

Dear Friend of the Arnold Arboretum,

December 2022

When you experience something beautiful, it changes you.

At the Arnold Arboretum we believe that when you experience the beauty of our trees, it can instill a deeper respect for nature, for the planet, and ultimately for each other. This simple philosophy guides all we do at the Arnold Arboretum in stewarding and sharing this remarkable museum of trees.

The Arnold Arboretum is a classroom of trees. Yes, public school children in Boston come to the Arboretum to learn about science. But trees at the Arboretum also teach us **about the interconnectedness of living organisms, the healing power of nature, and fundamentally the essential role of public parks in our civic democracy.**

Perhaps engaging with this vibrant community of people and plants is one of the reasons you have supported the Arnold Arboretum in the past. Walking through the Arboretum landscape in any season makes an imprint on your soul. Learning about the majestic and ancient Dawn Redwood elevates your understanding of your place in the universe. Exploring the research we conduct in our landscape and labs connects you to solutions as we discover new ways to combat climate change and extinction.

But did you know that the Arnold Arboretum is also revolutionary? Soon after its founding 150 years ago, the Arboretum transformed from a science museum of Harvard College to a free public park open to everyone regardless of income or education. Ours was **the nation's first public arboretum, and the first cultural institution in Boston to be free and open to the public. This open access remains our most important legacy.**

Our beautiful and free classroom of trees relies on your support. Nearly 20% of our operating budget in 2022 derived from current philanthropic support. Like public radio and television, the Arboretum is free to all, but financial support comes from a special community of people who care about equal access, knowledge, beauty, and mutual respect. All the lessons that this landscape teaches us every day.

Can we count on you to make a gift to support the Arnold Arboretum and the special way it changes each of us and the world? Your kind support will have great impact as we chart the course for the Arboretum's next century.

Best wishes,



Tanya M. Holton
Director of Institutional Advancement

P.S. We hope you will support the Arboretum's history of open access and our role in teaching the world to respect the beauty of trees and nature.

