

# 2022

annual report



grace farms  
foundation

# all of us have unique agency to make real and positive change

I have been inspired by those whom I have met around the world who are working to create a more humane and equitable future for all.

I saw it in London, where Grace Farms celebrated the opening of the 21st **Serpentine Pavilion**, our first Design for Freedom international Pilot Project designed by **Theaster Gates**. There, we also activated a U.K. contingency of the Design for Freedom Working Group to address forced labor in our building materials.

In Darjeeling, India I plucked tea leaves alongside hard-working women who are providing for their families and caring for their communities. I experienced first-hand how sourcing certified organic and Fairtrade ingredients not only contribute to sustainable development, but also is a way for us to demonstrate ethical supply chains through Grace Farms Foods' teas and coffees.

Although I'm encouraged by what I've seen, there is more work to do. There is still no ethical and universal inspection of the building materials supply chain, and no accountability.

Design for Freedom is changing this by raising awareness and initializing institutional responses. We held the first-ever **Design for Freedom Summit**, bringing together 300 global leaders including **Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein**, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. He affirmed that "all good revolutions begin like this."

Three significant, new Pilot Projects were announced. Initialized by Chelsea Thatcher, our Chief Strategy Officer, these include the Harriet Tubman Monument *Shadow of a*

*Face* by **Nina Cooke John** (U.S.), *Black Chapel* (U.K.), and a new Arts and Cultural Center by Serendipity Arts (India).

At the Summit, we also released our **Design for Freedom Toolkit** as another resource to help practitioners implement ethical, forced labor-free material strategies.

We brought together landscape architects, designers, and experts for the **Earth Equity and Design for Freedom Landscapes Forum** to promote nature-based solutions and sustainable, forced labor-free landscape materials.

Educating the public about our work with a simple cup of tea and coffee and addressing forced labor in supply chains is a major focus of Grace Farms Foods, our public benefit subsidiary. Grace Farms Foods gives 100% of profits to Design for Freedom. It has been designated as a **Certified B Corp**, recognizing its high standards of performance, accountability, and transparency.

Across the Foundation, our work continued to combine awareness and advocacy. Those who come to Grace Farms experience the awe and wonder of nature through multigenerational programming that explores our environment and universe.

Children and adults can encounter the arts together in our Open Arts Studio, where hundreds have participated in art-making that reflects the work of Grace Farms.

Students came and experienced Grace Farms in new, meaningful ways. In September, we launched an educational program, welcoming 288 students to engage with our architecture and nature to re-imagine the built environment.

Students also engaged in *Then and Now*, a conversation between Karen Kariuki, our Program Officer, and **Ruby Bridges**, civil rights activist, who noted that "change doesn't happen in a corner." Released during Black History Month, over 12,000 people engaged in this discussion.

We also brought together extraordinary leaders including **Indra Nooyi**, former chair and CEO of PepsiCo; **Brooke Baldwin**, former CNN anchor; and **Elizabeth Davis**, Principal at the Female Innovators Lab by Barclays and Anthemis Group. Their conversation explored new models of leadership that empower women.

In partnership with **UN Women** and the **NO MORE Foundation**, we presented Victory Over Violence, where 450 people from 25 countries participated in solution-based discussions with athletes, domestic violence survivors, and law enforcement officials.

We welcomed educators for a Life Worth Living workshop to present ways to help students become leaders and facilitated conversations on purpose in our lives with the **Connecticut Association of Independent Schools**.

As we continue to create new outcomes, I am reminded of what **Karenna Gore** said at the Landscapes Forum – that inaction prolongs injustices, and action is the only pathway to resolve them.

Onward together with grace and peace,



Sharon Prince  
CEO and Founder



# table of contents

7	about grace farms	51	program partners, collaborators, and sponsors
9	our work	54	our values
11	nature	56	board of directors
17	arts	57	leadership
23	justice	58	awards
27	community	63	annual benefit
31	faith	67	financial overview
35	new outcomes	71	get involved
35	grace farms foods		
41	design for freedom		



The River building was intentionally designed to help visitors pause to consider what it means to flourish personally and as a community.



## ABOUT GRACE FARMS

We bring together people across sectors to explore nature, arts, justice, community, and faith at the SANAA-designed River building on 80 acres of publicly accessible, preserved natural landscape.

Grace Farms, with its open architecture, breaks down barriers between people and sectors and invites conversation, curiosity, and proximities.

This collaborative approach to comprehensively address humanitarian issues and generate new outcomes is reflected across all of our initiatives and the place of Grace Farms.

advancing good  
locally and globally



# our work

Our work is collaborative. We invite the public and private sectors to Grace Farms to consider what's possible through diverse perspectives. The place of Grace Farms was intentionally designed around nature to create a reflective and restorative space to consider innovative ways to advance the common good. Our experts across disciplines, in collaboration with our local and global partners, create unprecedented outcomes.

## nature

We facilitate the stewardship of our natural world through restoration, exploration, and preservation, offering more than 30 weeks of multi-generational programming, and collaborate to protect endangered species and wildlife at a local and international level.

## arts

The Arts Initiative at Grace Farms demonstrates our integrative vision and dynamic interplay between people, architecture, and landscape, and develops and presents new, collaborative, site-responsive programming at the intersection of the visual, literary, and performing arts.

## justice

Our commitment to justice is based on the inherent right of liberty and equality for all. We leverage our law enforcement expertise, capacity building across local, national, and global justice systems, and our unique interdisciplinary approach, in order to disrupt modern slavery, gender-based violence, and environmental crimes.

## community

We provide a warm, welcoming environment that fosters meaningful community and engagement among diverse groups of people. The Community Initiative creates proximities to individuals and organizations with different perspectives to advance new ways of thinking, ignite partnerships, and catalyze new outcomes that can lead toward sustained social impact to advance good in the world.

## faith

We offer opportunities for dialogue and reflection to explore the nature of flourishing and purposeful life through workshops with various faith leaders and educators engaging with the world's great traditions.

---

## design for freedom

The global movement to create market transformation to remove forced labor from the building materials supply chain, Design for Freedom mobilizes the full ecosystem of the built environment to reimagine architecture as a driver of humanitarian outcomes to build a more equitable future.



# experience nature

The place of Grace Farms plays an essential role in serving as a model of sustainability and preservation that inspires awe and wonder about nature. Designed to contribute to the quality of life for all, this hopeful space invites people from all backgrounds and ages to join us in our stewardship of nature on a local and global scale.

## Earth Day

Our signature day-long Earth Day celebration welcomed visitors to explore Grace Farms and engage in nature-based programming meant to foster a sense of wonder and curiosity about the role nature plays in our lives and how each of us can contribute to the well-being of the planet. In addition to family-friendly activities, we also offered programs that focused on the restoration and conservation of our planet.

The **Yale School of the Environment** led an exploration of our 10 biodiverse habitats, educating participants about our more than 50 species of trees, while landscape designer **Edwina von Gal**, Founder of the Perfect Earth Project, shared transformative strategies towards regenerative landscape design and care.

## Year-Round Programming

Our trees, forests, and native landscapes are linked to the earth’s biodiversity as well as our well-being. By restoring and protecting the ecosystem, Grace Farms has been able to bring back more than 100 species of birds, some of which can be discovered on our bird walks. Through our programs with our Master Birder, new and experienced birders discover the joy and nuances of each bird’s characteristics.

Whether birdwatching or meandering through our nearly 80 acres of natural landscapes, or pausing to sit by Cattail Pond, these experiences help us reconnect with nature. **The Community Mindfulness Project** facilitated a journey through Grace Farms so participants could understand the power of nature’s ability to alleviate stress and anxiety through forest walks.

The Community Garden provides opportunities to learn about ethical and sustainable growing practices. Our garden also provides nearly 2,000 pounds of produce each year. These ingredients are used in our Commons' menu and the wholesome meals donated to our neighbors in need.

OUR WORK

Whether birdwatching or meandering through our nearly 80 acres of natural landscapes, or pausing to sit by Cattail Pond, these experiences help us reconnect with nature.

