

10<sup>years</sup>  
grace farms  
foundation

2025  
annual report

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# annual report 2025



# We can all be architects of change, each lighting the way

When we opened Grace Farms on October 9, 2015, we published a commemorative book, *and souls are candles*. A one-line poem from renowned poet Gennady Aygi reminds us that we are lighting the way for each other. As Grace Farms celebrated its 10-year anniversary on October 11, I was reminded how shared light multiplies.

What we could not fully anticipate was just how vital this new-kind-of-public space would become – how turning 80 acres of once privately held land into a public place, free and open to all, could generate good for generations to come. Since opening, we’ve welcomed one million people from all over the world, hosting world-class performers, artists, and leaders, fostering a peaceful, yet active space for meaningful dialogue and groundbreaking outcomes that align with our work in nature, the arts, justice, community, and faith.

The celebration curated by **Chelsea Thatcher**, our Founding Creative Director, centered around the theme ‘We all build.’ The season, which runs September 2025 through May 2026, launched with the unveiling of *ParaPosition*, a sculpture by artist **Alicja Kwade**. Made of slim interlocking steel frames supporting large boulders and a blue chair made of bronze, the sculpture invites us to expand our perspective by asking questions.

Other highlights included a classical music ensemble led by cellist and Artist-in-Residence **Arlen Hlusko**, an artist talk with award-winning photographer **James Florio**, also an Artist-in-Residence, who unveiled a permanent photographic work in our Library, *Haida Gwaii, 2025*, and **Hannah Rose Thomas, PhD**, who painted a commissioned portrait of **Nasreen Sheikh**, a modern slavery survivor and social entrepreneur, in the new

iteration of *With Every Fiber | Pigment, Stone, Glass*, which asks us to consider the nearly 28 million people in forced labor extracting and making our building materials. We also opened *Dancing Trees* in the Plaza. SANAA’s **Kazuyo Sejima**, one of the Pritzker-Prize winning architects of the River building, returned for the anniversary to introduce her new seating installation, designed to foster community and conversation, while harmonizing with nature and the landscape.

This milestone day culminated with a standing-ovation performance by GRAMMY®-winning violinist **Joshua Bell**, accompanied by **Peter Dugan**, pianist and host of NPR’s *From the Top*.

Grace Farms Tea & Coffee, a Certified B Corp™ that prioritizes ethical sourcing, sustainability, and collaborations with women-owned collectives, expanded its reach by partnering with more than 20 global organizations including **JPMorganChase**, **Bloomberg**, and **Google**. This mission-driven social enterprise gives back 100% of profits to support Design for Freedom, our global work to end forced labor in the building materials supply chain.

The trajectory of Grace Farms Tea & Coffee has been extraordinary, which **Adam Thatcher**, Co-Founder and CEO, shared in the inaugural *Origin Stories* series. In early December, we began a relief effort for **Sumatra Resilience & Rebuilding**, an urgent humanitarian initiative supporting the Ketiara Cooperative, a Fair Trade Certified™, women-led coffee farming collective in the Gayo Highlands of Sumatra, Indonesia, after a tropical cyclone triggered catastrophic mudslides across the region. The Cooperative, led by founder and chairwoman **Ibu Rahmah**, is one of our longest and most

trusted sourcing partners, with more than 1,700 farmers, including 1,100 women. This is another example of how our values guide everything we do – not only what we build, but how we build.

We procured Western red cedar for the River building’s fascia installed this past spring, chosen for its longevity and alignment with Design for Freedom principles. I traveled to Haida Gwaii, the ancestral territory of the Haida Nation in British Columbia, Canada, to source the cedar. It was an immersive journey to Taan Forest, which is ethically and sustainably maintained by the Haida Enterprise Corporation, 100% owned by the Haida, the First Nations people.

As **Leticia Hill**, CEO of HaiCo, reminded us at our sold-out Design for Freedom Summit in March, “We take only what we need.”

Further advancing Design for Freedom, we partnered with the **Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture** to launch a student design competition. Over 300 students and faculty participated from schools including Boston Architectural College, Carnegie Mellon University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Yale University. More than 75 students from 25 universities attended the Design for Freedom Summit, underscoring the importance of engaging the next generation of leaders.

Design for Freedom also expanded its public engagement, reaching more than 30,000 people through *With Every Fiber* last year alone, in addition to reaching more than 55,000 through public presentations. Grace Farms was also honored to participate in the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, *Intelligens CANON*, curated by **Carlo Ratti**. More than 84,000 young people and students under the age of 26, or 28% of all visitors, engaged with the *With Every Fiber* exhibit in Venice.

**Kimberly Kelly**, Director of Horticulture, and our Education Team continue to create meaningful ways to connect to the awe and wonder of nature. From our



annual Earth Day celebration to the Amazing Butterflies Exhibit, which engaged more than 4,000 people in the exploration of these remarkable pollinators.

The Sanctuary, the only fully glass-enclosed performing arts space in the world, is a space for renowned musicians and performers to transform our perspectives. From singer and songwriter **Mon Rovia**’s sold-out performance on the United Nations International Day of Tolerance to **Broadway Inspirational Voices**, developed by Connecticut native **Allen René Louis**, Broadway Inspirational Voices Artistic Director and GRAMMY®-nominated Creative Director and Producer, their music reflected on the journey of humanity.

As the season transitions into 2026, other marquee events include a sold-out recital by the incomparable **Yo-Yo Ma** performing with Solon Gordon, *Grace Farms Lectures with Concert* with visionary leaders who shape our world, accompanied by a curated concert performed by some of today’s most celebrated musicians. We’ll also continue to explore the journeys of leaders who reimagine the world around us.

As we build and redefine what’s possible, we can all be architects of change, each lighting the way.

With grace and peace,

Sharon Prince  
CEO and Founder

table of contents

|                          |    |                                                  |    |
|--------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------------|----|
| about grace farms        | 8  | program partners,<br>collaborators, and sponsors | 42 |
| our work                 | 10 |                                                  |    |
| nature                   | 12 | our values                                       | 46 |
| arts                     | 16 | board of directors                               | 48 |
| justice                  | 20 | leadership                                       | 49 |
| community                | 26 | select recognition                               | 50 |
| faith                    | 30 | financial overview                               | 52 |
| grace farms tea & coffee | 34 | membership program                               | 57 |
|                          |    | get involved                                     | 61 |



“We can all be architects of change, each lighting the way.”

– Sharon Prince

The Commons is a community space with communal tables built from trees harvested on site. Here, friends and family often meet over Grace Farms Tea & Coffee, as well as a wholesome meal.



## ABOUT GRACE FARMS

Grace Farms is a cultural and humanitarian center in New Canaan, Connecticut, that creates more grace and peace in the world, bringing together nature, arts, justice, community, and faith at the SANAA-designed River building and Barns on 80 acres of publicly accessible natural landscape.

