940's - 1990	1991-1999	2000-2006	2007-2015	2010	2012	2013	2015
Land owned by Comstock Farms	Land sold to Windsome Farms, converted to private equestrian facility	Land sold to Pacific Farms, LLC and rezoned for a 10-lot subdivision	Grace Farms Foundation acquires 80-acre property as gift to local and greater community	Grace Farms Foundation selects SANAA to design Grace Farms	Unveiling of SANAA'S design for the River	Grace Farms Foundation begins construction of Grace Farms	Grace Farms opens to the public on October 9th



# River Building

In early 2010, we selected [SANAA](#), a Tokyo-based architectural firm, to execute our vision. Grace Farms was the first U.S. building designed by SANAA since they were awarded the [Pritzker Prize](#). SANAA’s goal was to make the architecture of the River become part of the landscape without drawing attention to itself, demonstrating a high

degree of sensitivity to the landscape and its topography. Structurally, the building of glass, concrete, steel, and wood is in essence a single long roof, which seems to float above the surface of the ground as it twists and turns across the landscape.



The minimal-impact design of the River building is complemented by Grace Farms’ energy-efficient construction and sustainable practices. The building was [LEED certified](#) in 2017, recognizing Grace Farms’ sustainability measures in the following areas:

- High-efficiency mechanical, electrical, plumbing, and lighting systems
- 55 500-foot-deep geothermal wells that facilitate energy-efficient heating and cooling
- Commissioning of building energy systems
- Water conservation
- Daylighting
- Low-heat island effect (from the aluminum roof)
- Energy-efficient glazing system
- On-site milling and kiln-drying of trees that were cleared for construction and used to construct indoor and outdoor furniture
- Prevention of construction pollution and waste management
- Monitoring of air quality and energy use

500 lbs.

Organic produce donated from our Community Garden to local charity

9,500 lbs.

Food waste diverted from waste streams and composted off-site

100%

Renewable Energy Certificates (REC) purchased to offset consumption

964

LED lights placed throughout the property



## Permanent Artworks

Through the insightful contribution of internationally celebrated curator Yuko Hasegawa, we express the integration of our nature, arts, justice, community, and faith initiatives in the form of permanent works created by renowned artists from around the globe. Developed in response to the architecture and vision of Grace Farms, people encounter the collection as they explore the property and the award-winning SANAA-designed River building, initiating a dynamic interplay between people and the space.

---

### Artworks on View

- *Double Glass River*, Teresita Fernández
- *Farm 56* and *Farm 88*, Thomas Demand
- *Mat for multidimensional prayers*, Olafur Eliasson
- *Moon. Love. Dreaming.*, Beatriz Milhazes

*Seven of Olafur Eliasson's Mat(s) for multidimensional prayers rest on the Sanctuary stage to inspire reflection and contemplation with an extended clear vista of the landscape.*





# grace farms foundation





# Grace Farms Foundation

## Board of Directors

Sharon Prince | Chair & President  
Michael Chen | Vice Chair & Secretary  
Roy Medile | Treasurer

Jay Fielden | Editor-in-Chief, *Esquire*  
Peter Hunsinger | CMO & Partner, Everyone's Earth  
Taylor McCall-Mazza | Designer  
Robert Prince | Co-CIO, Bridgewater Associates  
Chelsea Thatcher | Director of Communications & Marketing, Grace Farms Foundation  
David Verklin | Senior Advisor, Boston Consulting Group  
Veronica Verklin | Co-Founder, Verklin Conference on Media Policy and Ethics at U.Va.  
Dr. Miroslav Volf | Founder & Director, The Yale Center for Faith and Culture  
Gregory Zehner | Partner, Goldman Sachs (Former)

## Leadership

Sharon Prince, Chair & President


Kenyon Victor Adams, Arts Initiative Director  
Nicole Fealey, Director of Human Resources  
J. Mark Fowler, Nature Initiative Director  
Rod Khattabi, Director of Safety & Justice Initiative Advisor  
Lisa Lynne Kirkpatrick, Community Initiative Director  
Frank Kwei, Director of Hospitality  
Tom Medico, Controller  
Krishna Patel, Justice Initiative Director & General Counsel  
Pamela Ruggio, Arts Initiative Curator  
Sarah Scandiffio, Director of Events  
William Stonebridge, Director of Facilities  
Adam Thatcher, Director of Operations  
Chelsea Thatcher, Director of Communications & Marketing  
Bill Tom, Director of Information Technology

# Our Approach

As a private operating foundation, we focus the majority of our funding into Grace Farms and our related on-site programs.	We take a hospitality-first approach in our daily operations, partnerships, and ongoing programs.
We offer grants of space instead of monetary grants.	We aim to balance peacefulness with vibrancy.
We are accessible year-round to the public without membership.	We collaborate across initiatives and with partners, creating new outcomes.







There is serenity, peace, education, and understanding emanating from this one oasis in our busy lives.

Rose-Marie Fox  
Board of Trustees Chair, Silvermine Arts Center

## Our Values, Our Culture

As we aim to advance good in the world, we believe that our culture and the manner in which we work carries the same significance as the outcomes we are trying to achieve.

### Grace

We seek to understand and engage with one another with humility, forgiveness, and respect.

### Peace

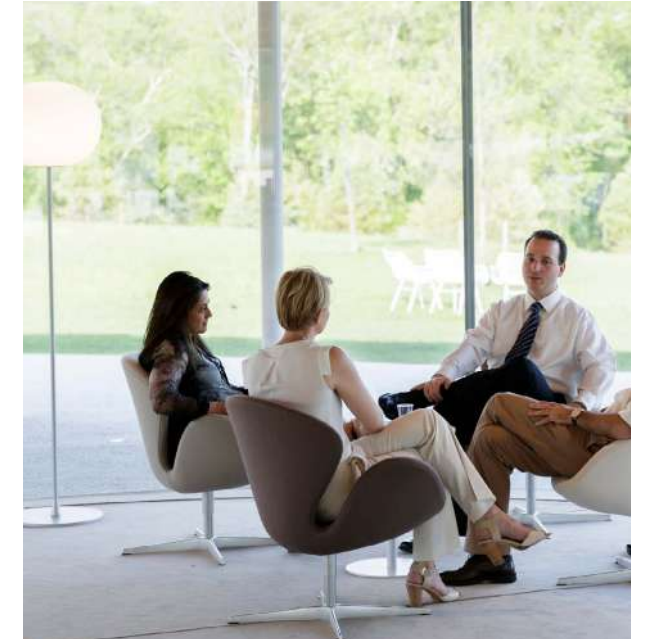
We pursue a just, diverse society through our initiatives and place, starting with ourselves.