Young Gardener Series

Leveraging the success of our gardening programming, our Master Gardener and Community Garden Manager **Lauren Elliott** initiated seasonal hands-on educational programs for all ages to learn sustainable gardening techniques, from soil preparation to increasing harvest yields. Our five-part young gardeners series, demonstrates how to plant and grow in certain environments. This program also invited the entire family to engage with their young gardeners on this experiential learning journey.

Our popular astronomy series expanded this year. We enhanced the series by incorporating science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) into the program led by **Connecticut Science Center's** educators. To enhance the viewing experience, two telescopes were added to improve the planetary discovery. In addition, gravity simulations and hands-on art projects helped participants explore the start of fall's postautumnal Equinox and winter's Geminids meteor showers. In case of inclement weather, a live feed also allowed viewers to see beyond the overcast skies or rain.

The changing landscape serves as inspiration for programming at Grace Farms. During Earth Day, the Arts Initiative developed site-responsive and interdisciplinary programming with our Nature Initiative, inviting people of all ages to explore and create. Here, a child participates in a community installation, weaving recycled yarn through our Black Locust grove, making a visible model for cooperation and interdependence during our Learning from the Landscape program.

We also developed programming for on-site school trips, where Grace Farms' educators helped students and teachers discover the place of Grace Farms, our work, and how our interdisciplinary approach is restoring nature and saving wildlife. Our collaborative work with our strategic partners in Tanzania and elsewhere in the region is helping to save endangered wildlife species and promote environmental conservation.

Pollinator Pathway

We continued our work to promote environmental conservation locally and throughout the state. We are founding partners of the New Canaan chapter of the Pollinator Pathway, a nationwide public-private campaign to build pesticide-free corridors of native plants for pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and birds. Our natural landscape, including woodlands and expansive meadows, along with our on-site beekeeping, provides a natural classroom to discover the many impacts we are making with the Nature Initiative and the place of Grace Farms.



620

registered for new summer picnic series

120+

birds species spotted on site

20

African countries partner with us to combat wildlife trafficking



© Melani Lust

“Surrounded by peace and welcomed into this awe-inspiring landscape that has been infused by the constant interplay of ideas, people are likely to experience a new sense of perspective and purpose.”

– Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder, Grace Farms Foundation



OUR WORK

# encounter the arts

Since our founding, artists have been coming to our 80-acre site to explore the interplay of people, architecture, and landscape, resulting in collaborative site-responsive programming for families and individuals alike. This work continued with expanded experiences, including a Time study and Learning from the Landscape program that invited visitors to encounter the arts in unexpected ways.

**Time Study**

One of the most notable outcomes from the Time study was *Temporal Shift* – a site-responsive sculpture made from reclaimed polished steel by **Alyson Shotz**. The work’s mirrored surface animated the River building’s central interior courtyard with light and shadow, and its elliptical shape, which references the path Earth travels around the sun each year, invited visitors to contemplate time and our relationship to it.

Through Tour and Tea programs with the artist and curator, adult audiences had an opportunity to gain insight into the Foundation’s distinct, process-based approach to programming. Family audiences also participated in hands-on workshops with artists, curators, and educators where they experimented with time-based media such as melting crayons made from botanical inks gathered here at Grace Farms..

**Peace and Reconciliation Through Art**

Art has the power to heal and the power to inspire. Since Grace Farms’ opening, artists have drawn inspiration

from our expansive landscape and the River building. This year, Sharon Prince, our CEO and Founder, participated in a special live stream event, Building a Culture of Peace and Reconciliation Through Art, presented by the **International Peace Institute, UN Women, and UNESCO**. The event included a presentation of *Tears of Gold*, an art exhibit and visual testimony of war featuring portraits of Yezidi, Rohingya, and Nigerian women painted by British artist and activist **Hannah Rose Thomas**. These immersive and compelling paintings provided an entry point into an important discussion of the role that art and education play in building peace and reconciliation.

**Expanded Open Arts Studio**

This year, we expanded our popular Open Arts Studio program to extend program offerings and the hours the studio is open. Through this facilitated program series, families with children ages five through 10 can think, play, and create, experimenting with art-making techniques and new materials, many of which are re-purposed from Grace Farms’ landscape.

“When we are connected to the land, we’re connected to ourselves, and one another.”

– Hillary Waters Fayle, *Flower Magazine*



© David Hunter Hale

Music at Grace Farms

In 2022, Grace Farms brought on **Marcus G. Miller** as its first Music Director. A renowned saxophonist and mathematician, Miller curated Songs of the Season, bringing a wide range of artists to the Sanctuary that drew hundreds of visitors to enjoy the joy and wonder of music during our Season of Light programming.

The diverse group of artists and musicians included **Andrew Atkinson, Tod Hedrick, Michael King, Andre “Chez” Lewis, Charlotte Malin**, with **Rebecca Malin, Paul Pesco, Sonny Step, The Nu Haven Kapelye Klezmer Trio**, and **Andromeda Turre**. Miller, who graduated from Harvard University with a degree in mathematics, is a longtime collaborator at Grace Farms and brings a diverse and new perspective to our musical programming.

Member Day

The Time study and Learning from the Landscape program contributed overlapping layers of meaning during our first Member Day, when artist **Hillary Waters Fayle** invited the community into her process of creating a portrait as a tribute to the land and our relationship to it.

Members joined Fayle in gathering botanical material from the grounds including leaves, flower petals, and seed pods that she dried, preserved, arranged, and attached to an acrylic sheet, pictured on the left. From this arrangement, Fayle created a limited edition of ten unique sun prints.



Andromeda Turre

© Melani Lust

4,100

individual botanical elements in Hillary Waters Fayle’s unique artwork

2,170

visitors participated in 13 unique art programs for families

1,723

registered for Songs of the Season

Andromeda Turre, vocalist, and composer, performed as part of our Songs of the Season series.

Music is a broader part of culture, giving a sense of what is inside the “cultural soul” and where we stand with regard to it.

– Marcus Miller,  
Music Director, Grace Farms

Hundreds of visitors came to see the Latin Heartbeat Orchestra as part of our celebration of Hispanic Heritage month.





OUR WORK

# pursue justice

Our justice work continued to leverage our law enforcement expertise, focusing on capacity building and trainings in the United States and Africa to disrupt human and wildlife trafficking. Through innovative partnerships with agencies across federal, state, and local governments, as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), we also made significant contributions to our global Design for Freedom movement.

**Building Capacity to Fight Transnational Crime**  
Grace Farms Foundation and **U.S. Customs and Border Protection** (CBP) brought together 250 federal law enforcement officials for a Summit on Transnational Threats in an Increasingly Interconnected World to discuss established and emerging threats in an effort to share information and best practices. Executives from federal, state, and local agencies that partner with CBP attended the Summit. Topics discussed included forced labor, terrorism, the drug trade, and the dark web, including the impact across borders, and how we can collectively work together to disrupt criminal networks.

**Combating Wildlife Trafficking**  
Illegal wildlife trade is among the largest transnational organized crimes, often operated by criminal syndicates whose reach extends beyond borders and continents. Grace Farms Foundation disrupts these networks

through trainings that strengthen law enforcement’s capacity by sharing best practices, expertise, and criminal intelligence.

Throughout the year, Grace Farms Foundation held numerous trainings to combat wildlife trafficking and enviromental crimes. Grace Farms, for instance, partnered with the **United Nations Development Programme** (UNDP) and the **United States Agency for International Development** (USAID) to convene law enforcement, wildlife, forestry, and customs officials from Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda to confront maritime trafficking of wildlife between Africa and Asia. This work came out of the Lusaka Agreement Task Force, a multilateral law enforcement organization representing eight eastern and southern African countries dedicated to disrupting poaching and wildlife trafficking and investigating violations of national laws pertaining to illegal trade in wild fauna and flora.

Robert Mande, Assistant Director and Chairman of the National Anti-Poaching Task Force, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania, at our Innovations in Protecting our Global Environment and Communities program.

OUR WORK

“In an increasingly interconnected world that has been widely impacted by the effects of a global pandemic, it is more important than ever that we convene law enforcement officials and external partners to face emerging threats.”