Grace Farms presents innovative programming in music, and visual and performing arts, while fostering contemplation and connection through architecture and nature. The integration of cultural programming and humanitarian action reflects Grace Farms' collaborative approach to generating new outcomes and meaningful change.

Our humanitarian work includes leading the Design for Freedom movement to eliminate forced labor in the building materials supply chain.

advancing good  
locally and globally

# our work

## nature

We facilitate the stewardship of our natural world through restoration, exploration, and preservation. Through the protection of the open meadows, woods, vital wetlands, and ponds on our site, and by providing year-round exploratory opportunities and multi-generational programming, we encourage visitors to experience the awe and wonder of nature and embrace stewardship of the natural environment.

## arts

We believe that art generates new perspectives, enhances our sense of beauty, and fosters the potential for individual and social transformation. At Grace Farms, the arts are designed to deepen each person's profound connection to community, architecture, and landscape within our 80-acre site. We present and commission works with individual artists while also collaborating with the arts sector to advance humanitarian causes.

## justice

Our commitment to justice is based on the inherent right of liberty and equality for all. In 2020, we launched Design for Freedom, a global movement to create market transformation to remove forced labor from the building materials supply chain and reimagine architecture as a driver of humanitarian outcomes.

## community

We provide a warm, welcoming environment that fosters meaningful community and engagement among diverse groups of people. We create 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 the reflective space of Grace Farms and opportunities for dialogue to explore the nature of flourishing and purposeful life. In pursuit of more grace and peace in the world, we bring together leaders and educators for workshops to engage with the world's ancient and modern philosophies, beliefs, and faiths.

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## 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.





# nature

“The awe and wonder of nature can play a significant part of advancing good in the world.” – Sharon Prince

Intentionally designed with nature in the foreground, Grace Farms’ nearly 80 acres of awe-inspiring open meadows, woods, vital wetlands, and ponds have become a profound catalyst of change. Beyond inviting the public to engage in our stewardship of the natural world, nature creates a hopeful space to address our most pressing challenges.

Over 10 years, Grace Farms has cultivated a peaceful, yet active space that invites people of all ages and backgrounds to engage in our cultural and humanitarian pursuits. A continuous throughline in our initiatives is nature. It inspires wonder and awe, providing space to consider life’s enduring questions and to embrace our challenges in a hopeful manner.

We invite people of all ages and backgrounds to learn about nature, as well as ethical and sustainable land care.

One of these challenges is how we can become better stewards of the land for all living creatures, including our essential pollinators. Through hands-on educational programming guided or facilitated by our Director of Horticulture, **Kimberly Kelly**, and our Educational Team, we continue to create new programming to inspire public stewardship.

### Amazing Butterflies

This year, more than 4,000 people explored the *Amazing Butterflies Exhibit* in our Court. The touring exhibit was developed by the Natural History Museum in London in collaboration with Minotaur Mazes. Open from June through September, children and families experienced the extraordinary metamorphosis of butterflies through an interactive maze.

In conjunction with the exhibit, educational pop-ups and workshops showed people how to support butterflies by growing milkweed, the primary food source of monarch butterflies. To conduct hands-on field work, visitors picked up a *Caterpillar Compass Field Guide* at the Welcome Desk to learn more about this perennial flowering plant that supports the monarch’s lifecycle. The *Compass Field Guide* helps people orient their way

OUR WORK

around the Grace Farms landscape, following the natural landmarks that shelter butterflies and caterpillars. Participants were encouraged to write, draw, or talk to a friend about what they saw.

**Dragonflies & Bees**

Our restored meadows have become a haven for all types of wildlife, providing shelter and food while also creating a living classroom where visitors can engage with nature. During mid- to late summer, darting about the landscape are hundreds of dragonflies, a bellwether for the health of the surrounding environment. Dragonflies serve as an “indicator species,” where scientists monitor certain insects, animals, and plants that serve as biodiversity gauges of the soil, water, and air.

Throughout the season, people took guided walks to glimpse this insect that has been around for over 300 million years. Tours emphasize the importance of embracing ethical and sustainable land practices in our communities and at home. Grace Farms is a Certified Wildlife Habitat, Certified Monarch Waystation, Member

of the Xerces Society Pollinator Protection Plan, and a founding member of the New Canaan chapter of the Pollinator Pathway.

**Earth Day Celebration**

Our annual Earth Day Celebration continues to attract hundreds of people with a nature-inspired day of learning and engagement. The day included a nature-themed Open Arts Studio, birdwatching with **Frank Gallo**, building bluebird boxes, and learning about Animal Embassy’s wildlife rescue efforts.

Through the “animal architecture” program, visitors discovered the hidden wonders of architecture in nature, and how wildlife craft their shelters. Tea, central to the experience of Grace Farms, became a way for people to learn how nature produces the flavors of a variety of teas. Tea Expert and Educator **Frank Kwei** made nature-inspired tea beverages to demonstrate the importance of native plants and how they contribute to our lives.

The biodiversity at Grace Farms has created a haven for all wildlife, including caterpillars who feed on certain native plants.



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5,230 +

pounds of invasive wetland grasses were removed from the perimeter of the pond

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4,316 +

engaged in the *Amazing Butterflies Exhibit*, experiencing the extraordinary metamorphosis of butterflies

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600 +

participated in our annual Earth Day celebration



## OUR WORK

# arts

10  
years

“What we choose to build – and how we design and build it – are questions that are explored at Grace Farms.” – [Chelsea Thatcher](#)

The arts at Grace Farms are designed to generate new perspectives, enhance our sense of beauty, and foster the potential for individual and social transformation.

### 10-year Anniversary Celebration

Grace Farms’ 10-year anniversary was a milestone, recognizing how we all can create pathways toward grace and peace with creativity, empathy, community, and joy. This was reflected in the day-long celebration and the first-time launch of a 2025-2026 programming season curated by **Chelsea Thatcher**, Chief Strategic Officer and Founding Creative Director.

The season was launched with the new acquisition of Grace Farms’ first permanent sculpture – *ParaPosition*, 2024 by **Alicja Kwade**. Comprised of interlocking steel frames supporting boulders and an inverted chair made of bronze, *ParaPosition*’s array of metal and stone draws viewers into the frame of this massive,

A special performance on our 10-year anniversary by GRAMMY® Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell, joined by Peter Dugan, celebrated pianist and host of NPR’s *From the Top*.

yet fragile, universe. The chair beckons viewers to reflect on our relationship with the world and contemplate the fundamental nature of our existence.

Acclaimed Canadian cellist **Arlen Hlusko** also transformed the space of Grace Farms through music during our 10-year anniversary, along with a sold-out performance by GRAMMY® Award-winning violinist **Joshua Bell**.