### Excellence

Grounded in grace and peace, we continually aspire to elevate our collective work and place through an inner drive to go beyond what has been done before.

### Openness

We communicate often and honestly, championing the resolution of issues promptly and directly.



### Meaning

We cultivate meaningful community rooted in joy, integrity, and our common sense of purpose.

### New Outcomes

We learn and collaborate broadly, generating new perspectives and outcomes to advance human flourishing.



# Experience Nature



We have helped to bring back the American Kestrel at Grace Farms by restoring native meadows and installing nesting boxes



70% of U.S. land is privately owned; 30% of U.S. land is publicly owned

46 M



Birding is the fastest-growing outdoor activity in America. According to a [survey](#) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 46 million Americans report that they watch birds.

Mark Fowler penned a [Huffington Post op-ed](#) urging cooperation instead of competition to preserve endangered species, habitats, and biodiversity

*Grace Farms is preserved as a Privately Protected Area (PPA), which includes 10 unique habitats, more than 900 trees, and more than 60 species of birds.*

"What you may not know is that much of the wild lands that we depend upon for fresh air, clean water, wildlife habitat, and healthy forests are on private land."

Mark Fowler, Nature Initiative Director  
2017 Contributed Op-Ed in Huffington Post: "Re-Discovering The 'Wild' In Our Own Backyards - How Preservation Of Wild Lands Can Raise Our Quality Of Life"





# Experience Nature



The aim of the Nature Initiative is to draw people into Grace Farms’ beautiful 80-acre preserve, allowing them to experience the awe and wonder of nature. By providing exploratory opportunities, people are encouraged to connect with the outdoors and embrace stewardship of the natural environment.

Preserve

Grace Farms was designed to contribute to the public’s quality of life by providing a peaceful respite that inspires the exploration of wilderness, wildlife, and open space. Grace Farms Foundation has retained the property’s beauty as a rare piece of Fairfield County landscape and approximately 77 of the 80 acres at Grace Farms are protected in perpetuity as open meadows, woods, wetlands, and ponds. Our stewardship of open land expands outside of Grace Farms in the form of partnerships, volunteer efforts, and thought leadership. Efforts this year have included helping to maintain Connecticut waterways, releasing rehabilitated birds, and writing about the importance of protecting wild lands.

Programs emphasize [multigenerational engagement](#), including guided walks, film showings, and discussions.

“Initiating new collaborations and affecting increased stewardship of the natural world are two of the most important things that we do to preserve the imperiled species and wild lands around us.”

–Mark Fowler, Nature Initiative Director

611 ft.

Grace Farms is at the highest elevation in New Canaan, ideal for 360° views of the night sky and astronomy programming

11

Consecutive months of free nature programming in 2017



Explore

Nature Initiative programming emphasizes multigenerational engagement, encouraging the public to [discover the wonders of the natural world](#) through **experiential, educational programs**. During all seasons, we host experts and guides who present native wildlife (e.g., hawks, owls, falcons, and reptiles), teach wilderness survival skills, and guide walks for our guests. Grace Farms has also become a recognized [birding enclave](#), hosting **more than 60 species of birds on-site**.

Restore

The Nature Initiative is committed to **restoring endangered species and other wildlife at a local and international level**, implementing solutions to protect them from overexploitation. As part of an interdisciplinary collaboration with the Justice Initiative, we seek to build a coalition of individuals, NGOs, and law enforcement experts that can play a vital role in the fight against wildlife trafficking.

*By restoring native meadows and wildlife habitats, we have expanded homes for bees, butterflies, and birds.*



# Encounter the Arts

We believe that art has the capacity to provoke curiosity, generate new perspectives, and create the potential for individual and social transformation. Art at Grace Farms demonstrates the Foundation's integrative vision and a dynamic interplay between people, architecture, and landscape.

We develop and present new, collaborative, site-responsive works at the intersection of the visual, literary, and performing arts. By convening artists and practitioners across disciplines, we explore complex subjects significant to all of our initiatives through an inquiry-based approach.

"What art seeks, and what contemporary artists are uniquely positioned to contribute, is a way of knowing that reclaims memory, imagination, intuition, and the senses. These agencies, situated within artistic practices, propose a rigorous methodology suited to address complex subjects."

Kenyon Victor Adams, Arts Initiative Director

1,400

Participants of all ages joined the Arts Initiative's year-long investigation of silence

250

Multimedia resources and field notes provided to the public through the Grace Farms Library, including podcasts, blogs, publications, and videos

7

New art projects developed or inspired by *Practicing*, including a book of poetry, a contemporary ballet, a musical score, and a participatory sculpture

Court  
7,500 square-foot multi-purpose recreational and performance space, built partially below grade. The Court is Grace Farms' most active architectural space, with daily recreational pick-up games and capacity for up to 1,000



# Encounter the Arts



## Workshops

The Arts Initiative convenes invited artists to join interdisciplinary investigations in a distinctly hospitable setting. Workshop contributors—including poets, sculptors, cinematographers, theologians, philosophers, physicists, choreographers, dancers, composers, musicians, and mindfulness practitioners—benefit from the collaborative potential of this unique place. Our workshop method leverages various ways of knowing and treats the creative process as a dialogical space. Key examples include: *Practicing*, a series examining empathy, awe, silence, and joy; and *Arts & Mars*, which brought together leading NASA scientists and artists.

