

## **SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM**

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### **MINUTES**

A regular meeting of the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees was held on November 18, 2009, in the Planetarium Lobby, Centerport, New York.

#### **The following were in attendance:**

Noel Gish – President  
Matthew Swinson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Ronald A. Beattie – Treasurer  
Gretchen Oldrin Mones – Secretary  
Donald B. McKay – Trustee  
Dr. William Rogers – Trustee  
Carol Ghiorso-Hart – Executive Director  
John Pokorny – Staff  
Peter Newman – Staff  
Lance Reinheimer – Budget Review Office  
Barbara LoMoriello – Deputy Clerk, Legislature  
Ann Marie Pastore – Stenographer

#### **Excused Absence:**

Michael B. DeLuise – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

#### **Absent:**

Sarah Anker – Trustee  
Dr. Steve Gittelman – Trustee  
Dr. Anthony Pecorale – Trustee  
Thomas D. Glascock – Trustee  
Lynn Dwyer – Trustee  
Dan Olivieri – Trustee  
Arthur M. Sillman – Trustee

**(Mr. Noel Gish called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.)**

**MR. GISH:**

We will begin the Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum Board of Trustees meeting. We do not have a quorum at the moment, so for now this will just be an informational meeting. If I could ask you to rise for a Pledge to the Flag.

(Pledge to the Flag)

Thank you. Do we have a list of guests in the audience?

**MS. PASTORE:**

Yes.

**MR. GISH:**

Are there any comments or concerns from the Oversight Committee?

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

No, not at this time.

**MR. GISH:**

I would like to -- on the record, the Board of Trustees would like to publicly express our sympathy to Legislator Ed Romaine on the death of his son, which was obviously untimely and quite tragic. No one likes to see that.

Is there anyone in attendance who wants to address the Board? Was there someone there before? All right. We will hold off on the minutes because we're not going to be able to approve them anyway until the end. Committee Reports, Gretchen.

**MS. OLDRIN MONES:**

The Education and Exhibit Committee met yesterday and among other things discussed was how very busy the schedule is for December. The Vanderbilt looks wonderful year round, but it takes on a magical glow for the holiday season, thanks to the efforts of the garden clubs who have really outdone themselves this year. Dix Hill, Three Village, Honey Hills, Nathan Hale, Centerport, an independent group, and the Vanderbilt Volunteer Gardeners have done an outstanding job preparing the mansion and the grounds for a festive holiday season.

These volunteers, as well as the many others who are essential to the success of the Vanderbilt, will be honored with a party on December 6 at 6 p.m. and treated to a tour of the magnificently decorated mansion.

The Volunteer Recognition Celebration will take place right after the annual tree lighting ceremony, which occurs at 5 p.m. We will have an educator here on site to do a craft with the children. Of course, you can get an earlier look at the decorated mansion by attending one of the holiday dinners offered at 6 and 8 p.m. the day before December 5.

Adding to the holiday festivities will be a special "Our Night Out –Story Time Under the Stars" Program on November 22 and December 20. Last month's Halloween themed "Our Night Out" was very successful. November's theme will feature Hootenanny type music, and December's holiday theme will include children jingling bells and blowing train whistles, as Santa traverses the planetarium sky. Throughout all the fun, Lorraine teaches about the sky as she reads. This interactive quality of the "Our Night Out" program is what makes it so unique and popular, as well as educational.

On Saturday, December 19, the planetarium will host the "Bella Gaia" Winter Solstice Concert. Created by award winner director and classically trained violinist Kenji Williams, and in collaboration with NASA, Bell Gaia, which means "Beautiful Earth," features performances by Williams and world music artists against a large-screen backdrop of orbiting visualizations of Earth from Space. This merging of science, song and story is popular entertainment on Long Island.

On December 26 and 27 candle-light tours will take place from 6 to 8 in the evening. Those interested can come earlier to attend a 5 p.m. showing of the "Star of Wonder" in the planetarium. Later a Holiday Laser Show will be showing and, naturally, hot chocolate will be available.