### *Dancing Trees and With Every Fiber*

The day also featured the unveiling of *Dancing Trees*, new site-specific seating designed by **Kazuyo Sejima** of SANAA, a series of six sculptural benches made from locally sourced Connecticut black cherry. Arranged in the center of Plaza, Sejima described the work as “figures dancing together.”

Grace Farms also opened a new installation of the *With Every Fiber* | *Pigment, Stone, Glass* exhibit. The stories of these materials are told through five new commissions. Three visual arts commissions are by **John Sabraw**, **Nina Cooke John**, and **Hannah Rose Thomas, PhD**. There is also a sustainable prototype for stone truss work demonstrating engineering solutions, designed by **Steve Webb**, of Webb/Yates, and *Woven in Tears*,

“The mission of my music is to heal with others – with every nation and tongue, in due time.” – Mon Rovia

a piece composed by **Evan Williams** and performed by the **London Philharmonic**.

A portion of *With Every Fiber* was adapted and included in the *Intelligens CANON* at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, curated by **Carlo Ratti**, which was on view through November 2025. The *Intelligens CANON* was dedicated to fostering dialogue about the evolution of ideas in architecture over the past 50 years.

**Artists-in-Residence**

Artists-in-Residence are encouraged to create new work inspired by the mission and vision of Grace Farms and, through a series of engagements and programs, share that work with the public. Two new Artists-in-Residence, photographer **James Florio** and cellist **Arlen Hlusko**, join other acclaimed former Artists-in-Residence including **Carrie Mae Weems** and **Meredith Monk**. Florio’s new permanent photographic work featured in the Library captures the sourcing of Western red cedar wood used to replace the River building’s fascia. *Haida Gwaii, 2025*, reflects the journey to Haida Gwaii in British Columbia, Canada with **Sharon Prince** and Grace Farms Architecture Advisor **Toshihiro Oki**. The cedar sourced from the ancient Taan Forest is stewarded by the Haida people.

**Concert of Peace**

Organized on the United Nations International Day of Tolerance, Liberia-born singer and songwriter **Mon Rovia** reflected on his journeys of being born into a civil war and escaping the life of a child soldier. Performing during a sold-out concert at Grace Farms, Rovia presented a

concert of peace and healing on this International Day of Tolerance. He was named as one of Spotify’s 2024 Juniper Artists to Watch, has been featured in the GRAMMY®-Museum’s New York City program series, and has sold out every headline show to date, including Bonnaroo, Austin City Limits, and Newport Folk Festival.

**Studio Beginnings & Open Arts Studio**

Thousands have engaged with Grace Farms’ Open Arts Studio over the years, where we invite young creators and their caregivers to respond to the River building and Grace Farms’ 80 acres of natural landscape through their imaginations. Studio Beginnings and the Open Arts Studio encourage our youngest builders, designers, and artists to think, play, create, and experiment with texture, form, line, color, and space. The Materials Studio provides young audiences and families with the opportunity to learn more about the *With Every Fiber* exhibit through the introduction of engaging with the unique properties of the different materials in *With Every Fiber*. Through art-making and imagining new applications for materials, children and their families can come to understand the concepts of *With Every Fiber*.

Top, the cast of Harriet Tubman’s eye from Nina Cooke John’s *Shadow of a Face*; center, international humanitarian photographer Lisa Kristine contributed photography; below, *Shadow of a Face*, a Design for Freedom Project, and right, a portion of *With Every Fiber* included in the *Intelligens CANON*.



84,000 +  
young people and students under the age of 26 engaged in the *With Every Fiber* exhibit at the 19th International Architecture Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, curated by Carlo Ratti

60,000 +  
visitors experienced the *With Every Fiber* and *Peace Forest* exhibits

1,900 +  
welcomed to Music at Grace Farms, including the sold-out Mon Rovia concert on the United Nations International Day of Tolerance



## OUR WORK

# justice

“I envisioned Grace Farms not just as a destination,  
but as a catalyst to advance good in the world ...”

– Sharon Prince, *Bedford & New Canaan Magazine*

Our commitment to justice, based on the inherent right of liberty and equality for all, has resulted in unprecedented outcomes including Design for Freedom, a global movement to create market transformation to remove forced and child labor from the building materials supply chain and reimagine architecture as a driver of humanitarian outcomes.

### *Design for Freedom International Guidance & Toolkit*

Sharon Prince launched the *International Guidance & Toolkit* in January with a global webinar. The *Guidance & Toolkit* is a comprehensive resource that explores the critical issues related to forced labor in the building materials supply chain. It includes contributions from more than two dozen leading experts in the built environment and human rights. The contributors address the legal landscape, the importance of compliance, the

growing issue of prison labor, the role of insurers and investors, and more. The *Toolkit* has also been translated into Vietnamese.

### **ACSA Design for Freedom Competition**

Grace Farms partnered with the **Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA)** on the first-ever 2025 Design for Freedom Competition. The competition, sponsored by Grace Farms and administered by ACSA, reached over 300 students and faculty participating from around the world. It challenged students to explore how architectural materials, research, and design can elevate human rights and support more humane design and construction practices. Participants examined and proposed ways architects can help eradicate embedded forced labor from the built environment. The competition was judged by a jury of Design for Freedom Working Group members, who selected first-, second-, and third-place winners, along with honorable mentions, in two categories: Design Project and Material Research.

Over 550 leaders across sectors attended the annual Design for Freedom Summit at Grace Farms.

OUR WORK

The Design Project category offered architecture students the opportunity to select a site and building program using Design for Freedom principles and the *Design for Freedom International Guidance & Toolkit* to design more ethically and equitably. Students researched material sourcing, including existing and emerging industry-wide practices, material transparency metrics, and shorter material supply chain methods, to help create a more ethical and equitable future.

The winners of the competition were invited to present their projects at the fifth annual Design for Freedom Summit on March 26, 2026, at Grace Farms.

Design for Freedom Summit and Pilot Projects

Grace Farms brought together leaders across sectors to harness the power of the built environment to remove forced and child labor from the building materials supply chain. More than 550 leaders, including 75 students representing 25 universities, attended the sold-out Summit. Design for Freedom Pilot Projects, which model more transparent and ethical supply chains and represent a range of typologies, were announced during the day. They include the **Battery Park Field House** in New York

City, designed by **WXY architecture + urban design**, a project in partnership with the Battery Conservancy and its Founder and President **Warrie Price**, **Hightower Manufacturing Headquarters** in High Point, North Carolina, a commercial furniture company, and the **Grace Farms Rest House Project**, designed by **Slade Architecture**, which aims to provide tea and coffee farmers worldwide with ethically designed, sustainably built rest houses that offer safety, respite, and community spaces. These Pilot Projects join 11 completed and ongoing projects globally.