*Below (Left): Grammy Award-winning vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth performing in the Sanctuary. (Right): Children watching an open rehearsal of a performance presented in partnership with the National Opera Association's The Sacred in Opera in the Court.*



"The questions in a room with different artists give birth to more questions. The music of discovery here is natural and welcome."  
—Ilya Kaminsky, poet and Guggenheim Fellow

## Projects

A number of projects and other outcomes flow in succession from Arts Initiative workshops and gatherings. Our many audiences encounter the artistic process through critical seeing, listening, moving, and making. These opportunities take the form of showings, exhibitions, talks, facilitated family workshops, multi-media resources, and more. In 2017, the Arts Initiative developed projects that shared the content of the *Practicing Silence* workshops with an increasingly larger and more diverse audience at Grace Farms. The year-long investigation served more than 1,400 participants of all ages. One example, which attracted an intergenerational

audience, was *Practicing Silence: The Quiet Circus*, a participatory public art project developed on site with artists David Brick and Maiko Matsushima. Other projects included *Practicing Silence: Deaf Republic*, a new ballet and score based on poet Ilya Kaminsky's book-length parable-in-poems, featuring choreography by Silas Farley, and original music and sound design by Pornchanok Kanchanabanca and Noah Jackson.

*Above (Left and Right): New York City Ballet dancers responded to poet Ilya Kaminsky's parable-in-poems, Deaf Republic. More than 300 people watched a presentation of this new work in progress.*



# Pursue Justice

40.3 M

People are enslaved by labor and sex trafficking

We believe that each individual has an inherent right to liberty and that it is incumbent upon each of us to use our will and wherewithal to ensure freedom for all. With Grace Farms as our nexus for convening the public, private, and government sectors, we develop comprehensive strategies and partnerships that are designed to disrupt and combat all forms of contemporary slavery and gender-based violence.

Policy

Our Foundation focuses on the disruption of criminal networks as a critical first line of defense against human trafficking. In 2017, we partnered with the **United Nations University** and the **Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein** to the United Nations to co-host a convening focused on disrupting the ties between the financial sector and human trafficking. The convening led to the proposal of **25 specific recommendations that were published in a [UNU workshop report](#)**. We also launched, with support from Quinnipiac Law School, a [new educational course](#)

\$150 B

Modern slavery is a \$150 billion criminal industry

\$150 M

There is only \$150 million in NGO funding to combat modern-day slavery

634

Unique referrals of trafficking in Connecticut (2008-2016)

“When it comes to combatting contemporary slavery, what we do matters even though when it may matter, and who it may impact, are not things we can know beforehand. Together, we have begun what I know will be a profound force for change in our world.”

–Krishna Patel  
Justice Initiative Director

to train Connecticut lodging employees to detect and report human trafficking. This course was the result of [Public Act No.16-71](#), a new Connecticut state law enacted in 2016 as a result of contributions from Grace Farms Foundation’s Justice Initiative Director, state legislators, law enforcement, and international experts in the field of human trafficking.



Training

A primary goal of the Foundation is to increase the identification of those victimized and vulnerable to human trafficking and to improve the response of the law enforcement community. To accomplish this, we leverage the expertise of former federal law enforcement agents to facilitate national and international training engagements that improve intelligence-led investigations, victim identification, and the prosecution of criminal perpetrators. In 2017, we led a [comprehensive training](#) for police, prosecutors, lawyers, and victim service providers in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The training session attracted **223 attendees and focused on the enforcement of U.S. laws pertaining to child sex tourism in foreign countries**. On a state level, we provided training for the Fairfield County Detective School for 30 attendees on human trafficking investigations.

Global Advocacy

The idea for a **global campaign to help raise awareness and inspire action to combat modern-day slavery** was incubated at Grace Farms in 2016, during a workshop hosted in collaboration with United Nations University. The workshop encouraged action by private organizations and individuals, motivating Grace Farms Foundation to create an international awareness and activism campaign capable of affecting systemic change. The idea resonated with WPP agencies Geometry Global and J. Walter Thompson, and Shazam, who partnered with the Foundation to bring the campaign to life and soft-launch it during Grace Farms Foundation’s annual benefit in October 2017.

*As a survivor, I can easily say that Grace Farms Foundation is a life line, needed by many around the world.*

–Aklima Bibi, UK Barrister

Above: A workshop explored the financial chains of modern slavery and resulted in a report to the United Nations.



# Foster Community

We provide a warm, welcoming environment that fosters meaningful community among people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. Using Grace Farms as an essential platform for our work, we offer programmatic gathering spaces, a diverse range of self-directed recreational and social activities, and opportunities for individuals and not-for-profits to forge new ideas, relationships, and partnerships.



"Grace Farms has emerged as a recognized place of hospitality and inspiration for the public and for not-for-profit organizations. We have seen how the natural beauty and open environment encourages meaningful relationships among leaders, generating exciting new outcomes."

—Lisa Lynne Kirkpatrick  
Community Initiative Director



## Gathering Spaces

Grace Farms was designed to open the boundaries between the interior and exterior, creating a rare place where individuals can experience both a sense of community and quiet. Through the provision of a variety of gathering spaces, people are encouraged to appreciate the rolling landscape over a cup of tea, participate in open recreation, connect with family and friends during a community dinner, or take time for a moment of peace and reflection.



## Engagement

We facilitate unique programmatic opportunities that encourage listening, reflection, and action. These opportunities serve as a forum through which people can hear from experts, ask questions about the challenges they face, and discuss practical steps toward building positive change within their communities. Many of these programs serve as a method for introductory engagement with Grace Farms' initiatives and have included discussions on the [community impact of opiates](#), the U.S. response to the refugee crisis, a lecture from 2016 National Book Award winner Ibram X. Kendi, and a panel exploring the roles that faith and women's voices play in questions of economic justice in America. The Community Initiative also provides engagement opportunities where the community can come together to volunteer or contribute to a shared mission. In 2017, our charitable program, Gifting for Good, brought together community members to assemble boxes of essential items for newly resettled refugees.

"Through the Grace Farms Foundation Space Grant orientation process, my team was introduced to a network of like-minded committed nonprofit professionals, creating a community ripe for collaboration."

— Shiva Sarram  
Founder, Blossom Hill Foundation

1,706

People who participated  
in our Community  
Dinners in 2017

25,000

Visits to the Court for  
open recreation

## Support

The Space Grant program is central to our efforts to draw not-for-profit leaders together to work collectively for the common good. We provide a platform for NGOs and the public sector, offering a supportive place for organizations to [foster new partnerships](#), actively participate in the Foundation's programming, advance their work, or simply enjoy the expansive landscape and River building. Grace Farms inspires these organizations to think creatively and reframe their work. Individuals often leave with a sense of renewal and connectedness with colleagues, motivating organizations to continue their meaningful work.