– Rod Khattabi, Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director

Public Events to Raise Awareness

At Grace Farms, we convened Innovations in Protecting our Global Environment and Communities to illuminate the importance of combating environmental crimes.

**Rod Khattabi**, our Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director, was joined by **Robert Mande**, Assistant Director and Chairman of the National Anti-Poaching Task Force, Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, Tanzania, **Dr. Samuel Wasser**, Co-Executive Director, Center for Environmental Forensic Science, University of Washington, **Meredith Gore**, Conservation Criminologist and Associate Professor, University of Maryland, and **John Brown**, Program Manager, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations to discuss how science and enforcement can collaborate to end wildlife trafficking.

Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls

Grace Farms Foundation, **UN Women**, and **The NO MORE Foundation** presented an all-day forum that focused on the challenges and opportunities of preventing violence against women and girls in and through sports.

While sports can be a way to put women and girls in the best, most positive light as strong, capable leaders and winners, too often violence against women and girls exists in sports and is perpetuated in the culture around sports. Through panel discussions with leaders and experts such as **Margaret Groban**, former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Department of Justice National Domestic Violence Coordinator, **Rosie Hidalgo**, Senior Advisor on Gender Based Violence and Special Assistant to the President, and **Kalliopi Mingeirou**, Chief, Ending Violence Against Women Section, UN Women, the Victory Over Violence forum raised awareness of gender-based violence in sports and generated actionable steps for those in the world of sports to be part of the solution.

Partnership with United Nations Population Fund

Based on the success of preventing gender-based violence in sports, Grace Farms Foundation, in partnership with the **United Nations Population Fund**, brought together leading national and international experts, advocates, and survivors for a comprehensive symposium to examine strategies to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence.

Alina Marquez Reynolds, General Counsel and Justice Initiative Deputy Director at Grace Farms, left, and Margaret Groban, former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Department of Justice National Domestic Violence Coordinator, addressing violence against women and girls.



500+

law enforcement  
reached through trainings

450+

people from 25 countries  
participated in Victory  
Over Violence

250

federal law enforcement  
officials engaged in summit  
on global threats



OUR WORK

# foster community

“Do not be afraid. This is your time in history.  
Keep your eyes on the prize. And at all costs, stay united.”

- Ruby Bridges, American civil rights leader

**Change Doesn’t Happen in a Corner**

The catalyst for change sometimes happens in unforeseen ways. A local eight-year-old boy, motivated by a racial incident that happened to him, wrote a letter to American civil rights leader **Ruby Bridges** asking her to come speak to his community and help “kids like you and me.” This action resulted in Grace Farms Foundation’s production of *Then and Now*. The 45-minute film, which reached 12,000 students, teachers, and community members, would not be possible without the generous support of more than two dozen individuals and institutions from across the not-for-profit, educational, faith, business, and private philanthropy sectors throughout Fairfield County. The production, developed by **Karen Kariuki**, Community Initiative Director, demonstrated the importance of using our voices.

As Ruby said, the only way to make change is to “step out of the corner.”

**Amplifying Each Other**

We are all living through a moment in time where we are acutely aware of the fact that community can be fostered in any number of inspiring and imaginative ways. As we amplify these ways, others learn from their unique vantage points as leaders. **Vanessa Barboni Hallik**, Founder and CEO of Another Tomorrow, the first Certified B Corp luxury fashion company, discussed her journey to create a tech-enabled, sustainable design company. By fostering community and conversation, Grace Farms provides a hopeful space where women are in close proximity to support and empower each other.

Screening of *Then and Now* at Grace Farms

“If we creatively think about putting families in the center of the future of work, we might actually design a whole new society that puts the human back in humanity.”

- Indra Nooyi, former chair and CEO of PepsiCo

**Making Space for Women**

During Women’s History Month, Grace Farms also developed programs to consider the inclusion and empowerment of girls and women. In our Making Space for Women series, we invited three trailblazers to explore innovative strategies, approaches, and models to drive change and empower women. The Innovators of Change discussion included **Indra Nooyi**, former chair and CEO of PepsiCo, **Brooke Baldwin**, former CNN anchor, and **Elizabeth Davis**, Principal at the Female Innovators Lab by Barclays and Anthemis Group.

**Our Commitment to Food Equity**

We have addressed food insecurity since our founding, and at the start of the pandemic in 2020, we dedicated considerable resources and efforts to combat soaring food insecurity in our community. Since that time, Grace Farms donated and delivered nearly 140,000 meals to our food equity partners. This work continues today with **Shared Meals Tuesdays** when our visitors have the option of purchasing the same fresh meal provided to these partners for lunch in the Commons.

Our commitment to food equity led to our *Against the Grain* video series, where we also delved into innovative strategies and collaborative models to advance sustainable food systems. **David Barber**, Co-Founder of Blue Hill at Stone Barns, and Founding Partner at Stone Barns Center, along with **Caitlin Taylor**, Principal at Mass Design Group, and Director of their Food System Design Lab, highlighted their work in this field.

Grace Farms Foods’ work to educate the public about ethical and sustainable supply chains was also featured.

Other leaders, including **Sandeep Pahuja**, Haas Business School professor, former **IDEO** leader, and host of the podcast, *Food x Design*, spoke at Grace Farms about creating an equitable, regenerative, and nourishing system for all people and the planet.

**Educating Students and Future Leaders**

Throughout the year, we offer programs that align with the Next Generation Science Standards, Common Core, CT State Social Studies Frameworks, and Social and Emotional Learning practices. Facilitated by our education team, we introduce students to our humanitarian work such as sustainably growing food and ethically sourcing our building materials to remove forced labor from our global supply chains. By creating experiences that take an inquiry-based approach to learning through collaborative problem solving and hands-on activities, we’ve educated students about the very principals they are learning about in school and that could advance good in the world.

**Gifting for Good**

In ending a year of notable outcomes, we assembled and distributed more than 200 “starter kits” of essentials for recently resettled local families and children who experienced domestic violence. In partnership with the Center for Family Justice, Gifting for Good shows the power of coming together to advance good.



12,000

engaged with  
*Then and Now*

4,872

shared meals prepared  
and donated on Tuesdays  
to neighbors in need

418

participated in  
Innovators of Change  
with Indra Nooyi

The Innovators of Change program reflected on inclusion and action. Left to right: Elizabeth Davis, Brooke Baldwin, Indra Nooyi, Sharon Prince, and Karen Kariuki



OUR WORK

# explore faith

“The content and reflection questions will stay with me and will be something I can refer to time and time again. This is timeless information shared in a perfect setting for contemplative work.”

– Life Worth Living participant

## Flourishing Life in Secondary Education

How can secondary schools use ethical and philosophical inquiry to address flourishing life? Grace Farms Foundation brought these groups together again to consider this question including: **Joan Edwards**, Director of Equity and Professional Collaboration for the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools (CAIS), **Mark Davis**, then Head of School at St. Luke’s School, and **Francisco Lopez**, Director of Counseling at Choate Rosemary Hall. In a conversation facilitated by Faith Initiative Director **Matthew Croasmun**, they discussed the importance of ethical and moral inquiry in the secondary educational systems and how educators could live purposeful lives and take what they learned into their classrooms.

## Life Worth Living

The Life Worth Living course continued to engage participants in an honest reflection about their lives. This seven-week academic course is led by Matthew Croasmun who is also the Director of the Life Worth Living Program at Yale Center for Faith and Culture. Participants were invited to reflect about their lives and explore questions of meaning and purpose with other course participants. Each week featured select readings from diverse religious and philosophical traditions, both ancient and modern, along with video lectures.

Cattail Pond provides an opportunity to reflect on the awe and wonder of nature as well as flourishing life

“I just love coming to ancient words with the expectation they might speak something important to us today.” – Matthew Croasmun

**Books on Faith & Meaning**

These discussions, which include ancient and contemporary religious and philosophical traditions, encourage us to think critically about the meaning in our lives. The Faith Initiative provides a unique access to these perspectives.