Alliance 8.7 and United Nations Global Compact

Grace Farms announced Partner Status with **Alliance 8.7**, a global partnership to eradicate forced labor in accordance with UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target 8.7, which calls for “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labor, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labor.” This aligns directly with Grace Farms’ mission and strengthens our commitment to advancing human rights and ethical business practices worldwide.

Students from Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign



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OUR WORK

Grace Farms was also accepted as a participant in the **United Nations Global Compact**, the world’s largest sustainability platform. Grace Farms’ Design for Freedom joins over 25,000 participants from 167 countries, all of whom have made a commitment to the Global Compact’s four pillars of labor, human rights, environment and anti-corruption.

The alignment with the UN Global Compact is the latest development in Grace Farms’ work to expand Design for Freedom internationally and marks a significant step in its mission to create meaningful change through responsible and sustainable practices that respect human dignity across global supply chains.

**All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG)**  
Design for Freedom was honored to work with **The Right Honourable The Baroness Young of Hornsey OBE** to arrange an important meeting at the House of Lords, Westminster Palace, London, on *Just Transition in the Construction Industry*. The meeting, held on June 30 and attended by leaders from across the ecosystem of the built environment, set the scene in advance of the formation of an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). The panel session included Better Work Lead, **Martin Buttle** from CCLA Investment Management, **John Morrison**, CEO at IHRB, and **Jo Potts**, Sustainability Director at Balfour Beatty.

**AI Solution to Simplify Design**  
**Acelab** launched an AI solution to ethically source materials through its Materials Hub platform, which integrates Design for Freedom principles into everyday workflows, making ethical considerations impossible to overlook. The technology was announced at the annual Design for Freedom Summit.

On display in the Library is the *Design for Freedom International Guidance & Toolkit*, books on forced and child labor, and our other initiatives.



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55,000 +  
engaged in Design for Freedom presentations and events globally

25,000 +  
joined United Nations Global Compact participants from 167 countries, along with Grace Farms

1,577 +  
attended the Architecture Film Festival celebrating architecture’s impact on people and communities



## OUR WORK

# community

“It’s the way you show up daily, not just once in a while.  
And that’s what allows for greatness.” – Kerri Walsh Jennings

From thought-provoking discussions to seasonal picnics with friends or connecting over tea journeys, these shared experiences bring people together in meaningful ways.

### Gathering with a Purpose

Our *Dinner with a Purpose* and *Lunch with a Purpose* programs address topics such as ethical sourcing, social entrepreneurship, and how to turn conversations into action. During *Dinner with a Purpose*, **Indré Rockefeller**, Founder of The Circularity Project, discussed sustainability, entrepreneurship, and the future of circularity. Set against the backdrop of Grace Farms’ 80 acres, the evening featured a locally sourced, sustainable meal in the Commons, refreshing cocktails, and a thought-provoking conversation on sustainability and entrepreneurship.

Three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Kerri Walsh Jennings led volleyball clinics for 50 middle and high school girls in our Court.

Participants learned more about The Circularity Project, an independent nonprofit dedicated to advancing circular solutions that transform waste into valuable resources across industries.

In September, we hosted a conversation featuring **Amy Williams**, CEO of Citizens of Humanity Group, **Chelsea Thatcher**, curator of Grace Farms’ *With Every Fiber* exhibit, and **Camilla Marcus**, Chef and Founder of west-bourne and author of *My Regenerative Kitchen*. They discussed how the essential pillars of food, clothing, and shelter are driving change toward a more sustainable and ethical future.

These trailblazers shared their experiences and insights into how they are pushing the boundaries of these industries. From promoting regenerative farming practices in food to fostering responsible consumption in fashion and driving more ethical and sustainable supply chains, they explored the intersection of sustainability and innovation in our everyday lives.

**The Way of an Athlete**

Over the years, the Community Initiative has developed programs to support women and girls across sectors including sports. Three-time Olympic Gold Medalist **Kerri Walsh Jennings** offered rare insights into the world of elite athletics, mindset mastery, and personal growth on two occasions at Grace Farms. In November, Jennings conducted a clinic, and in recognition of International Women’s Day in March, Grace Farms welcomed Jennings, Women’s Sports Foundation CEO **Danette Leighton**, and Monarch Collective Co-Founder **Jasmine Robinson** for an inspiring conversation, *Beyond the Game | The Stories, Impact, and Future of Women in Sports*.

Jennings also led volleyball clinics for 50 middle and high school girls as part of the day’s events, along with coaches from Northeast Volleyball Club, based in Norwalk. As one of the most decorated beach volleyball players in history, she provided first-hand accounts of perseverance and triumph, alongside perspectives on institutional change from Leighton and Robinson, who are driving investments and opportunities in women’s sports at unprecedented levels.

Throughout the year, Grace Farms also continued to offer programs such as *Move with Grace Farms x lululemon* and *Yoga and Movement* with **Pilin Anice**, a renowned

mindfulness and wellness expert. Each program focuses on restoring and igniting the energy needed to live a more balanced life. In addition, *Passport Week* allows families to acquire a passport at the Welcome Desk and embark on activities inspired by the history of the landscape and Grace Farms. Membership-based events, and architectural and school tours, introduce newcomers and supporters to Grace Farms’ cultural and humanitarian initiatives including its commitment to provide 200 wholesome meals a week to those in need through our nonprofit partners.

Other community-based initiatives center around seasonal music and gatherings including our annual *Gifting for Good*, where we bring together friends, family, and community members to assemble care packages for those in need. *Seasonal Music* continues to be a cornerstone of Grace Farms during the season, where the public is invited to enjoy improvisational performances of music from local artists. This and other events are often complemented with tea from Grace Farms Tea & Coffee, a Certified B Corp™ giving 100% of its profits to supporting the work of Design for Freedom and ending forced labor worldwide.

In the glass-enclosed Pavilion, people get to experience teas from around the world in interactive tastings led by our tea expert Frank Kwei. A welcoming space, visitors often relax over a cup of tea either before or after an event.



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3,500 +

engaged in community-related events from yoga to lectures

3,141 +

attended school group, private and Grace Farms tours

1,810 +

participated in Grace Farms’ 10-Year Anniversary Celebration



## OUR WORK

# faith

“Every single painting is like a form of prayer ... the meditative building up of the layers is like a very stilling process.”

– Hannah Rose Thomas, PhD

The intentional boundary-defying design of Grace Farms offers a reflective space to engage in dialogue to explore the nature of flourishing and purposeful life. Since opening in 2015, Grace Farms has welcomed people of all faith traditions and cultures to consider some of life’s enduring questions through the place of Grace Farms and our programming including the arts that open new perspectives.

