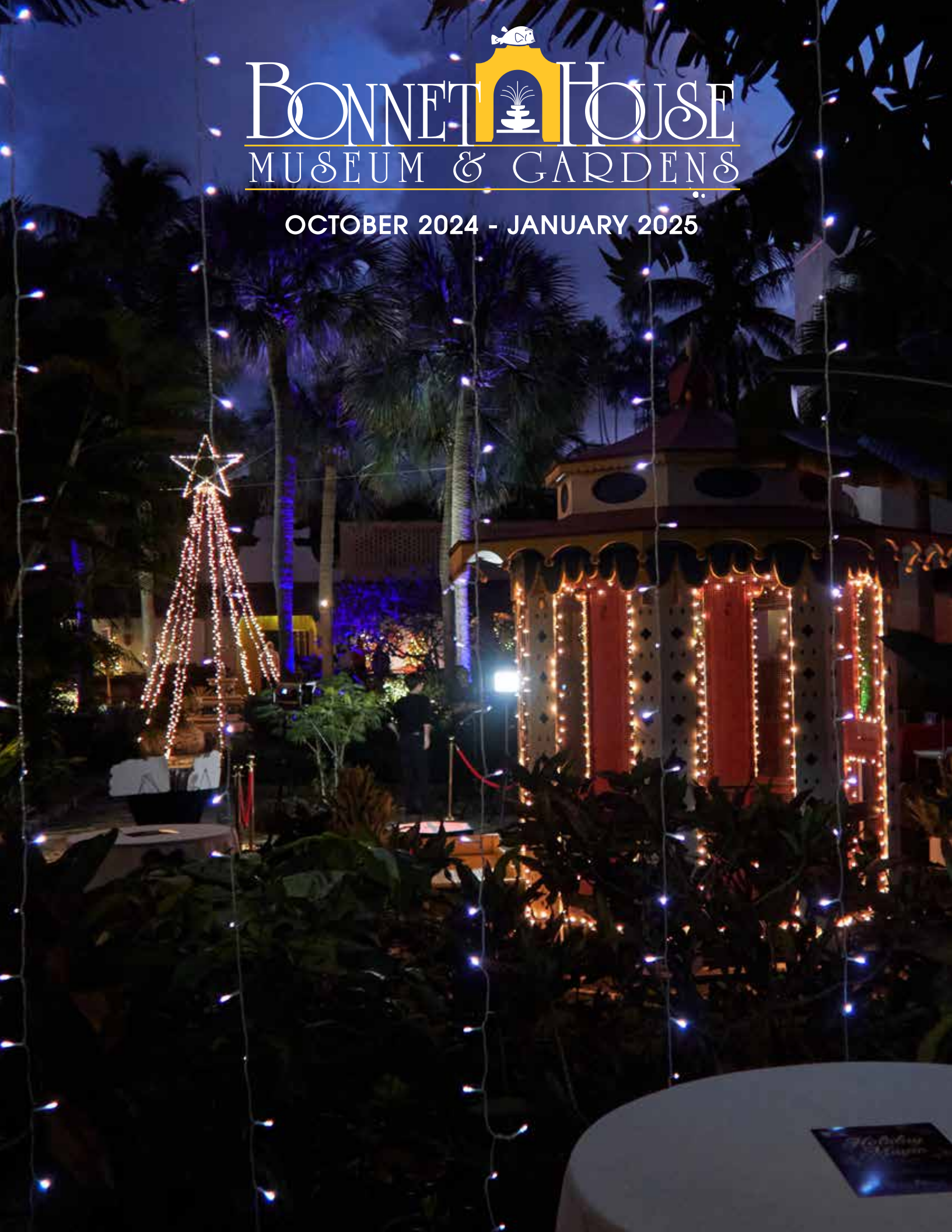




BONNET HOUSE  
MUSEUM & GARDENS

OCTOBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025



# FROM THE CEO

*Patrick Shavloske*



DID YOU KNOW that Trip Advisor users list Bonnet House the third most popular place to visit in Fort Lauderdale behind the likes of Fort Lauderdale Beach and Las Olas Boulevard? As a town known for fun in the sun and perhaps once again for Spring Break, that's a remarkable achievement! We

are stewards of a remarkable history and property, and the hospitality and stories provided by our volunteers and staff clearly resonate with area visitors.