*Above: When complex current social issues become pertinent to our region, we host gatherings to address community responses. Pictured is a dialogue about the refugee crisis, including perspectives from local service providers, lawyers, and a resettled Syrian refugee.*



# Explore Faith

We offer opportunities for contemplation, dialogue, study, and human flourishing through the provision of ongoing programs and expansive space. While the vision for Grace Farms was inspired by the Christian faith, people of all faiths or no faith are welcome to engage in faith exploration at Grace Farms.

"What does it mean for us to succeed as human beings? What does it mean for us to live our lives well? To explore faith means, among other things, to search for the answer to these questions with passion and honesty."

Miroslav Volf, Henry B. Wright Professor of Theology  
Yale University





# Explore Faith

## Contemplation

Grace Farms offers welcoming architectural spaces embedded in nature and resources that allow for contemplation across a variety of religious, spiritual, and ethical practices. Guests are welcome to take a quiet walk around the grounds, reflect privately in the Sanctuary, or explore the diverse selection of texts in our Library.

## Dialogue

We provide opportunities for multi-denominational and interfaith dialogue that fosters constructive and

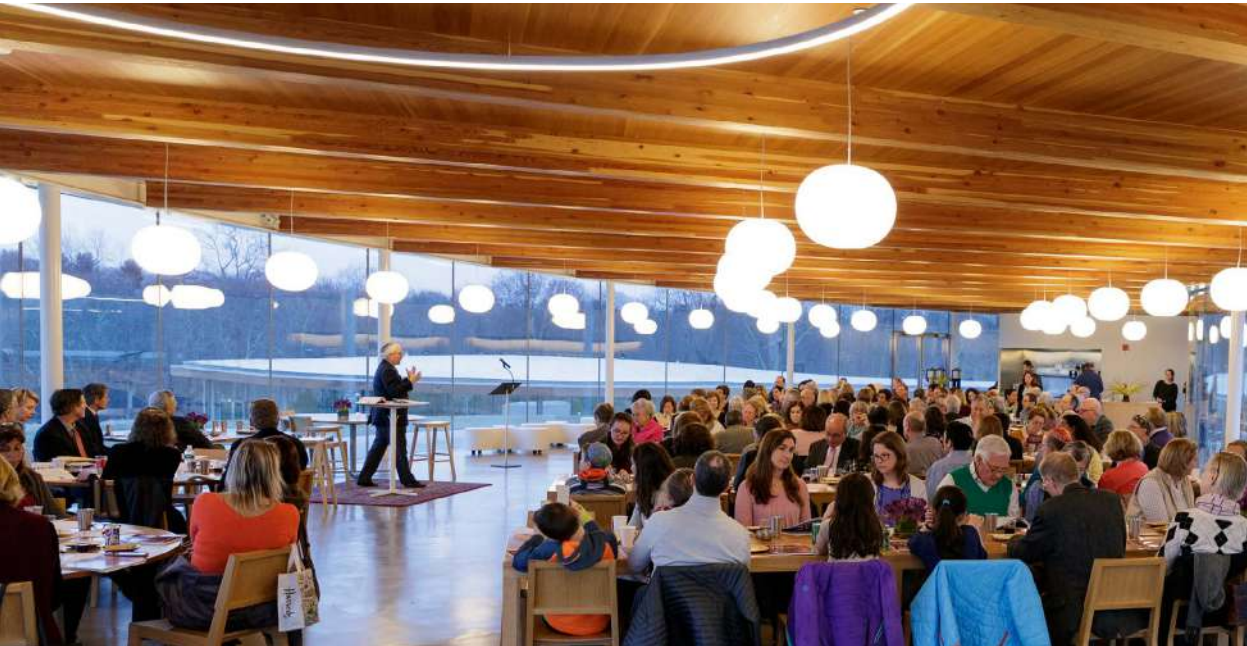
positive interaction. Through on-site programs, Grace Farms brings individuals together to build empathy across lines of religious difference and pursue the common good within our diverse community. Programs have included an [Interfaith Seder](#) co-hosted with the **Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut**.

25

Individuals took our "Life Worth Living" course with Yale University professor

5

Robust relationships with partner organizations contributing to programs



## Flourishing

Grace Farms is a place for people to contemplate questions about the meaning of life and consider how to best live in the contemporary world. In 2017, we collaborated with the **Yale Center for Faith & Culture (YCFC)** to offer the "Life Worth Living" course under the direction of **Dr. Miroslav Volf, Professor of Theology at Yale** and Grace Farms Foundation Board Member. The course engaged 25 individuals from a diverse range of philosophical and religious traditions to help them reflect upon values, purpose, and meaning as it related to their own lives. **Mindfulness** retreats and classes in partnership with the [Copper Beech Institute](#) have also been instrumental in guiding individuals in the development of practices that foster joy, resilience, and healing.

"In a short time, Grace Farms has become an important partner in the critical work of interfaith dialogue, understanding, and collaboration. We could not perform our work without its credibility and support."



Mark Lingle  
Executive Director of the Interfaith Council of Southwestern Connecticut

Above: People from various denominations and faiths came together to share in historic Seder traditions.



# 2017 new outcomes





# Unchain.org

## Unchain

During our second annual benefit on October 14th, we unveiled **Unchain**, a revolutionary anti-trafficking campaign that represents the realization of the Justice Initiative's global advocacy work.

### Our Insight:

Slavery is the biggest problem of our time that too few people know anything about. And when they do, they certainly don't know what to do about it.

### Our Central Objective:

Launch **Unchain**, a large-scale anti-modern slavery campaign that brings together all abolitionist partners, drives developed market awareness, and motivates global action.

Unchain was created in collaboration with **Geometry Global**, **J. Walter Thompson**, and **Shazam**, leveraging an extraordinary group of experts and critical insights from survivors to combat human trafficking. Through experiential marketing, interactive digital awareness campaigns, and powerful media strategy, the campaign seeks to unify more than 2,000 NGOs fighting slavery under one message, while cultivating an ecosystem of businesses, governmental agencies, and influencers. Part of the power of Unchain is its ability to change the hearts and minds of the public, encouraging them to be more responsible consumers. The campaign has resonated with organizations and individuals alike,

"We shield ourselves from the truth by pretending not to see."