This year, in their newly published book, *The Hunger for Home*, theologians **Miroslav Volf** and **Matthew Croasmun**, explored how shared meals allow for nourishing mutual encounters. The subject of this book discusses how the Gospel of Luke teaches about hospitality, food, and visions of flourishing life. Other topics in this series included building a case for modern Confucianism as a way of life, hope for creating communities of belonging, and how to heal from our own stories. Returning and new authors and scholars included **Cole Arthur Riley**, **Christian Wiman**, **Steve Angle**, **Susan Wolf**, **Keri Day**, **Leah Sarna**, **Lynn Casteel Harper**, **Paul Blaschko**, **Meghan Sullivan**, **Nicholas Bommarito**, and our very own Matthew Croasmun.

Each brought their personal perspectives including author and professor Keri Day. In her book, *Notes of a Native Daughter*, Day asks how can we bear witness to more liberating, decolonizing, and inclusive futures in theological education. Through her testimony as an Afro-Pentecostal Black woman, she reveals the truth in her and others’ lived experiences of theological education.

**River Retreat**

Launched in 2021, the *River Retreat* offers a self-directed way to encounter a core question: what is the shape of flourishing life? The River building was intentionally designed to help visitors pause to consider what it means to flourish personally and as a community. To provide a deeper inquiry, our Faith Initiative Coordinator **Katie Grosh**, offered an orientation to the *River Retreat*, helping participants explore on their own and how to use the *River Retreat* booklet as a comprehensive guide to life’s enduring questions.

In addition to this work, we developed a four-part series, offering an in-person or virtual option into exploring the question together, “What kind of life is worth wanting?”



267

enrolled in *Books on Faith & Meaning*

240

registered with Life Worth Living programs

26

CAIS educators engaged at Grace Farms

Our Faith Initiative Director, Matthew Croasmun, speaking to visitors in our Commons.

---

500

participated in educational  
tea programs

---

250

Female farmers from  
Ethiopia grow coffee for our  
signature River Roast coffee

---

1

Grace Farms Foods is the  
first US-based tea brand  
to partner with Fairtrade  
International to source  
ethically and sustainably  
certified teas.



© Cristian Salazar

NEW OUTCOMES

## grace farms foods

Bringing people together over shared meals and a cup  
of tea has been central to Grace Farms since its beginning.

In 2014, as construction of Grace Farms was underway, a local supporter, coffee importer, and roaster offered to donate all the coffee to Grace Farms. For more than a year, we searched to identify the best ethically-sourced coffees from around the world and found our signature blend, River Roast, a perfectly balanced blended coffee sourced exclusively from women-led co-ops in Ethiopia, Colombia, and Indonesia.

In 2021, Grace Farms Foods, a public benefit LLC, and a Certified B Corp, 100% owned by Grace Farms Foundation, was launched. The aim was to demonstrate that the sourcing of tea and coffee free of forced labor was possible and to be able to educate the general public about ethical supply chains through accessible products that people use every day, tea and coffee. 100% of the profits from Grace Farms Foods support Design for Freedom to eliminate forced labor worldwide.

Each day, tea is offered and visitors learn about the origins of tea and our work to illuminate ethical and sustainable supply chains.



Grace Farms Foods demonstrates what Grace Farms Foundation advocates for – ethical and sustainable supply chains.

**B Corp Certified**

The work of Grace Farms Foods, which received its Certified B Corp status in September 2022, reflects Grace Farms’ humanitarian work to remove forced labor from the built environment. Certified B Corps are a select group of companies held to high standards of verified performance, accountability, and transparency. These high standards of excellence are part of Grace Farms’ values and work. Through sharing a cup of our tea and coffee, visitors can share our journey and help advance good in the world.

**Ethical Action Meeting**

Grace Farms partnered with the Curry Stone Foundation to host a community meeting in Mumbai, India about Design for Freedom. Participants discussed the importance of partnership to end forced labor and highlighted how top-down and bottom-up approaches can create both a market shift and support those most vulnerable to forced labor.

**Visit to Colombia's Fairtrade Co-Op**

Grace Farms Foods Co-Founder Adam Thatcher (third from left, at the Asoprosierra Co-Op in Colombia) visited a Fairtrade co-op that provides coffee for Grace Farms Foods Drips line. The purpose of his trip to Colombia was to meet and foster relationships with the coffee farmers and suppliers and to conduct first-party audits to ensure that there is no forced labor behind the coffee that Grace Farms Foods sells.

**Immersion in the Darjeeling Tea Gardens**

Grace Farms Foundation’s CEO and Founder, Sharon Prince, traveled with the Foundation’s Tea Expert and Educator, Frank Kwei, and Grace Farms Foods Co-Founder Adam Thatcher, to India to conduct first-hand observations of the tea estates that provide tea for Grace Farms Foods, and to ensure the adherence to ethical and sustainable standards. In addition to supporting a fair wage for workers, with every pound of tea that is purchased, funds are reinvested into the communities where the tea is sourced, in the form of projects that are decided by an association from the community. Grace Farms Foods is demonstrating the values of the Grace Farms Foundation through this decision-making process.

"We've decided to partner with Fairtrade International and become the first US-based tea brand to source Fairtrade certified ingredients in our effort to create positive impact for farmers and workers."

– Adam Thatcher, Co-Founder and CEO, Grace Farms Foods, in *Forbes*



© Melani Lust



Sharon Price learns to pluck tea with the help of local women working together in the Selimbong Tea Garden, Darjeeling, India. 100% of the profits of Grace Farms Foods support Design for Freedom, the global movement to disrupt forced labor in the building materials supply chain.



giving back  
100%  
of profits



Grace Farms Foods' ethically sourced coffees and teas come from countries across Asia, Africa, and South America.

---

1M

people will interact with Design for Freedom Pilot Projects that are free and open to the public

---

1,500+

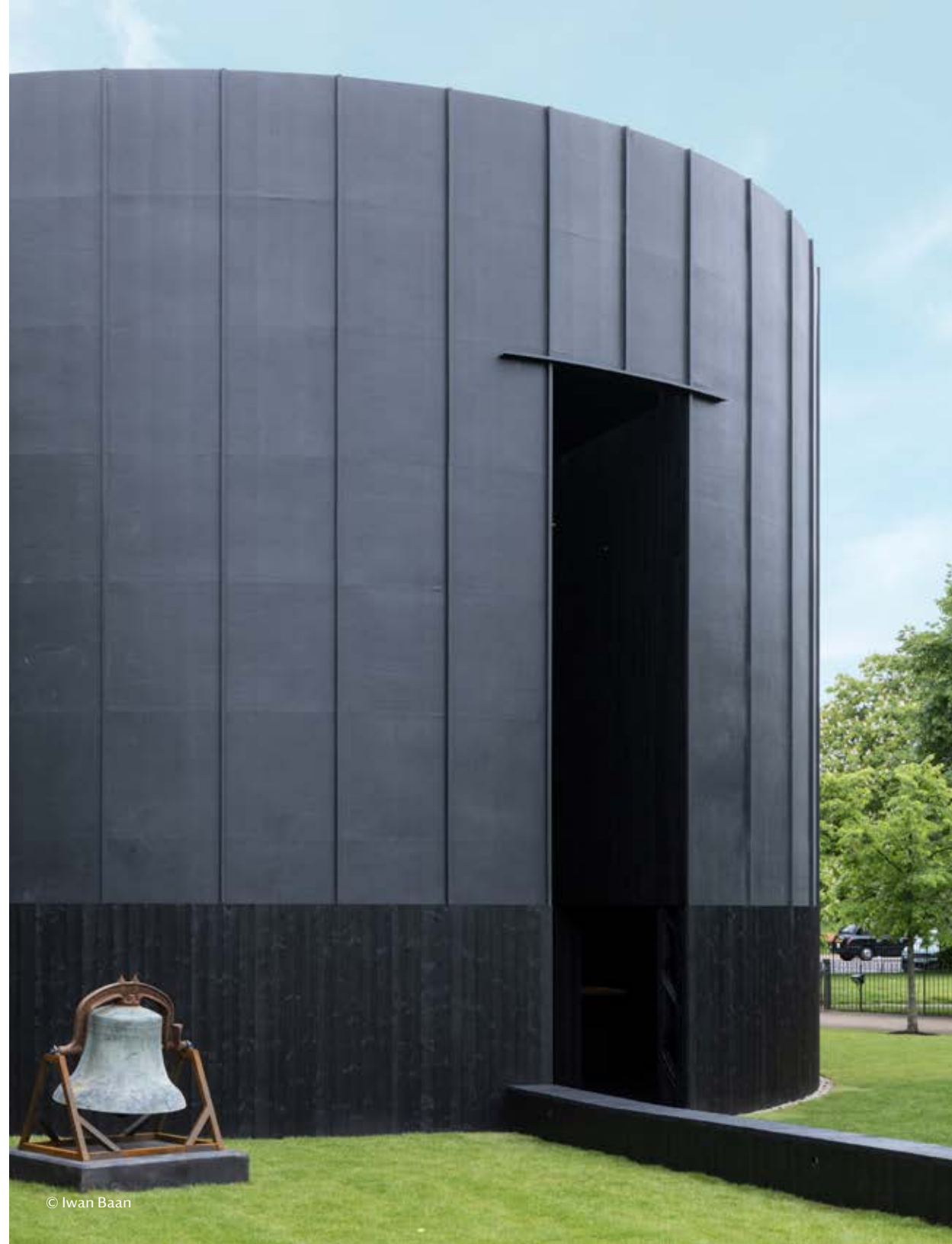
students engaged through lectures at colleges and universities

