A Letter from Susan

Dear Friend,

2016 is going to be a year of action at QBG!

In 2015 we reflected on our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (a.k.a. SWOT) and learned overwhelmingly that you value our education programs, wedding garden, fun festivals, flowers, and our deep commitment to the diverse cultures of this community. With all that in mind, we developed a strategic plan that focuses on three things that are near and dear to our hearts: Kids, Color, and Community!

Look for more news here in the coming months as we unveil our exciting plans to educate even more local children about the environment, to add even more colorful flowers in the Garden, and to be an oasis in this bustling city.

Many thanks to QBG staff and Board Members Rovena Schirling, Saul Kuperberg, Walter Sanchez, Suzanne Brienza, Pauline Huang, and Joanne Chao, who joined us in conducting SWOT interviews with elected officials and community leaders.

And, most of all, thank you for being such a good friend to QBG! Your support is invaluable and makes all we do possible.

See you around the Garden!

Susan Lacerte, Executive Director

WHAT’S IN BLOOM
CHAyOTE

While there is more shrivel than bloom in the wintertime, our greenhouse is a haven for the plants we propagate and harvest.

Alongside the common specimens we highlight for our classes—basil, marigold, cherry tomatoes—there is Sechium edule, the strange, edible chayote, which makes its home in the education greenhouse this winter. It is common in southern states, and tropical and subtropical regions. Most of this nutty-flavored squash, including its fruit, stems, young leaves, and tuberized parts of the roots are eaten as a vegetable!

We use chayote and similar plants in classes like Plants We Eat and Grocery Store Gardening, to show connections between foods we consume and the plants that produce them. “It is very powerful to see a familiar item in a new perspective, as a food item planted, or as a plant harvested and transformed into food,” says Gennadyi Gurman, QBG Head of Interpretation.

SAVE THE DATE! MONDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2016

FIESTA for the Quinceañero! Celebrate Susan Lacerte’s 15th (Leap Year) Birthday with hors d’oeuvres, drinks, surprises! **Tickets:** $60 per person

If you are one of Susan’s Amigos and you’d like to be a FIESTA HOST, contact Stephanie Ehrlich, Director of Development by Friday, January 8, 718-886-3800, ext. 330 or sehrlich@queensbotanical.org.
On Thursday, October 1, 2015, Queens Botanical Garden announced the completion of the Pathways Repaving Project throughout the gardens and grounds at QBG, which makes all major walkways even more accessible and welcoming to visitors. The $5.5 million project was completed with leadership support from Queens Borough President Melinda Katz. Additional support came from the New York City Council and the Mayor's Office. The Department of Cultural Affairs and the Department of Design and Construction ably led the efforts. In addition to repaving pathways throughout the Garden’s 39 acres, the Project included a new, automated irrigation system and two wells; a stepped ramp providing access from College Point Boulevard to Flushing Meadow Park; and various landscape upgrades such as pruning, fertilizing, regrading, and new topsoil and sod.

The original paths at QBG were installed in preparation for the construction of the 1964/65 New York World’s Fair. In celebration of the Fair’s 50th Anniversary and 10,000,000 pairs of feet that have trod the paths, QBG and its partners are proud to present newly paved pathways to welcome the next wave of visitors to the heart of Queens!

"Queens Botanical Garden is a treasured gem of our borough, enjoyed by residing families and tourists of all ages from around the globe. The capital upgrades to the pathways, irrigation and landscaping will enhance aesthetics and access for the thousands who visit this educational institution. Congratulations to QBG for making the site a premier destination befitting of the World’s Borough." — Melinda Katz, Queens Borough President

"Celebrating New Pathways... And 10 Million Pairs of Feet!"
Harvest Fest & Pumpkin Patch

Harvest Fest was a fun-filled afternoon for the whole family, with live music, games, tours, composting demonstrations, craft and food vendors, bouncy houses, petting zoo, pony rides, and, of course—Pumpkin Patch!

Thank you to our sponsors, Resorts World Casino, Assemblyman David I. Weprin, Amerasia Bank, Flushing Bank, Bliss & Wisdom Foundation of North America, Queens Ledger Newspaper Group, Cathay Bank, and New York Life Insurance Company!

Tree of Hope in the Rockaways

In November, National Grid Foundation and QBG staff, alongside students and teachers from Peninsula Preparatory Academy Charter School, teamed up to plant a Kwanzan cherry tree in Far Rockaway. QBG staff led a lesson on the importance of the urban water cycle, and provided tree care tips to the children and school staff, who will enjoy the blossoming pink flowers for years to come.

Winter Solstice & Tree Lighting

Full of merry cheer, the Garden welcomed over one thousand visitors for our Winter Solstice & Tree Lighting event on December 6! Guests celebrated the holiday season with Santa photos, a garden tour, botanical cafts, and tree lighting! Thanks to the Kupferberg Center for the Arts, guests also enjoyed live musical performances by The Rough Dozen a cappella group, including their fun rendition of “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch.”

QBG ♥ ConEdison!

Thank you to all ConEdison volunteers who came out and planted 1,500 “Mira Mira” tulip bulbs at QBG on Saturday, November 14.

These bulbs—from Holland—pay tribute to Flushing’s Dutch history and will bloom pink and yellow in the spring!
Art in the Garden • PORTRAITS OF TALL FRIENDS
February 16 through May 1 • Visitor & Administration Building Gallery

The *Portraits of Tall Friends* exhibit is a valentine in sculpture and photography, inspired by the amazing, abstract beauty of trees that live among us. It celebrates TreeSpeakArtist Frank Buddingh’ and photographer Carol Reid’s life-long bond with trees, and invites you to experience these great friends of mankind as remarkable works of art.