### Inspiring Hope and Change

**Broadway Inspirational Voices**, a diverse choir and service organization powered by Broadway artists to inspire hope and change lives, performed for Grace Farms during the holiday. As part of the *Music at Grace Farms* series, the one-hour program featured a repertoire developed by Connecticut native **Allen René Louis**,

Broadway Inspirational Voices Artistic Director and GRAMMY®-nominated Creative Director and Producer. Since its inception, the organization’s diverse membership has represented over 140 Broadway shows.

The **Reverend Lisa Lynne Kirkpatrick**, an accomplished singer, songwriter, and pianist who performed with Broadway Inspirational Voices for their 30th anniversary in New York City in December 2024, returned to Grace Farms to perform for the event. “It’s not enough to be a great musician ... you have to be a great human.”

With Grace Farms’ musical and other programming, the public has an opportunity to discover their individual and collective humanity. The arts, including Grace Farms’ growing commissioned artwork, curated by **Chelsea Thatcher**, is part of this discovery. **Hannah Rose Thomas, PhD’s** whose painting, *Nasreen*, 2025, which is featured in the *With Every Fiber* exhibit, has described her process as a form of “prayer.” Thomas painted the life-size portrait of Nasreen Sheikh, a modern slavery survivor, human

The Reverend Lisa Lynne Kirkpatrick, far right, an accomplished singer, songwriter, and pianist, who performed with Broadway Inspirational Voices, introduced the choir.

rights activist, artist, and Founder of the Empowerment Collective, for the new iteration of *With Every Fiber*. She used egg tempera paint mixed from natural pigments – a technique traditionally used for religious art. In addition, her use of iconography and early Renaissance painting techniques and gold leaf for portrait paintings is symbolic of the restoration of dignity and the sacred value in each of us. Thomas’ work has been exhibited at the UK Houses of Parliament, European Parliament, and Westminster Abbey.

**Partnership with the Yale Center for Faith & Culture**

Grace Farms has a long-standing partnership with the **Yale Center for Faith & Culture**. Prior to Grace Farms’ opening, **Dr. Miroslav Volf**, the founding director of the Center, helped create the framework for Grace Farms’ faith initiative, which invites everyone to engage with some of the enduring questions of our time, including “what is flourishing life?”

In 2026, Dr. Volf, one of the world’s leading religious thinkers, was featured in the second *Grace Farms Lecture with Concert* series in February. Many of the discussions and programs offered over the years are based on multiple religious and philosophical traditions, both ancient and contemporary. These curated texts can be found in our Library.

In addition, the *Life Worth Living* will return in 2026 with a special workshop led by **Drew Collins**, Associate Research Scholar from the Yale Center for Faith & Culture. Participants are invited to reflect deeply on what makes life truly worth living and is designed to complement Dr. Volf’s lecture.

Hannah Rose Thomas, PhD’s painting, *Nasreen*, 2025, which is featured in the *With Every Fiber* exhibit, has described her process as a form of “prayer”.



30,000 +

experienced the unveiling of the Hannah Rose Thomas, PhD, life-size portrait of Nasreen Sheikh, a modern slavery survivor, human rights activist, and Founder of the Empowerment Collective

500 +

attended the Broadway Inspirational Voices performance and reception

150 +

members of the community came together to prepare care packages for those in need during our annual Gifting for Good

# grace farms tea & coffee

“One of our goals was to not only make a delicious product but also make a product that aligns with our values and can demonstrate ethical and sustainable supply chains.” – Grace Farms Tea & Coffee CEO Adam Thatcher, *Fast Company*

Grace Farms Tea & Coffee, the Certified B Corp™ public benefit subsidiary of Grace Farms Foundation, continued to demonstrate how a mission-driven business can drive both immediate support and long-term systemic change. Launched in 2021, Grace Farms Tea & Coffee gives back 100% of profits to support Design for Freedom, a global movement to eliminate forced labor from the built environment. Besides giving back profits to support Design for Freedom, Grace Farms Tea & Coffee was also created to invite everyone to experience Grace Farms through

its signature teas and coffees, as well as to demonstrate and educate the public on ethical and sustainable supply chains.

## The Power of Circular Philanthropy

This unique circular philanthropic approach deepened its impact and outcomes in 2025. Grace Farms Tea & Coffee was recertified as a Certified B Corp™, increasing its score from 102.8 to 124.9, driven by its scalable impact model of ethical and sustainable sourcing. Select organizations certified by the nonprofit B Lab must meet high standards across workers' rights, environmental practices, governance, and community impact.

Grace Farms Tea & Coffee is sold at Whole Foods Market, as well as through corporate partnerships such as JPMorganChase and Google.



“Our relationship with Ibu Rahmah and her cooperative goes far beyond sourcing coffee. In moments like this, it is our responsibility to stand with them as partners and as friends.” – Adam Thatcher

Supporting Women-led Cooperatives

Grace Farms Tea & Coffee CEO **Adam Thatcher** returned to Sumatra this year with **Slade Architecture** to explore the opportunity to build a Design for Freedom Pilot Project. There, he visited with **Ibu Rahmah**, Founder and Chairwoman of the **Ketiara Cooperative**, and other farmers who are long-time partners of Grace Farms from whom we source our ethically made Indonesian coffee.

In October, Ibu Rahmah returned to Grace Farms with her daughter **Tiara**, and **Pita Loliyanti** to participate in Grace Farms’ 10-year anniversary celebration. A West Barn meeting space was transformed into a journey of coffee tastings. The guided experience was an opportunity for the public to learn more about Grace Farms’ coffees and how they are ethically sourced from women-led cooperatives in Indonesia, Ethiopia, and Colombia. Beyond educating visitors about the sourcing and making of coffee, the event highlighted the public’s own agency to drive change through collective purchasing power.

Mobilized Humanitarian Support

In December, Thatcher and **Sharon Prince**, also Co-founder of Grace Farms Tea & Coffee, launched **Sumatra Resilience & Rebuilding**, an urgent humanitarian relief effort in response to a natural disaster to support its longtime sourcing partner, the Ketiara Cooperative, a Fairtrade Certified™, women-led coffee farming collective in the Gayo Highlands of Sumatra, Indonesia. Tropical Cyclone Senyar triggered the region’s worst natural disaster since the 2004 tsunami. Many farms, including

the Ketiara Cooperative, sustained severe damage including severing access to food, clean water, electricity, and communication.

The Ketiara Cooperative supports more than 1,700 farmers, including 1,100 women. In response to this crisis, Grace Farms Foundation donated \$10,000 to the Cooperative to provide immediate life-saving supplies, and pledged \$15,000 toward their next harvest, an investment to help their livelihoods recover, Thatcher said. The urgent humanitarian support enabled the delivery of generators, Starlink satellite communication devices, rice, and essential food supplies to the most isolated communities. “The farmers of Ketiara are at the heart of our mission,” said Thatcher. “Our relationship with Ibu Rahmah and her cooperative goes far beyond sourcing coffee. In moments like this, it is our responsibility to stand with them as partners and as friends.”