---

300

leaders of the built environment attended the Design for Freedom Summit

*Black Chapel* by Theaster Gates was the first international Design for Freedom Pilot Project



© Iwan Baan

NEW OUTCOMES

## design for freedom: accelerating the movement

At Grace Farms our advocacy to end modern slavery met how we could reimagine architecture and surfaced one of the most pressing humanitarian issues of our time - forced labor in the building materials supply chain.

Grace Farms leads Design for Freedom, the global movement to eliminate forced labor from the building materials supply chain. Over the past year, we have achieved major milestones and accelerated the movement.

We launched the first-ever Design for Freedom Summit and Earth Equity and Design for Freedom Landscapes Forum. We also announced new global Pilot Projects where Grace Farms serves as Responsible Materials Advisor and released the *Design for Freedom Toolkit*, a comprehensive resource professionals can use to integrate ethical and sustainable material sourcing strategies into their work.

We are not just in moral agreement that forced labor in the building material supply chain is unethical and immoral because we know it is. We must also be in agreement that now is the time for action and true market transformation. Only together can we create a more humane future.

“We need to encourage capitalism that works for all. Economic growth cannot be at the expense of the most vulnerable. By bringing together leaders in the built environment, we will work together to create true market transformation and build a more equitable future.”

– Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder, Grace Farms Foundation at the Design for Freedom Summit

# design for freedom pilot projects

Pilot Projects are the next step in the Design for Freedom movement. They raise awareness of forced labor in the building materials supply chain, model transparent and forced labor-free supply chains, and demonstrate Design for Freedom Principles in action.

There are five Design for Freedom Pilot Projects in the U.S., U.K., and India. These projects are, or will be, open and accessible to the public, and most importantly, demonstrate a tangible example of a more humane built environment.

**21st Serpentine Pavilion (London, U.K.)**  
*Black Chapel* designed by Chicago-based artist **Theaster Gates**, with the architectural support of Adjaye Associates, was the first completed international Design for Freedom by Grace Farms project. As Responsible Materials Advisor, Grace Farms worked with the Pavilion project team, including **AECOM**, to enhance material transparency and prioritize ethical procurement. The Pavilion was open to the public from June–October in London’s Kensington Gardens.

**Ethical Action Meetings**  
Grace Farms activated a London contingent of the Design for Freedom Working Group with an ethical action meeting held in the Magazine at Serpentine. At the meeting, **Arup** and **Buro Happold** made

commitments to educate their staffs about Design for Freedom and pursue ethical supply chains. Each firm held Design for Freedom sessions for 100 employees and industry leaders.

**Shadow of a Face (Newark, NJ)**  
The new Harriet Tubman Monument, *Shadow of a Face*, is designed by architect, artist, and United States Artists Fellow **Nina Cooke John**. This two-story monument replaced a statue of Christopher Columbus and provides opportunities to connect with Harriet Tubman, her story, and extraordinary legacy. Cooke John’s commitment to transparent sourcing of materials is a powerful message about the desire to design and build forced-labor free.

**Center for Arts and Culture (New Delhi, India)**  
Grace Farms Foundation and Serendipity Arts announced the first Pilot Project in Asia. This new center for arts and culture will be designed for accessibility, inclusion, sustainability, and fairness, and serve as a welcoming place to all. Serendipity Arts is working with **CRAB Studio** and Arup on the project.



**New Canaan Library (New Canaan, CT)**  
The New Canaan Library was the first Design for Freedom Pilot Project in the U.S. Grace Farms Foundation partnered with New Canaan Library on a new state-of-the-art knowledge and learning center to explore the use of materials that are less at-risk of forced labor. Throughout the process, Design for Freedom has been collaborating with **Turner Construction**, **Centerbrook Architects**, and 23 subcontractors to trace raw and composite building materials as far as possible within the supply chain.

**Temporal Shift by Alyson Shotz (New Canaan, CT)**  
*Temporal Shift* by **Alyson Shotz** is a site-responsive sculpture that interacts with natural light and animated an interior courtyard of the River building. The sculpture, which describes time as the seasons change, went on view in September 2021 and remained on site through October 2022. Grace Farms collaborated with **Sciame** to trace the stainless steel and concrete used in the sculpture, providing a unique opportunity to apply a Design for Freedom lens to an artistic work.



Temporal Shift

© Sahar Coston-Hardy



Black Chapel

© Harry Richards



Ethical Action Meeting

© James Slade

# design for freedom summit



Design for Freedom by Grace Farms held the inaugural Design for Freedom Summit on March 30, bringing together 300 leaders from the ecosystem of the built environment for in-depth discussions, stimulating roundtables, and presentations that explored solutions to remove forced labor from the global materials supply chain.

The day-long event accelerated the Design for Freedom movement and explored a true market transformation that will create a more humane built environment. Participants engaged in panels focused on corporate ethical responsibility within the building materials supply chain, Design for Freedom Pilot Projects, and ethical procurement. Participants learned how government policy and enforcement, as well as interactive technology solutions, can help remove forced labor from supply chains.

In addition to the panels, industry experts also spoke at roundtable discussions. The focus of these roundtables included how interiors provide an entry point to Design for Freedom, how we can better understand what materials, such as timber, are at higher risk for forced labor, and how we can gain greater visibility into supply chains.

“All good revolutions begin like this. We need to address forced labor through the sourcing of materials. The way you are doing this is amazing because no one else has thought of it.”

– Prince Zeid Ra’ad Al Hussein, President and CEO of the International Peace Institute  
at the Design for Freedom Summit 2022



“The Earth Equity and Design for Freedom Landscapes Forum at Grace Farms marks a moment to extend the Design for Freedom concept into the landscape, as well as take care of the Earth.”

– Chelsea Thatcher, Chief Strategy Officer, Grace Farms Foundation

**Design for Freedom Toolkit**

At the inaugural Summit, Grace Farms released the *Design for Freedom Toolkit*, a new, comprehensive resource that design and construction professionals can use to help implement ethical, forced labor-free material sourcing strategies into their own practices. The Toolkit contains information on more than a dozen materials, such as timber, steel, and rubber, that are most at-risk of forced labor, as well as relevant certifications and standards that support ethical materials choices, a supplier questionnaire, and sample specifications. The digital toolkit can be downloaded at [designforfreedom.org](https://designforfreedom.org).