However, in speaking with friends and neighbors who live here in Fort Lauderdale, how many times have you mentioned Bonnet House, and heard in response, "I've always meant to go there" or "oh yes, it's beautiful! I was there for a wedding twenty years ago and just never made it back." I hear things like this routinely, in fact far too routinely, and there is a plan to change that.

In January, Bonnet House will debut its first ever outdoor sculpture exhibition. Entitled Forest Forms and created by artist Huelani Mei, the exhibit will feature whimsical, large-scale metal sculptures of animals and plants that visitors will encounter throughout the grounds. The exhibit is currently at Fernbank museum and gardens in Atlanta where it has opened to great fanfare. Its showing at Bonnet House from January 11th to April 27th next year will be its South Florida premier. Our hope is that Forest Forms will be the first in a series of sculpture exhibits that utilize our unique greenspace to draw more repeat visitors to Bonnet House and raise the profile of the museum among locals. Keep an eye out for more information as the opening date approaches.



Our fall newsletter is the edition where we share some financial information and even more importantly where we recognize donors who have done so much for Bonnet House. For space reasons, we can't list all of the hundreds of gifts and memberships that Bonnet House received in 2023-2024, but every gift is meaningful and counts. Bonnet House could not exist without such generous support, and we are particularly grateful for the donors listed in this newsletter. When Mrs. Bartlett preserved Bonnet House in 1983, her gift was the largest charitable contribution to that date in Florida history. Thank you so very much for helping to sustain the legacy left our community by the Birch and Bartlett families.

In the following pages, you will also find an unaudited synopsis of our financial status as of June 30, 2024 (our annual independent audit will be completed and available in October). A lot was accomplished last fiscal year, but we faced some challenges too, and I'd like to highlight some of this. First, I want to reiterate my thanks to all our donors. Bonnet House recorded a remarkable \$1.3 million in combined contributions, grants and memberships. While some of these are multi-year commitments which by accounting standards we recognize in their entirety the year the commitment is received, it's a remarkable show of support. At nearly \$725,000, tours were strong but down a bit compared to last year with a slightly softer winter season. In speaking with others in the hospitality industry, this is likely tied to a softening in tourism as post-COVID, people have travel options outside of Florida. Weddings and events (estate rentals) remain at a strong \$412,000. A lot of juggling happens on the weekends in season to accommodate museum visitors as well as private rentals, and our staff and volunteers deserve recognition for all they do to balance presenting our core programming with the rentals that directly support our operations.

On the expense side, our largest expense is staffing. We currently have 39 staff members, all essential to meeting our mission. It probably won't come as a surprise that insurance rates in Florida have sky-rocketed. Bonnet House reverted to Citizens for windstorm coverage last year with a premium of over \$80,000. On a more positive but still costly note was the \$331,500 spent on collection

CONT'D ON PAGE 3

conservation representing the restoration of the second floor exhibit rooms and the restoration of the grounds and slough and \$127,000 spent on more routine repairs and maintenance. We have made a lot of progress on deferred maintenance of which I am most proud.

On a final note, I would be remiss if I did not mention the veto of Florida arts and culture funding for the year that began July 1, 2024. Bonnet House had submitted a grant application that was competitively reviewed and scored by an independent panel of museum professionals and was expecting about \$80,000 in funding from the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. The

blanket veto of arts grants was unprecedented, and \$80,000 is a significant amount for Bonnet House since the museum doesn't have a lot of discretionary spending that can be cut. As 2024 draws to a close, I ask you consider increasing your support for Bonnet House to help close the gap. You'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you stepped up in a time of unprecedented and unexpected need. Gifts from IRAs or gifts of significantly appreciated stock are all vehicles to thoughtfully consider.

As always, thank you for your consideration and support!

## DEVELOPMENT IN REVIEW

*Lauren Weissman, Development Coordinator*



As I am coming up to my one-year anniversary as part of Bonnet House's development team, I just want to express what a wonderful opportunity it is to be part of the Bonnet House family. Bonnet House boasts a such unique community of passionate, creative, and benevolent individuals. It has

truly been an honor to get to know all of you who have shared your time, talents, and stories with me throughout the year. This year, we have had an outpouring of support from donors towards the wheelchair accessible golf cart, hurricane shutters/screens for the museum, Holiday Magic 2023, and Orchid Fest 2024, as well as numerous generous donations towards our annual giving fund. It is a joy to see this revenue in action at Bonnet House, providing support for necessities, maintenance, educational programs, events, restoration, and much more. The good accomplished at Bonnet House is done by all of you and I want to extend a monumental THANK YOU to all our donors, volunteers, and staff involved in making Bonnet House the special place it is today and continuing the historical legacy that Evelyn Bartlett fought diligently to preserve.