To further support these essential ongoing efforts, Grace Farms Tea & Coffee contributes five dollars from every bag of its Single-Origin Indonesian coffee.

Impact at Work

How and why did this “engine for good” originate? To answer these questions, Grace Farms launched *Origin Stories*, a series exploring the journeys of visionaries – artists, business leaders, designers, and social

Sharon Prince and Adam Thatcher joined by Ibu Rahmah, Tiara and Loli of the Ketiara Cooperative at Grace Farms 10 Year Celebration.



© Andrew Werner

entrepreneurs – who have reimaged the world around them. Thatcher led the series, sharing his immersive journey behind this mission-driven social enterprise. He envisioned the model of a nonprofit-owned business after learning about innovative social enterprise structures while pursuing an MBA at New York University. He was also joined in conversation by **Christine Sanchez**, Vice President of Retail at 270 Park, JPMorganChase, as they discussed the innovative partnership between the two organizations. Their NYC headquarters will feature a Grace Farms café, which opened in 2026.

#### Grace Farms Rest House Project

Grace Farms Tea & Coffee is creating a community for farmers to rest and foster community worldwide through its Grace Farms Rest House Project. The project led by **Slade Architecture**, a Design for Freedom Working Group member, will be ethically designed and sustainably built. By leveraging open-source design principles, this initiative seeks to create globally adaptable solutions that uphold and demonstrate Design for Freedom principles that include finding and addressing embedded forced labor, pursuing ethical decarbonization, and prioritizing circularity.

As the only U.S.-based tea company to partner with Fairtrade International, it is also working locally to educate the public about the Rest House Project. These entry points also serve as a way for people to engage in the practice of design for social good. These workshops also offer an opportunity for the public to think through concepts that are part of the Design for Freedom

movement. The aim is to explore the challenges first-hand and to leave people with the understanding that they have the agency to make change.

#### Discovering Grace Farms

As mentioned in a *Fast Company* article, “none of Grace Farms’ initiatives exist in a vacuum. At the New Canaan property, visitors might sip a cup of tea while learning about fair-trade practices that directly support the work of Design for Freedom.” The welcoming of people to Grace Farms with tea or coffee is another way to discover not only Design for Freedom, but our other initiatives.

Our public programming around tea and coffee at Grace Farms, led by our Tea Expert **Frank Kwei** and Education Team, allows people to explore the distinctions between major black teas and taste notable varietals, for instance, including examples of Darjeeling, Assam, Ceylon, Keemun, and Yunnan teas. Set in a restorative setting, overlooking the awe-inspiring landscape of Grace Farms, visitors can learn about the nuances of tea and why it’s important to support fair-labor practices.

Grace Farms Tea & Coffee continues to expand its reach through partnerships with more than 20 corporations including **JPMorganChase**, **Google**, **UBS**, and **Goldman Sachs**.







# program partners, collaborators and sponsors

## nature

Animal Embassy  
Frank Gallo  
Minotaur Mazes  
The Nature Conservancy

## arts

Alicja Kwade  
Andromeda Turre  
Architecture & Design  
Film Festival  
Arlen Hlusko  
Cooper Hewitt  
Dinesen  
Evan Williams  
Hannah Rose Thomas  
James Florio  
John Sabraw  
Joshua Bell  
Kazuyo Sejima  
London Philharmonic Orchestra  
Marcus G. Miller  
Mon Rovia

Nasreen Sheikh  
Platon  
Steve Webb  
Studio Cooke John  
Westchester Children's Museum

## Songs of the Season

Arden Altino  
Emily Braden

## justice

Alliance 8.7  
Grace Farms Tea & Coffee  
United Nations Global Compact  
United Nations University

## Design for Freedom

## Summit Sponsors

Acelab  
ARUP  
ASSA ABLOY  
HKS  
Louis Fusco Landscape Architects  
MASS

MillerKnoll  
Sciame  
ShawContract  
SourceBlue  
Turner Construction

## community

Citizens of Humanity  
Fairtrade International  
Filling in the Blanks  
Indré Rockefeller  
Kerri Walsh Jennings  
Ketiará Cooperative  
lululemon  
Pilin Anice  
Slade Architecture  
west-bourne

## Food Relief Partners

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Open Doors

*K-12 School Groups*

Academy Charter School  
Bedford Middle School  
Coleytown Middle School  
Fishkill Elementary School  
Greens Farms Academy  
Holy Child School  
John Jay High School  
Marvin Elementary School  
Mead School  
Meadow Pond Elementary School (Kindergarten and 3rd Grade)  
Nathan Hale Middle School  
New Canaan High School Architecture Club  
The Nightingale-Bamford School  
Ponus Ridge Middle School  
Ridgefield Academy  
Seven Acres Montessori School  
Southport School  
Upward Bound Math Science Program

*University Groups*

New Jersey Institute of Technology  
New York Institute of Technology  
Roger Williams University  
TU Vienna | Institute of Architecture and Design  
UConn Landscape Architecture Program  
UMASS Amherst  
University of Rhode Island

*Education Partners*

Animal Embassy  
Glass House Education Team  
Katonah Lewisboro School District  
New Canaan Nature Center

*faith*

Broadway Inspirational Voices  
Yale Center for Faith & Culture



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Grace Farms Members play an important role in our community, and help to support the mission, programs, and preservation of Grace Farms. Thank you to our Members for their support in 2025.

*10th Annual Benefit  
We all build*

*2025-2026 Season Sponsor*  
JPMorganChase

*Special Recognition*  
Sciame

*Media Partner*  
Bedford & New Canaan magazine

Alice Bartlett Mahoney  
Amanda Martocchio  
Andrea and Tim Collins  
Angela Mwanza and Todd Blanke  
Anna and Ben Sarly  
Barbara and Roy Medile  
CBIZ  
Connecticut Public  
Dalio Philanthropies  
Diana Kellogg and Neil Burger  
Eric Yarboi  
Fred Noyes  
Gillian Gallo and Neil Jacobs  
Greg Jensen and Zainab Ahmad  
Heather and Kyle Delaney  
Heidi and Mark DeWaele  
International House of Japan  
J.P. Morgan Private Bank  
Jane and Peter Hunsinger  
Jane Musky and Tony Goldwyn  
Jeanette and Michael Chen  
Karen Frome and  
Nat Oppenheimer