**Earth Equity and Design for Freedom Landscapes Forum**

Building on the success of the Design for Freedom Summit, the Earth Equity and Design for Freedom Landscapes Forum brought together nearly 300 landscape architects and experts on May 26 to explore how they can utilize sustainable materials free of forced and child labor to create landscapes that are better for people and the planet. The event, initiated by **Chelsea Thatcher**, Chief Strategy Officer, featured renowned landscape designer **Edwina von Gal** and **Karenn Gore**, Founder and Executive Director of the Center for Earth Ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

**SustainChain**

Design for Freedom and SustainChain announced a partnership to advocate and realize sustainable and ethical supply chains. SustainChain is the world’s largest sustainability-action digital platform that uses advanced technology to bring together innovators, investors, and public-private sector alliances with the aim of achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Design for Freedom addresses SDG Target 8.7 to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and eliminate child labor. Grace Farms is bringing global leaders and professionals together to share information and connect with one another, collaborate on research, discuss policy, and advocate for a transparent and ethical building materials supply chain.

**Design for Freedom Working Group**

The Design for Freedom Working Group grew to more than 80 leaders in the ecosystem of the built environment. These leaders are coming alongside Grace Farms as we accelerate the movement to design and build more humanely. Meetings were held at **COOKFOX** and **WXY Studio**.

Renowned landscape designer, Edwina von Gal speaks at the Earth Equity and Design for Freedom Landscapes Forum.





© Jacek Dolata



Grace Farms' Chief Strategy Officer Chelsea Thatcher, standing, announces the first Pilot Project in Asia, Serendipity Arts' new Center for Arts and Culture (New Delhi, India).

"As we reimagine architecture, we all have the ability, the power to design a more humane future."

– Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder, Grace Farms Foundation



# program partners, collaborators and sponsors

## nature

Brian Bradley | falconer  
Connecticut Science Center  
Danielle Lurie | filmmaker  
Devon Chivvis | filmmaker  
Edwina von Gal |  
Perfect Earth Project  
Frank Mantlik | master birder  
Laura Green |  
Yale School of the Environment  
Nick Mancini | master gardener  
Tim Haag | astronomer

## arts

Alyson Shotz | *Temporal Shift*  
Amy Schwartz Moretti |  
New Canaan Chamber Music  
Andrew Armstrong | New Canaan  
Chamber Music  
Camille Thurman  
Christian Wiman | poet, editor  
Cole Arthur Riley | author  
DJ Clean  
Hillary Waters Fayle | artist  
Latin Heartbeat Orchestra  
Marcus Miller |  
musician & music director

Matthew Lipman | New Canaan  
Chamber Music  
Toshihiro Oki | architect

## justice

Edward Phiri | Lusaka Agreement  
Task Force  
John Brown | U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security, Homeland  
Security Investigations (HSI)  
Meredith Gore, Ph.D. |  
University of Maryland  
Michael Conlon |  
U.S. Department of Homeland  
Security, Homeland Security  
Investigations (HSI)  
Michelle Leighton | International  
Labour Organization  
Robert Mande | National Anti-  
Poaching Task Force, Ministry of  
Natural Resources and Tourism  
Samuel Wasser, Ph.D. |  
University of Washington  
Seema Jalan | UN Foundation and  
the Resilience Fund for Women  
in Global Value Chains  
United Nations Population Fund  
UN Women  
UNESCO

## faith

Francisco Lopez, Ph.D. | Choate  
Rosemary Hall  
Joan Edwards | Connecticut  
Association of Independent  
Schools (CAIS)  
Keri Day | Princeton Theological  
Society  
Lynn Casteel Harper | essayist,  
minister, and chaplain  
Mark Davis | St. Luke's School  
Meghan Sullivan | University of  
Notre Dame  
Nicolas Bommarito | Simon Fraser  
University  
Paul Blaschko | University of Notre  
Dame  
Rabbanit Leah Sarna | Drisha  
Institute for Jewish Education  
Steve Angle | Wesleyan University  
Susan Wolf | University of North  
Carolina - Chapel Hill  
U.S. Army Chaplain Corps

community  
program partners

Brooke Baldwin | journalist, TV  
host and former CNN anchor  
Connecticut Institute for Refugees  
David Barber | Blue Hill at Stone  
Barns and Stone Barns Center  
David Coleman | The College  
Board  
Elizabeth Davis | Female  
Innovators Lab  
Jamie Renwick | Tide Risers  
Kaki McGrath | Dudley Stephens  
Lauren Stephens | Dudley  
Stephens  
Maud Mandel | Williams College  
Pilin Anice | meditation and  
wellness expert  
Ruby Bridges | civil rights activist  
Vanessa Barboni Hallik | Another  
Tomorrow  
Sam Seidel | Stanford University  
d.school  
Sandeep Pahuja | Haas Business  
School  
Sheri West | LiveGirl  
Silvia Baldini | chef  
Sophie Koven | Tide Risers

community  
food relief partners

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
(DVCC)  
Open Doors

community  
education program  
partners

Classical Studies Magnet Academy  
Coleytown Middle School  
Nightingale-Bamford School  
RHAM High School  
The École  
Wilton Montessori School

community  
space grant partners

Abilis Inc.  
AIA NY  
Americares  
Building One Community  
Connecticut Historical Society  
Connecticut Institute for Refugees  
and Immigrants  
Fairfield County Trauma Response  
Team  
Global Citizens Initiative  
Grace Community Church

Impact Fairfield County  
Literacy How, Inc.  
LiveGirl  
Malta House  
New Canaan Basketball  
Association | NCBA  
Save the Sound  
Stamford Peace Basketball Club,  
Inc.  
STAR, Inc. - Lighting The Way  
Supportive Housing Works  
The Cultural Landscape  
Foundation  
University of Bridgeport  
United Way of Coastal Fairfield  
County  
Voices of September 11

community  
*Ruby Bridges:  
Then and Now* sponsors

B kind Foundation  
East Elementary School PTC  
Fairfield County's Community  
Foundation  
Grace Community Church  
NBC Sports Group  
New Canaan Community  
Foundation

“Companies can be a force for good, if you come  
together and say I want to do something to  
improve society.” – Indra Nooyi, former chair and CEO of PepsiCo

New Canaan Library  
South Elementary School PTC  
St. Aloysius Church  
Temple Sinai  
The Children's School  
The Congregational Church of  
New Canaan  
West Elementary School PTC  
Ridgefield Alliance  
Cait Lunn, Ridgefield Alliance

community  
Making Space for Women  
sponsors

Connecticut Public  
Hive  
Partners Capital

design for freedom  
pilot project partners

AECOM  
Alyson Shotz  
Centerbrook Architects  
Cooke John Studio  
CRAB Studio

New Canaan Library  
Sciame Construction  
Serendipity Arts  
Serpentine Galleries  
Turner Construction

design for freedom  
summit sponsors

Extravega New York LLC  
Brininstool + Lynch  
Turner Construction  
ROOM

earth equity and design  
for freedom landscapes  
forum sponsors

AKDO  
Holt McChord  
Louis C. Fusco Landscape  
Architects  
MEA McChord Engineering  
Associates, Inc.  
Sahar Coston-Hardy Photography

Reimagining Architecture,  
7th anniversary benefit  
sponsors

Four Root Farm  
Grace Farms Foods  
Holland & Knight  
JPMorgan Chase & Co  
MASS.Made  
MillerKnoll  
Moffly Media  
Olio Piro  
Ruinart  
Sciame Construction  
SHoP Architects  
Slade Architecture  
UBS

other in-kind partners

Google  
Tony's Chocolonely

# our values

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 justice, 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.