Stephanie has been in touch with Professor Tanacredi from Dowling. She's asked for the loan of marine invertebrate specialists, who would be a huge help as we look forward to reaccreditation.

Carol and Stephanie continue to build a relationship with the Long Island Gold Coast Alliance. This could be a helpful connection for the

future as cooperation grows and extends between us and other Gold Coast attractions.

Stephanie was invited to attend Smithtown's Superintendent Day Conference on November 3. She held a session providing information regarding grant writing.

At lunch she was seated with all the district elementary school principals who were very positive about the education brochure and remarked enthusiastically about Beth's newest program entitled "Netherlands to New York." One principal revealed to Stephanie that, because of budget constraints, their students will not be able to attend all the programs that they have in the past.

However, happily, overall bookings continue to be good with almost every day of December booked for educational programs.

That's it for the Education and Exhibits Report. All of what I said is in this brochure. I don't know if everybody has it, but it's a nicely decorated brochure of the upcoming events.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

This is a draft brochure hot off the presses. The color ink ran out. We're just going to be proofing this, but I wanted you to all have in one precise package most of the events that will be coming up in the next month or so.

We have a lot of events going on in December. *Newsday* in September had actually requested some photographs of our holiday dinner. We're really excited about that. They're going to be having a special feature on that. I'm not sure which of the *Newsday* publications they're going to end up in, but that will be coming out. We have also done some paid advertisement in some of *Newsday's* "Luxury Living" in some of the North Shore areas. So anyway, we are open for the holidays and we have a lot going on

**MR. GISH:**

Building and Grounds, Ron.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

Buildings and Grounds, there's not much to report, other than - Buildings and Grounds isn't necessarily the catering thing, right?

**MR. GISH:**

You can include that.

**(Mr. Matthew Swinson entered the meeting at 6:30 p.m.)**

**MR. BEATTIE:**

Maybe I could start with that. As it relates to the catering, we did have two tours. One tour was with Michael from Lessings. We have yet to hear back from him to see if they want to reconsider and propose for the catering, but the tour went well. We also did a tour with Gary Melius of Oheka Castle, and Frank McKay and another partner or friend of his, Bob Kilnick, to talk about some potential partnering, which I think went well.

During that – every time we started talking about the seaplane hangar, when we get down there, we’re always trying to figure out what the real size of it is. I took some quick dimensions and threw it into CAD. As it turns out, the building’s useable square footage is 5,016. The height and in the hangar portion is 35 feet high, and in the back portion it’s 28.9 feet high. The hangar opening itself is 95.2 feet that has a potential square footage of glass of 3,040.

We still have to build on this, but it’s a start. We are trying to get people interested in what they might be able to do with that building. I figured we needed the statistics there. Like I said, it was a start.

I am told that the tent is down and packed away. That’s it.

**MR. GISH:**

Just as an aside to that, Ron will be stepping down as head of Building and Grounds because he is actually completely undone with Finance and Office of Treasurer. Don McKay has now taken that position. Ron and I will still remain on the committee for Buildings and Grounds. If anyone else would like to be on that committee, you’re more than welcome.

I thank Don for taking that over. Don, can you report briefly on some of the activities with another volunteer group that came in after Canon.

**MR. MCKAY:**

We had the Canon folks come in and do a great job. We had a group – I think it was a Methodist Church down the road here, headed out on Little Neck. They sent over about 25 people. Again these people

really amazed me. They were great. They were great to work with. They did a lot of weed work, which is endless. Also the garden going down toward the boathouse – actually, it wasn't really a garden. The Canon folks kind of chopped down some brush and the folks kind of edged it out and planted – I don't know how many bulbs – probably a couple hundred.

**MR. GISH:**

Five hundred.

**MR. MCKAY:**

Yes, 500. So in addition to what Canon did going out on the road there, it should look really nice. If we can get more volunteer groups out there, that would be great. We can formulate a list and just chip away at it.