This year, we had a set back in terms of funding, learning that the state would not be providing \$80,000 in support to Bonnet House. in light of this news, many people have reached out to ask how they can help. Annual fund gifts are greatly appre-

ciated as we work to absorb this unexpected loss of funds.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

Let us know if you have included Bonnet House in your estate plans so we can recognize you as a member of our Legacy Society. Planned giving, such as a bequest or charitable gift annuity, can combine your desire to support Bonnet House with your overall financial, tax, and estate planning goals. Your gift will help preserve this historic site for years to come and give you a special connection with Bonnet House. To all our current Legacy Society members, thank you for your continued support of Bonnet House Museum & Gardens! May you always be gratified by the difference you make in our community and all the good you do for our wonderful museum.

### HURRICANE SCEN UPDATE AND THANK YOU



In late August, work began on installing the hurricane screens that will finally protect all of the historic structures at Bonnet House with modern storm protection. A total of 42 donors gave a collective \$36,180 towards the effort. A sincere thank you goes to the SteinhilberWEISER Foundation for their lead,

matching gift. Bonnet House is also grateful to board member Bill Brown for championing this program and monitoring the permitting process.

# BONNET HOUSE PROFIT & LOSS

JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023 - UNAUDITED

INCOME	CURRENT YTD
ANNUAL FUND / UNREST CONTRIBUTION	\$114,943.33
ANNUAL FUND / REST CONTRIBUTION	\$271,615.60
BONNET HOUSE EVENTS	\$243,406.43
BONNET HOUSE OVER/SHORT	\$140.00
DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES	\$127,387.52
EDUCATION PROGRAMS REVENUE	\$60,946.50
ESTATE RENTALS	\$412,024.16
MEMBERSHIP	\$97,117.53
MUSEUM SHOP REVENUE	\$169,459.61
CONCESSION INCOME	\$8,116.54
SALES TAX CREDIT	\$335.17
TOURS	\$724,603.03
GRANTS- UNRESTRICTED	\$268,796.00
GRANTS- CONDITIONAL	\$311,591.53
CREDIT CARD INCENTIVE- REWARDS	\$1,815.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$2,590.86
<b>GORSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$2,814,888.81</b>

EXPENSES	CURRENT YTD
SALARIES AND BENEFITS	\$1,506,568.58
ADVERTISING & MARKETING	\$72,483.38
BONNET HOUSE EVENTS	\$154,451.97
BUSINESS INSURANCE	\$165,889.96
CONTRACT SERVICES- ADMINISTRATIVE	\$154,856.52
CONTRACT SERVICES - PROGRAMMATIC	\$40,388.85
INVENTORY ADJUSTMENT	\$99.44
DEPRECIATION	\$42,969.00
DONATED GOODS AND SERVICES	\$127,387.52
EDUCATION PROGRAMS	\$17,478.11
ESTATE RENTALS	\$73,573.08
MEMBERSHIP / FUNDRAISING	\$10,695.46
MUSEUM GIFT SHOP	\$78,535.66
OFFICE / ADMINISTRATION	\$100,731.12
REPAIRS / MAINTENANCE	\$127,196.82
TOURS/ TRAM LEASE	\$53,129.08
UTILITIES	\$71,058.12
COLLECTION CONSERVATION	\$331,500.14
VISITOR ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN	\$83,600.00
MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSE	\$(53.39)
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,212,539.42</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$(397,650.61)</b>
TOTAL OTHER INCOME/LOSS	\$1,356,024.15
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$(32,243.11)
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$1,323,784.04</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$926,130.43</b>



## WE'VE GOT THAT HOLIDAY FEELING

*Lauren Weissman, Development Coordinator*

**BONNET HOUSE'S 7TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY MAGIC:  
A FUNDRAISING EVENT LIKE NO OTHER.**

Celebration, Togetherness, Hope, and Wonder - Bonnet House welcomes you to join in the holiday fun at our biggest fundraiser of the year!