Corban Addison  
Bestselling author, *A Harvest of Thorns*



## 6 mo.

Pro-bono work by 20 creatives and C-suite leaders at WPP agencies Geometry Global and J. Walter Thompson

drawing widespread support from both dignitaries and philanthropists who attended the unveiling, including actor, director, producer, and activist Tony Goldwyn; New York City Ballet's Silas Farley; author Corban Addison; United Nations permanent representative to Liechtenstein Amb. Christian Wenaweser; and many others.

During the final months of 2017, we made a commitment to finance the completion of the campaign's creative elements, which will be submitted for the Lyon Cannes advertising awards in June 2018. Additionally,

we have filed the initial paperwork to register Unchain as a 501(c)(3) organization, allowing it to flourish as its own not-for-profit public charity. In total, our Foundation has raised over \$700,000 in donations to support Unchain and has secured over \$2 million in corporate commitments and pro bono services. Unchain is now working towards a multi-faceted campaign launch in January 2019, releasing its hummingbird symbol into the world as a clarion call for freedom.

*Above: Laura Johnston, Executive Creative Director of Geometry Global, presented Unchain for the first time at our annual benefit.*



# Call for Systemic Change

*Written by Ambassador Luis C.deBaca, former United States Ambassador-at-Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons & Grace Farms Foundation Senior Advisor*

There are more than 2,000 non-governmental organizations fighting human trafficking on the front lines around the world. These organizations are essential to the communities that they serve; but are often overwhelmed by the daily exigencies of working with clients, keeping the power on, fixing the roof, and all the while hustling for grants or donations. As a result, they often work in isolation - from each other and from society. They are so busy doing important work that they are unable to force the systemic changes necessary to end trafficking.

Maximizing social impact requires a global movement where people realize the imperative of freedom and insist (to their governments, to companies, and to institutions) that ending human trafficking is a priority. Unchain seeks to support front-line NGOs by generating mass awareness of the issue to help lift and connect the entire sector. The RED and ONE campaigns have harnessed similar movements, successfully engaging both the private sector and general public in raising awareness and funds to help fight HIV/AIDS.

As President Obama’s Ambassador to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, I gave out approximately \$25 million in grants each year to fight a \$150 billion criminal industry. Not only were my efforts dwarfed by the traffickers’ profits, but I always had to wrestle with one key question, “Should the money be allocated to cleaning up the wreckage of this tragedy and funding critical after-care projects, or should it be spent on prevention, prosecution, and systemic change?” It felt like a zero-sum game due to the paucity of resources, even at the governmental level.

To truly end slavery, we need to move beyond just picking up the pieces of lives broken by exploitation. Service provision alone doesn’t prevent the pimp from recruiting another victim. It doesn’t prevent the kiln operator from getting new bonded laborers or the rich lady from exploiting another vulnerable domestic helper. I strongly believe that Unchain will put pressure on governments and businesses to prevent trafficking and foster more funding in the sector for direct services. In a world with over 40 million enslaved, the 60,000 or so victims rescued by NGOs are just a drop in the bucket. Through Unchain, we have an opportunity to disrupt the business models that make trafficking profitable, help the victims of this crime, and break the chains of slavery once and for all.

## Freedom Needs Fighters

Through Unchain, we have an opportunity to disrupt the business models that make trafficking profitable, help the victims of this crime, and break the chains of slavery once and for all.

Ambassador Luis C.deBaca



338

Attendees at our Unchain Benefit saw a first preview of what the campaign will look like

\$500K

Donations raised during our Unchain Benefit will be directed specifically to launch Unchain

1/2019

Intended launch date for Unchain





*Practicing* is a compilation of workshops, projects, and public programs through which invited artists and practitioners gather to examine empathy, awe, silence, and joy. These explorations rely on a creative process that aligns critical thinking and making. Since 2016, the Arts Initiative has completed three of the four investigations: *Practicing Empathy*, *Practicing Awe*, and *Practicing Silence*.

During the workshops, invited cohorts contributed new ways of conceptualizing the given subjects and shared discoveries with the public through performances and dozens of programmatic offerings. Each of these workshops has produced new projects, including a full ballet, two participatory art experiences, and three musical scores. Workshop contributors have included luminaries such as choreographer and director [Bill T. Jones](#), poet [Ilya Kaminsky](#), choreographer [Andrea Miller](#), and author and scholar [Peter C. Bouteneff](#). Video shorts have chronicled the development of *Practicing* and will culminate in a full-length documentary following *Practicing Joy*.

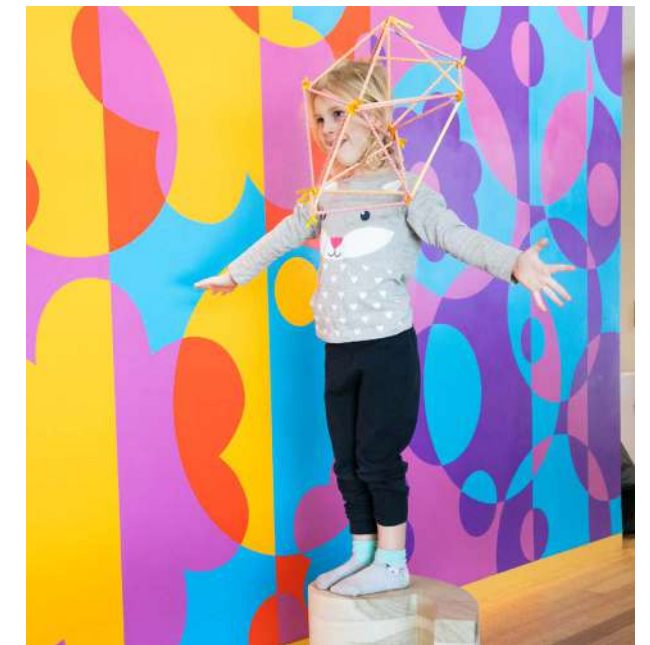
In 2017, the *Practicing Silence* [workshops](#) and projects expanded in scope and scale to reach an intergenerational audience of more than 1,400 participants. The

*Above: Practicing Silence: The Quiet Circus was a contemplative and participatory public art project, which invited visitors to interact in silence with nine objects inspired by the history and landscape of Grace Farms.*



strength of this program also attracted a new partner, the **Yale Institute of Sacred Music**, which brought together 60 scholars, liturgists, and artists for a special engagement and dinner with the *Practicing Silence* creative team. The effort also included experiential research at **Cooper Union's anechoic chamber** to understand physical silence; mindfulness practices contributed by **Copper Beech Institute** to inform the creative process; and an extended collaboration with the **Arvo Pärt Project** that helped to cohere the conceptual framework. During 2017, the creative team discovered more than 20 ways to understand silence.