### Meet the Artists

**Arbor Fest**
*Sunday, April 24, 2016 • Free with Garden admission • Time TBD*  
Celebrate Earth Week at QBG’s annual Arbor Fest, and go on a stroll through the Garden with TreeSpeakArtist and arborist Frank Buddingh’. Learn how trees, though voiceless, can express themselves to the world. You will never look at a tree the same way again!

**Closing Reception**
*Sunday, May 1, 2016 • Free with Garden admission • V&A Building Gallery Time TBD*  
Meet Frank Buddingh’ and Carol Reid, and take one last look at *Portraits of Tall Friends.*

*Please check queensbotanical.org for program times.*
Announcements
NEW ADVISORY COUNCIL, BOARD, AND STAFF MEMBERS


NADINE CINO
Newly-Elected Trustee

Nadine Cino is CEO and Co-Inventor of TygaBox Systems, a company that rents reusable plastic moving boxes as an ecological alternative to corrugated. Nadine is also a LEED® Accredited Professional.

The company was the Citi Global Sustainability Vendor of Year in 2010. A native New Yorker, Ms. Cino loved being a Girl Scout as a child, when she enjoyed camping and learning about Native American culture and its respect for the environment, which shaped her future as a leader in sustainability.

EDITH MEYER
Newly-Elected Trustee

Edith “Edie” Meyer is a Business Development and Marketing professional with more than 20 years’ experience working with publication organizations as diverse as Condé Nast and Art World Magazine. She is currently working for the global fine arts magazine and website Art Asia Pacific (London/NYC). Along with her professional work, Edie serves on the board of the Waterfront Center in Oyster Bay, has done fundraising for schools in Peru and Nigeria, and run in two NYC Marathons. She is the great-granddaughter of QBG’s first president, Charles G. Meyer, Sr. Her father, George Meyer, and brother, Willets Meyer, have both served on the QBG board.

FORCES FOR NATURE,
SAUL KUPFERBERG & WALTER SANCHEZ!

After twelve years of combined service on our board, these two gents will remain in the QBG family as Advisory Council members! Thank you, Saul, our diligent treasurer, and Walter, our savvy media expert. Your invaluable expertise and priceless friendship will always be appreciated!

MELISSA MARCUS
HR and Office Manager

Melissa joined the QBG family in October. With more than fifteen years of human resources and administrative experience in both for-profit and not-for-profit sectors, she has already become an integral part of QBG’s growth. Welcome, Melissa!
How long have you volunteered at QBG? What inspired you to volunteer here?
I have been a volunteer at QBG since 2007. At that time I was volunteering and working as a gardener once a week at Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay. I wanted to work another day per week and was looking for something closer to home. Since I love parks and gardens, I thought of QBG and applied. I have been happy to help out at QBG ever since.

What is a day like for you as a QBG volunteer?
I always enjoy my volunteer day at the Garden. First, there is the walk through the Garden in the morning and a longer one after work. Then there is such a friendly, welcoming atmosphere in the office. The work is varied; there are letters to write, excel lists to prepare, data to be input, and special projects, such as scanning old documents so that they are preserved on the computer.

What is your favorite flower in the Garden?
It’s hard to say, but it would have to be the rose. There are so many varieties, many of which are very beautiful and mysterious. Some varieties bloom all summer long and way into the fall: those with a scent smell delicious; some are regal and delicate; others are modest but courageous in the face of wind, rain, and cold.

Which area of the Garden is your favorite spot?
I like to sit on the benches on the terrace. I look for shade when it is hot, and find a sunny spot in cooler weather. I can see ducks in the water, squirrels at my feet, and visitors strolling all around.

What part of QBG’s tagline, “where people, plants, and cultures meet,” strikes a chord in your heart?
Before I volunteered at QBG I had no idea how much this Garden means for the borough of Queens, and I wish more people would appreciate its valuable presence. The Garden provides the community with open space, flowers and trees, fresh farm produce. It teaches children and adults about nature, gardening, composting, trains young adults for green jobs, and connects visitors with artists and their work. The list can go on, and yes, I am very impressed with the dedication and creativity of management and staff who tirelessly work at being of service to the people in Queens and beyond.
ABOUT QBG
Queens Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and the NYC Council, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The Queens Borough President and Queens elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding. Corporations, foundations and individuals provide additional support.

VISITOR INFORMATION
HOURS
April thru October: Tuesday thru Sunday, 8am to 6pm
November thru March: Tuesday thru Sunday, 8am to 4:30pm
Closed Mondays year-round, except legal holidays
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day

ADMISSION
Adults $4, Seniors $3, Students w/ID & Children (ages 3 and up) $2. Free for Members. Free on Wednesdays from 3 to 6 pm and Sundays from 4 to 6 pm. Free November through March.

GETTING HERE
Located in the heart of Queens, QBG is easily accessible by car, train (#7 subway line, LIRR), or bus (Q20, Q44). For more travel directions, call or visit us online.

PARKING
The Parking Garden entrance is on Crommelin Street at Blossom Avenue. Fees apply. Hours vary seasonally.

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We extend our gratitude to the following elected officials and government bodies:
New York City Council
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
New York City Department of Sanitation
New York State Assembly
New York State Senate
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
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