



The **ARNOLD**
ARBORETUM
of HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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Dear Friends,

As seasons pass across our 281 acres, they remind us that enduring growth is the product of vision, patience, and care. It is in that spirit that I am pleased to share that the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University continued to thrive in 2026, ending the fiscal year in strong financial health with our aspirations set firmly on the future. This position of strength reflects the dedication of our staff, the careful stewardship of our resources, and above all the generosity of supporters like you. Your partnership sustains not only a world-renowned landscape and living collection, but also a vital center of scientific discovery, conservation, and public engagement. Together, we are investing in projects whose impact will be measured not merely in years, but in generations.

Among the most visible signs of that future is the largest redesign of our landscape since the era of Charles Sprague Sargent and Frederick Law Olmsted. With donor support, we continue to **transform key entrances into gateways that are more beautiful, welcoming, and accessible to all**. This past year, we celebrated a renewed Poplar Gate, opened a new entrance at Arboretum Road in partnership with the City of Boston, and reopened the Washington Street Gate entrance with support from the City, the Commonwealth, and Arboretum donors. Together, these projects improve access, strengthen neighborhood connections, and enhance the experience of our visitors.

Our work is not finished. We continue to raise support for **the restoration of the Walter Street Gate entrance**, which will become a signature gateway for neighboring health institutions to the Arboretum. Arboretum collections will extend to the edge of the road to welcome visitors, including Korean ginkgoes that are evocative of the Arboretum's longstanding botanical ties to East Asia. A renewed Walter Street Gate will help patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and community members access **the proven physical, mental, and emotional benefits of time spent in the Arboretum landscape**.

Donor generosity has also been critical in strengthening the Arboretum's resilience in the face of global change. This year, we launched the third phase of **installing emergency irrigation infrastructure throughout the landscape to protect our plant collections from catastrophic drought**. The urgency of this work was underscored by one of the driest Augusts on record. These investments are vital to protect one of the world's premier collections of temperate woody plants and ensure its scientific, horticultural, and educational value long into the future.

Our living collections continue to grow in number and quality through the Arboretum's decade-long Campaign for the Living Collections. This year brought us closer to completing

that ambitious initiative. Particularly significant was an expedition to Bosnia and Herzegovina to collect the rare Serbian spruce, one of Europe's most threatened conifers. The timing proved especially fortuitous, as wildfires this summer ravaged much of the species' remaining habitat. Efforts such as these demonstrate **the Arboretum's role as both a living museum and a global conservation resource.**

Our international partnerships continue to expand in meaningful ways. We signed new biodiversity exploration and preservation agreements with the Republic of South Korea, strengthening collaboration in research, conservation, and collections development. Last December, I had the honor of addressing the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea at the opening of an exhibition featuring early twentieth century botanical and cultural images of Korea from the Arboretum archives. We are delighted that this exhibition opens at the Arboretum this October, highlighting **the conservation, research, and stewardship that unite our nations as partners in protecting global biodiversity.**

Scientific study, scholarship, and student mentoring remain at the heart of our research mission. This past year we established a new endowed fund supporting *Arnoldia* in honor of Hu Xiansu, the Arboretum-trained botanist regarded as the father of modern botany in China. We also launched a series of donor-funded research awards for postgraduate scientists. At a time when higher education and scientific inquiry face increasing pressures, these **research awards offer critical support for emerging researchers and help cultivate the next generation of scientific leaders.**

These are just a few highlights in a remarkable year—only possible because of you. Your thoughtful support helps ensure that the Arnold Arboretum remains a place where people and plants thrive together. See the attached financial statement to learn more about our financial picture and visit arboretum.harvard.edu/partners2026 to view our list of FY26 leadership donors.

Thank you for your partnership and belief in our mission. As we look ahead, I am confident that **together we will continue to deepen the Arboretum's impact as a place where plants, people, and ideas flourish, and where the seeds of tomorrow's discoveries are already taking root.**

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ned Friedman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

William (Ned) Friedman
Director of the Arnold Arboretum
Arnold Professor of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, Harvard University

P.S. We invite you to learn more about the impact of your support by viewing a brief video at arboretum.harvard.edu/reflections, which highlights the many ways our mission comes to life throughout the year.