For five magical nights in December, Bonnet House is hosting holiday events! The museum will be lit up with holiday decorations. There will be an exciting program each night including a Holiday Soirée, a visit from Santa and his elves, special performances, holiday storytelling, and self-guided night tours. A team of decorators will adorn Bonnet House with trees, wreaths, and centerpieces available for purchase throughout the month of December.

### HOLIDAY MAGIC SOIRÉE 2024

Friday, December 6th

New this year, the VIP experience includes admission to an exclusive Champagne Reception in the Courtyard from 6:00pm-7:00pm serving welcome drinks, Veuve Clicquot champagne, and passed hors d'oeuvres accompanied by the musical stylings of "The Man of Many Voices" David Morin singing Michael Bublé-style favorites. Each VIP will receive a surprise holiday gift and reservation cards for seat selection on the magically adorned Veranda. During dinner, "The Man of Many Voices" will sing a holiday Elvis tribute.

Doors open for General Admission at 7:00pm. The house and grounds will be lit up and sparkling during this Holiday Soirée with welcome drinks, a full open bar, and delicious catered dining menu provided by the Hansen Group. Guests will be dazzled with a preview of the fantastical characters brought to life from the new POMP, SNOW & CIRQUEumstance™ TV special. Throughout the night, live musicians sing holiday favorites and all are welcome to dance in the beautifully lit Hibiscus Garden or on the Veranda after dinner.

All of the trees, wreaths, and centerpieces throughout the house are designed to delight and will be available for purchase. Soirée attendees have the first opportunity to view and purchase the holiday decor.

Tickets sell out fast, so don't hesitate - we'd love to see you there! Doors open for General Admission 7:00pm - 10:00pm, \$125. VIP reception 6:00pm-7:00pm with Soirée to follow, \$175.

### WHIMSICAL WONDERLAND

Saturday, December 7th, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

An evening for families! Join us for a Wonderland of live entertainment, scavenger hunt, a visit from Santa, and plenty of opportunities to capture your holiday family portraits. Bring the kids to Whimsical Wonderland! Admission: Adults (includes two drink tickets): \$35; Ages 13-17: \$15; Ages 6-12: \$5; Ages 5 & under free.

### EVENING EXPERIENCES

December 11th, 12th & 13th, 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Decide on your favorite designer-decorated trees, wreaths, and centerpieces as you enjoy a self-guided tour of the house during this magical nighttime opportunity. Live entertainment and featured beverage nightly. Admission: Adults (includes two drink tickets): \$35; Ages 13-17: \$15; Ages 6-12: \$5; Ages 5 & under free.

### HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

Join Event Bliss on the Bonnet House Veranda for a class on creating holiday floral arrangements. Wednesday, December 11th, 5:00-6:00 pm or Thursday, December 12th, 5:00 - 6:00 pm. \$75 (Includes all Evening Experience offerings).

Please visit [bonnethouse.org](http://bonnethouse.org) for more information on sponsorships, becoming a designer and to purchase tickets.

We look forward to seeing you at Holiday Magic 2024!

# BONNET HOUSE DONORS

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

## GIFTS OF CASH OR STOCK & ACTIVE PLEDGES

### \$100,000 or more

Broward County Cultural Division  
Community Foundation of Broward

### \$50,000 to \$99,999

Florida Division of Cultural Affairs  
The Jacarlene Foundation

### \$25,000 to \$49,999

A. Alexander Event Catering  
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### \$10,000 to \$24,999

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# BONNET HOUSE DONORS

JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

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Linda Schaller

Bonnet House strives to properly acknowledge all donors. Please let us know if there are any inaccuracies by contacting Patrick Shavloske at 954-703-2603 or [patrickshavloske@bonnethouse.org](mailto:patrickshavloske@bonnethouse.org).





# THE CURATORIAL EYE

*Katie Valli*



THIS PAST JULY, A TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF and I took on the vital task of beginning a full inventory of all items in the collection. Conducting an inventory of collections is crucial for museums as it brings to light what we have, where we have it, what condition it is in, and arguably the most important- why we have it. Partial inventories should be done in regular intervals with a full inventory about every 5 years. As we are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, performing regular inventories also demonstrates careful management and stewardship of the museum's property.