In response to the *Practicing Silence* workshops, the Arts Initiative team also produced public programming for [creative families](#), featuring #ProjectPause by artist Laura Kaufman, which invited visitors to explore stillness. Additionally, our Open Arts Studio for Families presented a suite of facilitated programs including:



*Whisper Stories*, *Head Spaces*, and *Quiet Spots*. Perhaps one of the most fulfilling outcomes from 2017 was that several of the artists and projects cultivated in *Practicing* went on to further development in some of the nation's most significant institutions, including **The Metropolitan Museum of Art** (Andrea Miller, *Practicing Awe* and Silas Farley, *Practicing Silence*) and the forthcoming publication of *Deaf Republic* from Graywolf Press (Ilya Kaminsky, *Practicing Silence*). These artists and art works benefited from dialog with Grace Farms, its SANAA-designed River building, 80-acre landscape, culture of hospitality, and cooperative initiatives. In this way, the Arts Initiative serves as an effective incubator for the development of new works through an immersive and intersectional approach.

*Above Left: Practicing Silence-inspired publications and Whisper Stories in the Studio. Right: #ProjectPause invited creative families to explore stillness by balancing on a comma-shaped sculpture.*



# Space Grants

In lieu of monetary support, we offer not-for-profit organizations grants of space with the ultimate goal of serving as a platform for collaboration and the advancement of good work. The Space Grant Program welcomed 17 new organizations in 2017, continuing our efforts to provide not-for-profit leaders and community constituents with opportunities to reflect, strategize, and extend their programming.

### Space Grant Highlight

Our partnership with the **Connecticut Institute for Refugees & Immigrants (CIRI)** exemplified how [space grant recipients](#) become part of the life of our place. In September, CIRI conducted a management team retreat, where our serene, natural, and creative spaces helped the group focus on amplifying their impact in assisting and providing direct services to trafficking survivors. In June, we connected CIRI with two other space grant recipients, **Blossom Hill Foundation** and **Full Court Peace**, to plan and lead a recreational basketball game on **World Refugee Day**. The program brought together local middle school students and recently resettled refugees, serving as an important opportunity for the refugees to connect, make new friends, and build bonds in their new home. In December, we offered a public opportunity to support CIRI at our Community Dinner, where participants



"With the programming support of Grace Farms, the Syrian, Eritrean, and Congolese kids who came to play will never forget it or the new friends they made. I am sure this program, too, will grow – and only at a place like Grace Farms."

Mike Evans  
Founder and Executive Director, Full Court Peace

36

Organizations, representing all five initiatives, that were granted gifts of space in 2017

206

Programs, events, and meetings took place through the Space Grant Program in 2017

142

Days that Grace Farms was activated by Space Grants in 2017

*Moon. Love. Dreaming. by Brazilian artist Beatriz Milhazes, is a site-specific, 108-foot-long mural inspired by nature. It extends the length of the West Barn corridor and features four rhythmic motifs that can be seen indoors and outdoors.*



# Space Grants

spent the evening assembling packages of everyday essentials for individuals in CIRI's Refugee Resettlement Program.

Manifesting long-term partnerships from the Space Grant Program was a primary goal for our team in 2017, which required further refinement of our existing processes. During the program's second year, we focused heavily on optimizing space grant alignment with our initiative programming and rolled out an improved quarterly review process to better identify, select, and track grant recipients. These enhancements have not only increased the effectiveness of the program, they have also laid the groundwork for the launch of Space Grant Partner engagements, which are projected to begin in Q3 2018. These offshoots of the Space Grant Program will be developed as long-term relationships between Grace Farms and targeted space grant recipients. The selection of these partners allows us to activate available work spaces at Grace Farms while building deeper relationships with the potential for future program collaborations.

### Not-for-Profit Roundtables

In addition to Space Grants, the Foundation supports the not-for-profit community through roundtable gatherings that focus on substantive discourse. These casual gatherings are curated and facilitated by the Community Initiative team with the goal of connecting not-for-profit and government workers who are invested in similar focus areas. In 2017, we hosted a **Local Grantmaker Roundtable**, as well as a co-hosted roundtable with **LiveGirl**, highlighting **Women Who Inspire**.

# Grant Recipients

### Nature

The Discovery Center of Ridgefield  
Keep America Beautiful\*  
The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk\*  
New Canaan Beautification League  
New Canaan Land Trust\*

“The work we did that day, focusing on diversity and inclusion for staff, volunteers, and clients, has been carried forward. Staff teams are continuing to explore how we can ensure cultural competency at all levels of the agency to live our mission.”

– Ceci Maher

Executive Director, Person-to-Person

As an important space grant partner, Person-to-Person has been selected to continue their staff trainings in 2018.