Karen Karniol-Tambour and Sam Abbas  
Kozusko Harris Vetter Wareh Duncan LLP  
Liz and Conor Grennan  
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Melissa and Fred Post  
Molly Gochman and Michael Armilio  
Nicole and Joel Whidden  
Omar Kariuki  
Paratus Group  
Porter Diehl  
Robinson & Cole  
Rockefeller Global Family Office  
Sandra and David Epperly  
Sharon and Bob Prince  
SHoP Architects  
Slade Architecture  
Smith Brothers Insurance  
Toshiko Mori  
Vani and Seth Birnbaum



## our values

Ten years ago, our values were embedded into Grace Farms, designed by SANAA. Kazuyo Sejima returned to be a part of our 10th anniversary celebration in 2025. Our values remain today as we aim to advance good in the world. We believe that our culture and the manner in which we work carry the same significance as the outcomes we 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

**Chelsea Thatcher**  
Vice Chair

**Roy Medile**  
Treasurer

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

**Michael Chen**  
Founder and CEO,  
Chen & Associates

**Anna Dyson**  
Professor of Architecture  
at the Yale School of  
Architecture & Environment

**Peter Hunsinger**  
Partner and CMO,  
Everyone’s Earth

**Angela Mwanza**  
Managing Director, Private Advisor,  
Rockefeller Global Family Office

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

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

**Dr. Miroslav Volf**  
Director, Founding Director,  
Yale Center for Faith & Culture



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# leadership

**Sharon Prince**  
CEO and Founder

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

**A.J. Conley**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Elizabeth Rapuano**  
Chief Communications Officer  
and Board Secretary

**Cherie Sweeney**  
Chief Operating Officer

**Emma Gallo**  
Managing Director,  
International Strategic Initiatives

**Karen Kariuki**  
Managing Director,  
Strategic Initiatives

**Ashley Sikora**  
Managing Director,  
Marketing, Retail and Brand

**Emily Altman**  
Director of Arts Operations,  
Publications and Exhibits

**Yesenia Cuevas**  
Director of Human Resources

**Anna Marie Greco**  
Director of Education

**LaWanza Holder**  
Controller

**Kimberly Kelly**  
Director of Horticulture

**Kathleen Kiley**  
Director of Communications

**Fred Pickering**  
Director of Safety

**Nora Rizzo**  
Ethical Materials Director

**Sarah Scandiffio**  
Director of Strategic Events  
and Partner Relations

**William Stonebridge**  
Director of Facilities

**Matt Szwed**  
Technical Director

**Bill Tom**  
Director of Information Technology  
and Cybersecurity

**Ray Urbano**  
Chef de Cuisine and  
Commons Manager

as of December 31, 2025

# select recognition 2025

Since 2015, Grace Farms has been internationally recognized for its outstanding design, architectural significance, and work to advance good locally and globally.

## Second Prestigious LEED Certification, Gold

The River building holds LEED Gold certification for Building Design and Construction. In recognition of our continuing efforts to be as sustainable as possible, Grace Farms was awarded Gold certification for Building Operations and Maintenance, building on our LEED Silver certification awarded in 2019.

## 2023 MCHAP Symposium and Gala Awards

**Sharon Prince** was honored for her outstanding achievements in architecture and Design for Freedom at the 2023 MCHAP Symposium and Gala Awards Benefit Dinner at the S.R. Crown Hall on the Illinois Institute of Technology's Mies campus.

## Fast Company's Most Creative People in Business

**Sharon Prince**, CEO and Founder of Grace Farms, was recognized as one of the year's most creative people in business for "cleaning up construction" and leading the Design for Freedom movement to remove forced labor from the built environment. She was among 56 leaders who are moving their entire industries forward with ingenuity and purpose.

## University of Tulsa Distinguished Alumni

**Sharon Prince** was named a distinguished alumna by the University of Tulsa, noting, "a decade into her visionary work with Grace Farms, Sharon is celebrating its 10-year anniversary, a testament to her commitment to creating spaces that foster peace, justice, and community. Her story is a powerful example of how TU alumni carry the spirit of innovation and purpose into the world, transforming ideas into lasting impact."

## CT Green Building Council Awards Design for Freedom the Trailblazer Award

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.

## Public Service Award For Extraordinary Benevolence & Contributions to Public Health & Safety

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.

## The CEO Forum Group's Transformative CEO Award in Leading Through Crisis

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

## American Institute of Architects New York Chapter NYC Visionary Award

**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

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

## American Institute of Architects (AIA) Connecticut Design Honor Award

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

## A-DE ASLA Award

The Pennsylvania-Delaware Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects recognized Grace Farms and **OLIN** with an Honor Award in General Design.

## Lumen Award of Merit

**Buro Happold** was recognized with a Lumen Award of Merit for its lighting design of Grace Farms.

## Fast Company 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.

## Mies Crown Hall Americas Prize

The second annual Mies Crown Hall Americas 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. The full architectural team can be found at [gracefarms.org/project-team](https://gracefarms.org/project-team).

## financial overview

We at Grace Farms are reminded each day of the magic of our space and the value it provides to the community. That community - comprised of visitors from nearby towns in Connecticut and New York as well as those from homes further away, even overseas - embraces our collaborative approach to addressing pressing humanitarian issues. After enjoying a worldclass concert, taking a tour, seeing an exhibit, or just sharing a meal in the Commons, they willingly enlist as partners in the Foundation's mission, walking with us on the path of grace and peace, amplifying the voice of hope and purpose that in turn creates new outcomes.

In 2025, we embraced the challenge of delivering a year reflective of, and worthy of, our 10th anniversary. Highlights included a fourth Design for Freedom Summit; additional Design for Freedom Pilot Projects, now numbering more than a dozen on three continents; Shared Meals Tuesdays, where visitors share the same nutritious meals as those provided for free to our local food-relief partners; and the largest, most diverse set of programming, providing education and entertainment to the highest number of guests we have ever had.

We also put special attention to improvements to our property. Most notably, we replaced the entire fascia - the wood facing just underneath the roof's edge - of the River building, providing both a refreshing new look and essential water sealing. This year-long undertaking involved the close coordination of the Facilities team along with several trades under the coordination of Sciame Construction, long a valued partner of the Foundation. This project was also a striking symbol of our mission and the Design for Freedom movement itself, as the wood was ethically sourced from Haida Gwaii in British Columbia.

At the nexus of our five initiatives was the complex installation of Alicja Kwade's *ParaPosition*, left, in the North Meadow. Originally completed in 2024 before its shipment to the U.S. in 2025, the sculpture comprises interlocking steel frames and four substantial boulders, each of clear provenance from medieval Europe. The array of steel and stone "draws viewers into the frame of this massive, yet fragile, universe where simple forms yield complex meanings, prompting us to reflect on our relationship with the world." In that description one finds that nexus of community, nature, arts, justice and faith - what the Foundation stands tall for, as proudly as *ParaPosition* itself.