# board of directors

- Sharon Prince**  
Chair and CEO

**Michael Chen**  
Vice Chair

**Roy Medile**  
Treasurer

**Abby Bangser**  
Founder and Creative Director,  
Object & Thing

**Anna Dyson**  
Hines Professor of Architecture,  
Yale Schools of Architecture  
and Environment

**Jay Fielden**  
Magazine Editor and Writer
- Peter Hunsinger**  
Former Conde Nast Publisher  
and CMO of Everyone's Earth

**Angela Mwanza**  
Senior Vice President,  
UBS Wealth Management

**Robert Prince**  
Co-CIO, Bridgewater Associates

**Hayes Slade**  
Co-Founder and Principal,  
Slade Architecture

**Chelsea Thatcher**  
Chief Strategy Officer and  
Founding Creative Director,  
Grace Farms Foundation

**Dr. Miroslav Volf**  
Director, The Yale Center  
for Faith and Culture



© Kyle Norton

# leadership

- Sharon Prince**  
CEO and Founder

**Chelsea Thatcher**  
Chief Strategy Officer and  
Founding Creative Director

**Cherie Sweeney**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Rod Khattabi**  
Chief Accountability Officer and  
Justice Initiative Director
- Eavan Cleary**  
Director of Brand Design

**Matthew Croasmun**  
Faith Initiative Director

**Tory Donohue**  
Strategic Program Director

**Karen Kariuki**  
Program Officer

**Frank Kwei**  
Tea Expert  
and Educator

**Marcus G. Miller**  
Music Director

**Toshihiro Oki**  
Architecture Advisor

**Neena Perez**  
Director of Culinary Operations

**Fred Pickering**  
Director of Safety

**Elizabeth Rapuano**  
Director of Communications
- Alina Marquez Reynolds**  
Justice Initiative Deputy Director,  
General Counsel, and Board  
Secretary

**Nora Rizzo**  
Ethical Materials Director

**Pamela Ruggio**  
Arts Initiative Curator

**Sarah Scandiffio**  
Director of Events and  
Visitor Experiences

**Ashley Sikora**  
Director of Marketing

**William Stonebridge**  
Director of Facilities

**Matt Szwed**  
Technical Director

**Bill Tom**  
Director of Information Technology

**Meg Hely Walsh**  
Strategic Partnerships Advisor

# select recognition

Grace Farms has been internationally recognized for its outstanding design, architectural significance, and work to advance good locally and globally.

**Fast Company’s Most Creative People in Business for "Cleaning up Construction" (2022)**

**Sharon Prince**, CEO and Founder of Grace Farms Foundation, was recognized for Design for Freedom and its aim to remove forced labor from the built environment. Prince was among 56 leaders who are moving their entire industries forward, with ingenuity and purpose.

**CT Green Building Council awards Design for Freedom the Trailblazer Award (2022)**

This award, which recognizes excellence in design, also considers construction practices that support a broader vision of creating an equitable, healthy, resilient, and sustainable built environment locally and globally.

**Homeland Security Investigations Private Sector Partnership Award (2022)**

HSI NY recognized Grace Farms Foundation with its Private Partnership Award in a special ceremony held at the United States Military Academy, West Point, NY.

**United to Safeguard America Against Illegal Trade Summit | Law Enforcement Special Recognition Award (2022)**

The Special Recognition Award acknowledged public and private security experts, including **Rod Khattabi**, who are combatting the rising tide of black-market trade.

**Public Service Award For Extraordinary Benevolence & Contributions to Public Health & Safety (2021)**

Grace Farms Foundation received the Public Service Award For Extraordinary Benevolence & Contributions to Public Health & Safety during the COVID-19 pandemic from New Canaan Fire Company #1. The fire company, including new members and former fire commissioners, helped us make hundreds of personal protective equipment (PPE) deliveries throughout the state to frontline healthcare workers to close the PPE gap.

**Design for Freedom face mask is longlisted for the Dezeen Awards (2021)**

An ethically manufactured face mask was inspired by the award-winning SANAA-designed River building at Grace Farms, which features an iconic undulating roof that reflects light differently in response to time and weather. The mask was designed by **Shohei Yoshida**, Principal of shohei yoshida + associates / sy+a formerly of SANAA, and **Peter Miller**, Founding Partner of Palette Architecture/formerly of Handel Architects. The mask’s artisanal weave creates a gradient pattern and soft luminescence that shifts according to light and the fabric’s texture. The mask raised awareness of Design for Freedom, the global movement to eradicate modern slavery from the building materials supply chain. Proceeds from the Design for Freedom face mask funded the movement’s research and programs.



**The CEO Forum Group’s Transformative CEO Award in Leading Through Crisis (2020)**

The CEO Forum Group selected **Sharon Prince** and Grace Farms Foundation for its 2020 Transformative CEO Award in Leading Through Crisis in the category of Community. This award was for “unprecedented heroic efforts” in delivering personal protective equipment (PPE) during the first wave of COVID-19 in spring 2020, as well as for creating a “unique, scalable model” for comprehensive responses for current and future crises.

**Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Partnership Award (2020)**

Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and the National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center recognized Grace Farms Foundation and **Rod Khattabi**, Chief Accountability Officer and Justice Initiative Director, for our ongoing work to safeguard national and economic security, combat illicit trade, and protect the health and safety of the American public. Other award recipients included Pfizer, Nike, 3M, Citigroup, Amazon, Walmart, and Johnson & Johnson.

**Second Prestigious LEED Certification, Silver (2019)**

Grace Farms Foundation was awarded our second prestigious LEED Silver certification for Operations + Maintenance, led by **Adam Thatcher**, then Director of Operations and Sustainability and current Sustainability

Advisor. Paired with Grace Farms’ 2016 LEED Certification for Building + Maintenance, we demonstrate our ongoing and daily commitment to sustainability and protecting our fragile ecosystem both locally and globally.

**American Institute of Architects New York Chapter NYC Visionary Award (2019)**

**Sharon Prince** and Grace Farms Foundation were awarded the NYC Visionary Award for the vision for Grace Farms as a new kind of public space that seamlessly blends architecture, art, and nature into a platform for people across sectors to convene and activate the Foundation’s initiatives to advance good in the world.

**American Institute of Architects (AIA) National Architecture Honor Award (2017)**

This AIA award is given annually and honors the best built works in American architecture.

**American Institute of Architects (AIA) Connecticut Design Honor Award (2016)**

The Honor Awards from the statewide chapter of the AIA celebrate the excellence of Connecticut projects. In its citation, the jury described Grace Farms as “a graceful project with an ephemeral quality, a quality of apparent simplicity that belies complexity in sectional and structural planning. The project preserved a substantial piece of the public Connecticut landscape for public and an unusual institutional use.”

**Fast Company Innovation by Design Awards, Social Good Finalist (2016)**

Fast Company acknowledged Grace Farms Foundation and its mission in its design category that includes great architecture in the service of social good.

**Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize (2014-2015)**

The second annual Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize was awarded to **Grace Farms** and **Sharon Prince**. The prize 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 Award, the MCHAP Chair at IIT Architecture Chicago for the following academic year, and \$50,000 in funding toward research and publication. Individuals and firms who worked as a part of the Grace Farms design team have also been acknowledged for accomplishment in engineering, construction, acoustic systems and lighting design.

With her Design for Freedom effort, Sharon Prince is working to get leaders in architecture and construction to find ways around using materials made with slave labor.

– *Fast Company*, 2022



ANNUAL BENEFIT

## reimagining architecture

On a spectacular fall evening at Grace Farms, our sold-out 7th Anniversary Annual Benefit, Reimagining Architecture, honored artist, architect, and activist **Nina Cooke John** and President of MillerKnoll, **Debbie Propst**, for their commitment to Design for Freedom.

We brought together 300 human rights activists, scholars, acclaimed artists, architecture and business leaders to imagine how we could design a more humane and just future for all. Sponsored by **UBS**, and co-hosted by **Abby Bangser**, **Angela Mwanza**, **Patricia Gruits**, and **Silvia Baldini**, this immersive evening in the SANAA-designed River building included a delicious locally and sustainability-sourced menu.

Under the musical direction of Grace Farms Foundation's Music Director **Marcus G. Miller**, an acclaimed saxophonist and composer, guests were led through the River building to the Court, our subterranean glass enclosed volume, by a horn and percussion group. The featured performers were Grammy-winning vocalist and saxophonist, **Camille Thurman**, and LA's **DJ Clean**.

Sharon Prince welcomes supporters including artists, activists, and leaders from the ecosystem of the built environment to Grace Farms' 7th Anniversary Annual Benefit.