### Arts

Arts for Healing  
Cultural Alliance of Fairfield County  
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture (New York Public Library)  
Silvermine Guild Arts Center\*  
Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum  
The Glass House\*  
University of Delaware Opera Workshop Ensemble

### Justice

Blossom Hill Foundation  
Building One Community  
Center for Sexual Assault Crisis Counseling & Education  
Connecticut Institute for Refugees & Immigrants\*  
Connecticut Department of Children and Family  
Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Family ReEntry  
Full Court Peace\*  
International Organization of Adolescents  
Love146  
Nomi Network  
Polaris Project\*  
Pura Vida for Children\*  
Resiliency Center of Newtown  
Save the Children  
Second Response  
The Underground Lighting a Way to Freedom  
Walter E. Lockett Foundation

### Community

Ability Beyond Disability  
All Our Kin  
Connecticut Council for Philanthropy  
Connecticut Opportunity Project  
Ethical Culture Fieldston School  
Fairfield County's Community Foundation\*  
Food Rescue US  
Future 5  
The Garden Club of America  
Harvard Business School Connecticut Community Partners  
Horizons National Student Enrichment Program

Impact Fairfield County  
LiveGirl  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Charity League; New Canaan Chapter  
New Canaan Boys Basketball  
New Canaan Community Foundation  
New Canaan Historical Society  
New Canaan Mounted Troop  
New Canaan Parks & Recreation\*  
New Canaan YMCA  
Norwalk Community College  
Person-to-Person  
Southwest Regional Mental Health Board  
STAR Inc. Lighting the Way  
Staying Put in New Canaan  
THISAbility  
Young Presidents Organization; Fairchester Chapter  
Young Women's League of New Canaan

### Faith

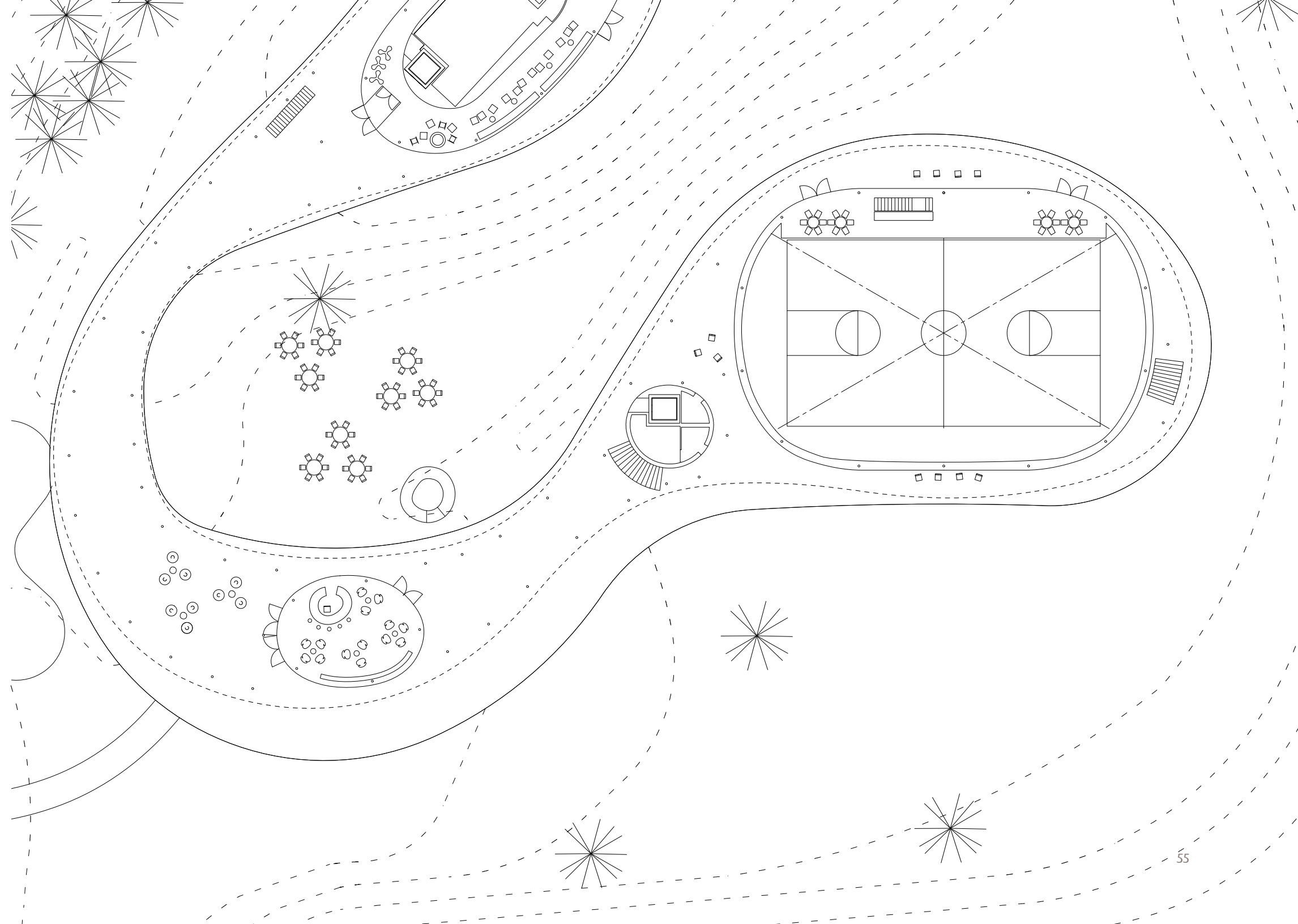
Yale Center for Faith & Culture\*  
Yale Divinity School

*The list above represents all Space Grant Recipients since 2016*

*\* Identifies organizations that have also served as program partners*



# recognition & support





# Select Recognition



Grace Farms and its River building were honored with a number of prestigious design awards from local, national, and international organizations. In addition to excellence in design, many of the citations recognized the unique mission of Grace Farms and the integration of social good into the concept of a publicly available space.

**Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize (MCHAP) 2014-2015**  
The second annual MCHAP recognized the [best built works of architecture in the Americas](#) realized from January 2014 through December 2015. Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa, founders of the Pritzker-winning architecture firm SANAA, were presented with the MCHAP Award, the MCHAP Chair at IIT Architecture Chicago for the following academic year, and \$50,000 in funding toward research and publication.

**AIA National 2017 Architecture Honor Award**  
The [AIA Award](#) annually honors the best built works in American architecture.

**AIA Connecticut 2016 Design Honor Award**  
The [Honor Awards](#) from the statewide chapter of the American Institute of Architects celebrate the excellence of Connecticut projects. The jury described Grace Farms as “a graceful project with an ephem-

eral quality, a quality of apparent simplicity that belies complexity in sectional and structural planning. The project preserved a substantial piece of the Connecticut landscape for public and an unusual institutional use.”