These major commitments have made an impact in our local community, adding interest and vibrancy to each visit. These works are made possible - and, more important, made impactful - through the generosity of our founders, board members, leadership advisors, Foundation team, supporters, partners, Grace Farms Members and event patrons, and benefactors both big and small, new and returning.

We are grateful.



2025 financial performance

revenue

As an IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Grace Farms Foundation ensures its donations and revenues are used to directly support the mission of the Foundation, including providing Grace Farms as an inspiring public space that is free and open to all, with hundreds of performances, programs, projects - events of all types and related to all five initiatives – each year that engage diverse audiences in partnership and action. **Some meaningful financial achievements in 2025 follow.**

income

**\$17,797,213**  
donations received

**\$1,061,736**  
onsite sales (net of direct cost) from events, programs, Commons operations, and retail sales

**\$114,509**  
interest earned

expenses

**Summary description of key costs:**  
**\$6,446,782**  
To deliver **onsite programs and worldwide outreach** related to the five Foundation initiatives: Nature, Arts, Justice, Community, and Faith, as well as Design for Freedom. This amount includes expenses related to personnel, in-house and outsourced; hired performing talent and other outside contributors; production and event support services and materials; and communications.

**\$4,439,229**  
To **operate, maintain, and improve the 80-acre property of Grace Farms and its attractions**, which includes expenses related to personnel (culinary, buildings and grounds); property upkeep, beautification and preservation; utilities; and safety.

**\$3,562,865**  
To support the **management and general administrative** expenses related to running and growing the Foundation, including personnel costs (executive team, finance and HR, IT); communications; systems support; legal and accounting; insurances; and other essential functions.

detailed breakdown  
of revenue and expenses\*

|                                                            |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                                             |                      |
| Contributions and Gifts Received                           | \$ 17,797,213        |
| Interest Earned                                            | \$ 114,509           |
| Gross Sales                                                | \$ 1,313,524         |
| Less Cost of Goods Sold                                    | \$ (\$251,788)       |
| Gross Profit                                               | \$ 1,061,736         |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                                       | <b>\$18,973,457</b>  |
| <b>Expenses</b>                                            |                      |
| Programming Services                                       |                      |
| <i>By Initiative</i>                                       |                      |
| Nature                                                     | \$ 982,113           |
| Arts                                                       | \$ 1,726,782         |
| Justice / Design for Freedom                               | \$ 1,871,120         |
| Community                                                  | \$ 1,303,980         |
| Faith                                                      | \$ 562,788           |
| Place                                                      | \$ 4,439,229         |
| Support and Advancement Services                           |                      |
| Management and General                                     | \$ 3,562,865         |
| Development/Membership                                     | \$ 703,999           |
| Travel and Presentations                                   | \$ 48,131            |
| Advertising, Printing and Publications                     | \$ 173,891           |
| Other Expenses                                             | \$ 136,287           |
| Depreciation                                               | \$ 2,308,116         |
| <b>Total Expenses and Disbursements</b>                    | <b>\$ 17,819,300</b> |
| <b>Excess of Revenue over Expenses &amp; Disbursements</b> | <b>\$ 1,188,621</b>  |

\*Subject to audit.



# advancing good together

As we embark on our second decade, we find ourselves at a place in time where institutions like Grace Farms are harder to build – and never more in need. We embrace that responsibility to provide a place to convene, build community and reconcile our differences and our disagreements. People, together, make the world better, so we invite you to visit us, join with us, become a member, and contribute to the Grace Farms Fund and our work to advance good around the globe.

**A.J. Conley**  
Chief Financial Officer

Liberia-born singer and songwriter Mon Rovia presented a concert of peace and healing on the International Day of Tolerance, performing to a sold-out audience in the only fully glass-enclosed performing arts space in the world.



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# membership program

The Grace Farms Membership Program offers new ways for visitors from across the country and around the world to engage with Grace Farms and support our mission. Our membership includes many in the local community, with over 70% of members residing within Connecticut and in cities and towns across the New York Metropolitan Area and beyond. These members’ annual contributions provide meaningful support for our mission to create more grace and peace in the world and the ongoing preservation of the River building and its surrounding 80 acres.

As Grace Farms finishes its 10th year, our members are stepping forward in profound ways to support our work and vision for the future. Since the launch of the Membership Program, we have welcomed member households at four membership levels: Individual, Family, Friend, and Patron. In 2025, Grace Farms hosted its 4th Annual Member Day, welcoming members onsite for a vibrant day of community-building activities, an autumn stroll, and opportunities to connect with nature. Throughout the year, we offered a series of member-only experiences to connect and explore, including early access to tickets for performances by internationally acclaimed artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, and reciprocal visits with three of our institutional partners: The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum (Ridgefield, CT), Storm King Art Center (New Windsor, NY), and Wave Hill (Bronx, NY).

To learn more about current membership levels and upcoming member events, please visit [gracefarms.org/membership](https://gracefarms.org/membership) or contact [membership@gracefarms.org](mailto:membership@gracefarms.org).

“Every day that we are gifted the opportunity to wake up on Earth, we build. Our 2025-2026 season was an invitation to create pathways toward grace and peace with creativity, empathy, community, and joy together.”

Chelsea Thatcher  
Chief Strategic Officer and Founding Creative Director

we all  
build



# grace farms

Grace Farms recognizes the Lenape and other tribes who once nurtured and lived in harmony with this land. We honor their past, present, and future generations. We share in their respect for this Earth and every creature who inhabits it.

As an organization committed to critical inquiry and collaboration, we have begun the process of listening and learning from Indigenous communities to understand the stewardship of the land on which Grace Farms stands.

Grace Farms Foundation's interdisciplinary humanitarian mission is to pursue peace through five initiatives – nature, arts, justice, community, and faith – and Grace Farms, a SANAA-designed site for convening people across sectors. Our stake in the ground is to end modern slavery and gender-based violence, and create more grace and peace in our local and global communities.

Grace Farms was established as an essential platform for the Foundation, serving as a welcoming place where individuals, nonprofit organizations, and government entities come together to collaborate for the common good.

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

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

In keeping with our commitment to the environment, this annual report was created in an ISO 14001 facility certified for environmental management using 100% alternative energy. The paper is sustainably manufactured using recycled water and renewable energy, and it is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council®. The inks used are soy-based or 99.5% VOC-free.

## CONTRIBUTORS

**Chelsea Thatcher**, Chief Strategic Officer  
and Founding Creative Director

**Elizabeth Rapuano**, Chief Communications Officer

**Kathleen Kiley**, Director of Communications

**A.J. Conley**, Chief Financial Officer

**Cindy Delaney**, Senior Art Director

**Katie Piascyk**, Senior Graphic Designer

## 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

f @in ▶

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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.



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we all  
build

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