“All of us have unique agency and the ability to make real and positive change. I hope that each of you can imagine what you can do to come alongside Grace Farms. Together, we can deepen connections and accelerate this work to transform the built environment.” – Sharon Prince, CEO and Founder, Grace Farms Foundation

co-chairs

Abby Bangser  
Angela Mwanza  
Patricia Gruits  
Silvia Baldini

benefit committee

Abby and Matt Bangser  
Alice Mahoney  
Amanda Martocchio  
Anahata Foundation  
Antonio Rillosi, Extravega  
Bridgewater Associates  
Eric Yarboi  
Frederick Noyes  
Hayes and James Slade, Slade  
Architecture

Heather and Kyle Delaney  
Holland & Knight  
Jane and Peter Hunsinger  
Jane Musky and Tony Goldwyn  
Jeanette and Michael Chen  
Joseph Mizzi, Sciam Construction  
J.P. Morgan Private Bank  
Kelly O’Connor and Gerry  
Pasciucco  
Sara and Bret Wiener

Sharon and Bob Prince  
SHoP Architects  
Terence and Montie Meehan  
Todd Blanke and Angela Mwanza,  
UBS Private Wealth  
UBS Private Wealth Management  
Vani and Seth Birnbaum

in-kind donors

Four Root Farm  
MASS.Made  
MillerKnoll  
Moffly Media  
Olio Piro  
Ruinart

photo credits, left to right: Melani Lust; Ball & Albanese; Cristian Salazar; Cristian Salazar; First LastName; Cristian Salazar



Marcus G. Miller



Nina Cooke John



Hillary Waters Fayle



Camille Thurman



Debbie Propst



DJ Clean

**Marcus G. Miller**  
Our new Music Director, acclaimed saxophonist and composer, **Marcus G. Miller**, curated a memorable evening with performances by Grammy-winning vocalist and saxophonist **Camille Thurman**.

**DJ Clean**  
Music was by **DJ Clean** who provided an eclectic mix that inspired guests to take to the dance floor.

**Nina Cooke John and Debbie Propst**  
We honored **Nina Cooke John**, Founding Principal, Studio Cooke John Architecture + Design, and **Debbie Propst**, President of Global Retail, MillerKnoll, for their innovative contributions to the Design for Freedom movement. Cooke John’s *Shadow of a Face*, Harriet Tubman Monument, in Newark, New Jersey, is a Design for Freedom Pilot Project. Debbie Propst was instrumental in initiating the New Canaan Library Design for Freedom project.

**Hillary Waters Fayle**  
The artist revealed a new artistic composition during the Benefit using flora she collected from the Grace Farms landscape throughout the summer. These one-of-a-kind prints were featured in our auction.



## financial overview

Grace Farms brings together people across sectors to explore nature, arts, justice, community, and faith at the SANAA-designed River building situated on 80 acres of publicly accessible, preserved natural landscape. Our collaborative approach to address pressing humanitarian issues continues to result in positive and unprecedented outcomes.

In 2022, we continued to advance good locally and around the world, fostering more grace and peace in our local and global community. Highlights included Design for Freedom Pilot Projects, demonstrating we can build a more humane built environment, Shared Meals Tuesdays, where Grace Farms visitors share the same nutritious meals as those provided to our food relief partners, and year-round free program space for mission-aligned not-for-profit organizations. All of this, and more, has made an impact in Connecticut and far beyond its borders.

Our work is possible through the commitment of our founders, board members, leadership advisors, Foundation team, supporters, partners, Grace Farms Members, and benefactors both big and small, new and returning.

### Membership Program

The Grace Farms Membership Program began in September 2021, and over the course of 2022 nearly 1,100 memberships were sold or renewed. Our membership includes many in the local community and extends to cities and towns across the New York metropolitan area and beyond. These members support our mission to advance good and our local and global initiatives in nature, arts, justice, community, and faith, including our publicly available spaces and educational programs and the preservation of the River building and its surrounding 80 acres.

Grace Farms welcomes visitors from around the world to take tours of the award-winning River building. Here we are leading a tour for our supporters and members.

2022 key figures

As an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Grace Farms Foundation ensures its donations are used to directly support the mission of the Foundation, including providing Grace Farms as a significant public space that is free and open to all, with hundreds of programs and projects annually that engage diverse audiences in partnership and action.

Some meaningful financial achievements in 2022 follow (rounded to the nearest \$100).

income

\$13,340,900 donations	\$124,900 grant funding received
\$689,400 on-site revenue from programs, books, retail and food	\$43,900 interest earned and other gains

expenses

**\$7,299,500\* expenses | Grace Farms Fund**  
Costs to preserve and support the public access to Grace Farms six days per week, its art collection and exhibits, hundreds of onsite educational programs, and the related

nature, arts, justice, community and faith initiatives of Grace Farms, including its Design for Freedom movement. All gifts to the Grace Farms Foundation Fund directly support this work.

**\$6,246,400\***  
General and administrative expenditures, which include those related to accounting, human resources, legal, communications, and others, that are underwritten by a committed group of donors. This ensures that 100% of gifts to our designated Grace Farms Fund are used to directly support the work of Grace Farms Foundation, including the ongoing preservation and publicly available operation of Grace Farms.

impact

In 2022 we provided in excess of **\$400,000** in free space at Grace Farms to mission-aligned, not-for-profit organizations through our **Space Grant Program**, which was in line with our pre-pandemic levels. These grants also come with the donation of time by our trained staff, who help with hospitality, education, audio-visual equipment, supplies, and logistics.

\*excluding depreciation and amortization

a look ahead

The space and vision of Grace Farms was intentionally designed to break down boundaries and bring together communities, private-public partnerships, and supporters to advance the common good. By linking arms, we can achieve what’s possible.

We invite you to work with us, become a member and contribute to the Grace Farms Fund and our work to advance good in the world.

**Roy Medile**  
Treasurer, Board of Directors



# grace farms

Grace Farms is a center for culture and collaboration in New Canaan, Connecticut. We bring together people across sectors to explore nature, arts, justice, community, and faith at the SANAA-designed River building on 80 acres of publicly accessible, preserved natural landscape. Our humanitarian work to end modern slavery and foster more grace and peace in our local and global community includes leading the Design for Freedom movement to eliminate forced labor in the building materials supply chain.

To learn more visit [gracefarms.org](https://gracefarms.org)

© Grace Farms Foundation, 2023.  
All rights reserved.



Printed on 100% recycled paper  
Printed in Stratford, CT

## CONTRIBUTORS

- Chelsea Thatcher, Chief Strategy Officer and Founding Creative Director
- Eavan Cleary, Director of Brand Design
- Elizabeth Rapuano, Director of Communications
- Kathleen Kiley, Senior Communications Manager
- A.J. Conley, Chief Financial Officer
- Meg Hely Walsh, Strategic Partnerships Advisor
- Richard Nash, Controller
- Zoe Reinman, Advancement Officer

## get involved

Created as a peaceful respite with an active and engaged community, Grace Farms inspires people to connect with one another, engage with nature in all seasons, and advance good in the world.

## membership

Grace Farms Members enjoy special access to our site, experiential activities and thought-provoking programs – and the opportunity to be a part of our mission to pursue a more peaceful world. Learn more at [gracefarms.org/membership](https://gracefarms.org/membership).

## donate

One hundred percent of charitable donations directly fund the Grace Farms Fund unless directed otherwise. Visit [gracefarms.org](https://gracefarms.org) to support our initiatives and publicly available space for all.

## follow us @gracefarmsct



Grace Farms Foundation, Inc. is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization, contributions to which are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. A copy of our latest annual financial report may be obtained from Grace Farms Foundation Inc., 365 Lukes Wood Road, New Canaan, CT 06840 or the New York State Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10005. For any donation of \$5,000 or more, the name and address of the donor and the total amount of the donation(s) will be included in the Foundation's required annual Form 990-PF filed with the IRS.

Grace Farms is committed to an ongoing discovery of the people, communities and histories tied to this land. We will continue to collaborate with our partners to identify the previous stewards of this land and to make meaning from this history.