**Chicago Athenaeum 2017 International Architecture Award**  
Grace Farms was [honored](#) as a place “with a symbiotic relationship between architecture and nature” that is both “a restorative place and an active community that enables people to address the core issues facing society today.”

**The Architect’s Newspaper Best of Design Awards, 2016 Building of the Year (East)**  
AN’s [annual design awards](#) celebrate innovation, creative use of new technology, and sustainability, as well as great design.

"The Grace Farms project uniquely demonstrates architecture’s capacity to make a place for an innovative new institution."

Stan Allen, 2016 MCHAP Jury President



**Fast Company, 2016 Innovation by Design Awards, Social Good Finalist**  
*Fast Company* acknowledged Grace Farms Foundation and its mission in its design category that includes great architecture in the service of [social good](#).

**TownVibe, 2016 Green Award**  
[TownVibe](#) is a Connecticut-based media company that includes 6 regional magazines, celebrates individuals, companies, and not-for-profits that make a significant contribution to environmental innovations, conservation, preservation, or sustainability.

**2017 GreenCircle Awards, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection**  
Awarded for displaying [leadership in energy efficiency](#) and reducing our impact on the environment.

Grace Farms Foundation’s design partners have also been recognized for individual accomplishments in engineering, construction, acoustic systems, and lighting design. See our full architectural project team at [gracefarms.org/project-team](#)



# Financial Overview

In our second year of operation, we are thankful for our early supporters who have embraced Grace Farms Foundation's vision to create a new kind of publicly available and philanthropic platform through Grace Farms. We built Grace Farms to generate outcomes for good, and now we are clear on what it will take financially to actualize the vision for longevity.

**How we allocate our funds:** As a private operating foundation (distinct from a public charity), we are focused on investing in the programmatic potential and management of Grace Farms. We are grateful to have established donors committed to funding general administration expenses for the next five years. This means 100 percent of your donations fund programming in our five initiatives and daily public operations. Every dollar helps keep Grace Farms accessible to all. Admission is free, and we intend to continue offering affordable food and programs.

**2017 income:** We currently raise funds from individual donations and program revenues. With the help of over 300 donors, we raised \$8.1 million in 2017, including almost \$500,000 from our 2017 benefit.

**New in 2017:** Our expenses include a critical one million dollar investment into an unprecedented global anti-trafficking campaign, which is detailed on page 30.

Please join us in making a difference here locally and internationally by donating to Grace Farms Foundation.

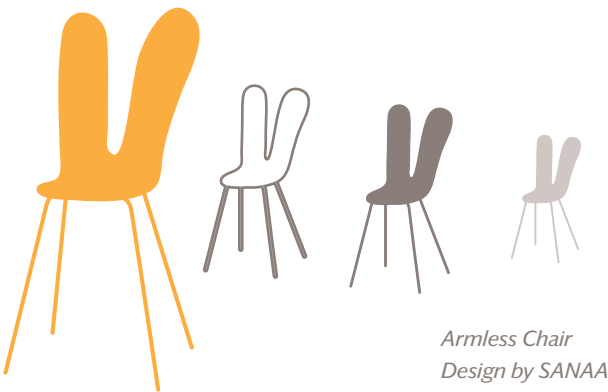
**Roy Medile**  
Treasurer, Board of Directors



*For purposes of brevity, the 2017 financial information presented here is excerpted from our unaudited financial statements.*

## 2017 Income

**Opening Cash Balance: \$4,641,935**



<b>\$7,644,353</b>	<b>\$511,191</b>	<b>\$309,709</b>	<b>\$19,806</b>
Unrestricted Donations	Restricted Donations	Event & Retail Net Revenue	Interest & Other

# How to Get Involved

## Attend Our Programming

Experience the beauty of our site and the myriad of educational public programs

## Become a Partner

Mission-aligned collaborations offer meaningful opportunities to achieve transformative change

## Join Our Volunteers

Contribute professional skills or provide valuable support during special programs

## Donate

One hundred percent of charitable donations directly fund our daily public operations and initiatives

## Spread the Word

Like us [@GraceFarmsCT](#)  
Tag us at [#GraceFarms](#)

We believe that everyone has a part to play in advancing good in our community and the world.

# Give

Thank you for considering a donation to Grace Farms Foundation. Visit [gracefarms.org/support](#) to support our initiatives and publicly available space for all.

## Mail a check

Grace Farms Foundation, LLC  
PO Box 876  
New Canaan, CT 06840

## Join our benefit

Saturday, October 13, 2018  
Tickets at [gracefarms.org](#)



## Photo Credits

### President's Perspective

p. 4-5: Iwan Baan; p. 7: Dean Kaufman

### Grace Farms | A New Kind of Public Space

p. 10-12: Dean Kaufman; p. 14 (right) Dean Kaufman, (left) Sahar Coston-Hardy; p. 16: Iwan Baan; p. 17: Dean Kaufman; p. 18: Iwan Baan; p. 24: Dean Kaufman; p. 25: Julien Jarry

### Grace Farms Foundation

p. 27: Vanessa Van Ryzin; p. 28 (left to right) Julien Jarry, Vanessa Van Ryzin, Vanessa Van Ryzin, Julien Jarry; p. 30: Dean Kaufman; p. 32 (top): Dean Kaufman, (bottom left): Grace Farms Foundation, bottom right: Vanessa Van Ryzin; p. 33: Dean Kaufman; p. 35: Vanessa Van Ryzin; p. 36: (right): Vanessa Van Ryzin, (middle): Simone Armer, (left): Dean Kaufman; p. 37: Julien Jarry; p. 38: Sahar Coston-Hardy; p. 40: Dean Kaufman; p. 41: Julien Jarry

### 2017 New Outcomes

p. 45-47: Hogarth Worldwide; p. 48: Grace Farms Foundation; p. 49: Vanessa Van Ryzin; p. 50: Dean Kaufman

### Recognition & Support

Dean Kaufman

## Visit Us

### Public Hours

Monday | Closed

Tuesday-Saturday | 10 am-6 pm

Sunday | 12 pm-6 pm

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### Contact

203.920.1702

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[gracefarms.org/visit](https://gracefarms.org/visit)