Our museum boasts approximately 13,000 items that span across multiple centuries and places of origin. Bonnet House was not only a winter home for 75 years, it became a museum while continuing to be a home for a time. And we know Evelyn and Frederic did love to collect! Here at Bonnet House we have an online collections management system that serves as a database for everything in the museum. Each item, whether that be a painting, sculpture, plate, photograph, bench, bed frame, shell, article of clothing, etc. has what is called an "accession number" and its own entry in the system where it has a history of detailed documentation. In museum collections, an accession number is a unique identifier assigned to an artifact or object when it is officially added to the museum's collection. This number is attached to the item in various ways, through acid-free tags or written on the object in an inconspicuous place using archival quality liquid labeling that can be removed without damage.

Bonnet House and many other museums around the world use trinomial nomenclature where each of the three parts indicates a piece of information. Ours features the year it was accessioned into the collection, under what collection it is catalogued in our system, and a specific chronological number of when it was accessioned that year. For example: 1990.FB.001, where FB indicates it is a Frederic Clay Bartlett original work of art. Over the years these numbers may fade, become illegible, or get lost, while other items may never have been accessioned for various reasons or were donated or brought in as educational props. This is what makes this inventory particularly challenging in an effort to account for each and every item. The team become sleuths and researchers, combing through physical and digital archives to amend each conflict. So far, we are doing very well. It is a meticulous and vast task to tackle the large collection, but is very achievable. In doing so, we are ensuring what is being displayed is authentic, educational, and meaningful, while being maintained to the best of our ability for generations to come.

Access to our database is currently reserved for staff and volunteers or by research appointment made by contacting me: 954-703-2605/ [katievalli@bonnethouse.org](mailto:katievalli@bonnethouse.org). Reach out anytime for collections questions as well.

# VOLUNTEERS & EDUCATION

*Linda Schaller, Director of Education & Volunteer Programs*

I WANT TO SEND A SPECIAL THANK YOU to the volunteers at Bonnet House. These volunteers are here in good or harsh weather. Wonderful volunteers like Gene Cain, Dick Haliburton, Rick McKenzie, Barkley Jackson, Wingate Payne, Jim Dunn, Philip Bauder, Harold Bedoukian, Rick Mulhorn and our newest tram driver Marc Sokel are out in the elements helping guests get to the house for tours and giving tours on the Nature Trail.



I cannot name each volunteer in this short article, but any person visiting can see these dedicated volunteers everywhere on the property. Guests meet the bridge greeters at the

Welcome Center and tram drivers as they come and go. There is always a person to welcome and introduce the video about the family. The courtyard coordinator points out special areas and explains the tour QR codes. The room docents guide guests and point out interesting things along with telling the

history of the family. We have guides for guided tours five days a week, and the grounds volunteers keep the outside looking beautiful. The orchid volunteers nurture many plants that were actually once owned by Mrs. Bartlett, and there are the volunteers who teach our school students. Each person brings a special talent to Bonnet House, but the one talent that they all possess is their love of Bonnet House and their love of sharing everything they know about this special place. The enthusiasm of our volunteers knows no bounds!

Our education programs for the schools start in September. Our programs range from a special pre-school offering to programs for fifth graders so our volunteer and staff teachers will have a remarkably busy year. There might even be a possibility to see more middle and high school students this year. Our adult education programs resume in October after the summer heat and will go into May of next year. The teachers are wonderful and love sharing their knowledge with each student.

If you are interested in volunteering, please let me know. Just email [lindaschaller@bonnethouse.org](mailto:lindaschaller@bonnethouse.org). We have a place for you!

## PRIME TIME DISTANCE LEARNING EDUCATION STARTS IN SEPTEMBER

*Sonia Mesa, Associate Director of Education*

BONNET HOUSE'S EDUCATION DEPARTMENT is primed for a new school year filled with Florida history, eco-science, and art and architecture programming for K-5 students through distance learning virtual field trips. Direct access to these unique Bonnet House experiences happens through the Broward County Public Schools where multiple classes of teachers and students interact in real time online for specialty topics, guest speakers, and creative workshops. This year, due to our past success and county-wide reach, the BCPS Distance Learning department will broadcast LIVE from Bonnet House! This year's first session features Frederic Bartlett's Studio for a program called: What's in a Museum – People, Places, and Things at Bonnet House. More LIVE sessions planned this school year will feature different locations each time on our 35-acre property. Sadly, many schools do not have funding nor transportation for traditional field trips to visit Bonnet House, but if they can't get to us, we get to them!

The newly appointed BCPS Superintendent of Schools,

Dr. Howard Hepburn, launched Believe, Empower, Achieve, ONE Broward as the focus for his new administration. His commitment to bringing community partnerships into the schools to empower students to reach their full potential is integral to his vision for success. Bonnet House remains a proud provider of essential resources and educational youth enrichment collaboration through our distance learning and traditional onsite field trip programs.

Do you have connections to a local school (public or private) or know a school principal or a classroom teacher? If so, please share this article and the following links so that more students will have access to Bonnet House!

Education Programs, Field Trips, and Registration: <https://www.bonnethouse.org/school-teacher-programs/>  
Virtual Learning Registration: <https://www.bonnethouse.org/virtual-learning/>

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2024 - JANUARY 2025

## WATERCOLOR WORKSHOPS

Intermediate | Oct 1 - Nov 5 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
Beginners | Jan 8 - Feb 12 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
6-Week Workshop

## FOREST FORMS OUTDOOR SCULPTURE EXHIBIT

Jan 11 - Apr 27 | 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

## YOGA ON THE VERANDA

Fri | Oct 4 | 9:00 am - 10:30 am  
Fri | Nov 1 | 9:00 am - 10:30 am  
Fri | Jan 10 | 9:00 am - 10:30 am

## SPEAKER SERIES

Mon | Jan 13 | 10:00 - 11:30 am  
Legends of Long Key

## BIRDING CLASSES

Sun | Oct 6 | 2:00 - 4:30 pm  
Sun | Nov 10 | 2:00 - 4:30 pm  
Sun | Jan 5 | 2:00 - 4:30 pm

## OIL/ACRYLIC WORKSHOP

Tues | Jan 7 - Feb 11 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
6-Week Workshop

## IS BEE KEEPING RIGHT FOR YOU?

Sat | Oct 12 | 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

## ORCHID CARE CLASSES

Tues | Jan 7 | 9:30 - 11:30 am  
Tues | Jan 14 | 9:30 - 11:30 am

## SPECIAL FAMILY DAY

Sat | Nov 16 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

## WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Thurs | Jan 8 - Feb 12 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
6-Week Workshop

## ACRYLIC CLASSES

Tue | Nov 19 | 9:30 am - 1:00 pm  
Tue | Dec 3 | 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

## ACRYLIC WORKSHOP

Thurs | Jan 9 - Feb 13 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm  
6-Week Workshop

For more information, to purchase tickets or to register for classes and workshops,  
please visit [bonnethouse.org/events](http://bonnethouse.org/events).

## HOLIDAY MAGIC 2024

**HOLIDAY MAGIC SOIREE** - Come celebrate the kick-off of our five-day holiday celebration  
Friday | December 6, 2024 | 6:00-10:00 pm

### WHIMSICAL WONDERLAND, AN EVENING FOR FAMILIES

Featuring fantastical characters brought to life from the the award-winning storybook  
*POMP, SNOW & CIRQUEumstance™*  
Saturday | December 7 | 5:30 pm-8:00 pm

### HOLIDAY MAGIC EVENING EXPERIENCES

Live entertainment & libations nightly  
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday | December 11, 12 & 13 | 6:00-8:00 pm

### HOLIDAY FLORAL ARRANGEMENT CLASSES

Wed | Dec 11 | 5:00 - 6:00 pm & Thurs | Dec 12 | 5:00 - 6:00 pm



**BONNET HOUSE**  
MUSEUM & GARDENS

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5 MAGICAL NIGHTS ★ DECEMBER 2024  
DECEMBER 6, 7, 11, 12 & 13

# HOLIDAY MAGIC

FEATURING THE CHARACTERS OF *POMP & CIRCUS* *SNOW & STANCE*

FOR TICKETS AND MORE, PLEASE VISIT  
[BONNETHOUSE.ORG/HOLIDAY-MAGIC-2024](https://BONNETHOUSE.ORG/HOLIDAY-MAGIC-2024)

HOLIDAY TOURS • LIVE CONCERTS • WORKSHOPS  
DAZZLING DECORATIONS AND LIGHTS!

**BONNET HOUSE**  
MUSEUM & GARDENS

SCAN  
HERE!