**MR. GISH:**

That was one of our attempts to try to include whether it's Boy Scouts or Eagle Scout projects, we're going to try to get things done. The Girl Scout Gold award – they are always looking for community service. There are a number of high schools on the Island that I'm trying to research now that actually require community service for graduation. If we can reach out to them and let them know if they're available and if they would like to come in, we would be more than willing to help them out with their community service.

Do we want to go to Development now?

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

Obviously, especially given our fiscal crisis, development is an important area of what we do. We have not had staff or people dedicated to development in quite a while. When budget cuts started in 2002/2003, that was when some of the positions were let go.

Over the last year, our Development Committee worked very hard at looking at some of our options for development. One of the ones that we looked at was hiring an outside consulting firm to come in for maybe a year and a half to get up and run – not just to evaluate and assess but actually to do the fundraising. An RFP was put together and went out. We got two responses. Both responses came in significantly higher than what we had budgeted.

Again, in discussion we all felt that given the current climate that it was just too much of a risk for us in the first year. It would be very difficult to even make back the salaries or the fees.

We are reevaluating that. I think what we're looking at now is possibly working with some part-time people to come in and do bits and pieces of special events, membership, and the fundraising that we desperately need help in and hoping that might also free up some of our staff who do have experience and are trained in grant writing, for example, and outreach and major gifts and donations. If we could relieve some of the day-to-day work of some of the key staff with some volunteers and paid members, that will free up some of our curatorial staff and myself to focus a little bit more on the development end of things. That's one thing we are looking at.

We are looking at our budget. We will talk about finance in a minute, but our 2010 budget was based on certain assumptions. Some of those assumptions have changed. We are going to be looking at all these areas again in the next month.

**MR. GISH:**

Initially we had budgeted for about \$6,000 a month toward development. I believe the two bids came in at \$7,500 and \$10,000 a month, which was way over what we estimated. We actually went high with \$6,000. We actually thought we could do it for \$4,000 or \$5,000, but we went with \$6,000.

In our brief discussions, it would mean laying off some staff to bring on a development person at this stage of the game. With the Hotel/Motel Tax, maybe not coming in at \$750,000 and maybe there will be no distribution from the endowment. With those things in mind, that element of putting on a development person might be ill advised at this stage of the game. We're still looking at it, but that initial outlay of \$120,000 on the top end would be very difficult at this time this year.

Finance Committee.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

I think everybody has a copy of the Treasurer's Report. I don't have anything to add to it. If anybody has any questions, please let me know.

**MR. GISH:**

Carol.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

We did submit our Nine Ninety on time on November 15. All our Trustees were emailed copies, so please let me know if anyone did not receive a copy. This is a new requirement, this Nine Ninety. They changed the form a little bit. The bottom line, the numbers look very, very good. Our fund balance has been improved significantly -- a negative \$309,000 in the prior year to negative \$82,000 this year. That's a big step for us.

For the year, the revenue less expenses -- for example, 2007 was negative \$57,000, and then in 2008 it's a positive of \$116,000. Again, looking back at the last five years or so, this is a positive step. The changes that were made in 2008 certainly were effective, and we will see what 2009 brings.

The audit -- again, the financials of the audit have been completed. These numbers are based on that. I have a draft of the finances, so hopefully the Audit Committee will meet shortly, review the draft of the audit and have a recommendation ready for the Trustees so that the audit can be voted on at the next meeting.

**MR. GISH:**

And Ron cannot be on that Audit Committee, so I will need a couple of people who would be willing to serve on that Audit Committee. The Treasurer cannot take a peak at that to revise the 2010 budget.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

Neither can you, I believe.

**MR. GISH:**

That's correct, neither can I. I can still put together the committee and drive you there, if that's necessary. But I would like to be able to have that done by the December meeting.

We have two things that we really have to complete in December. One is there has to be review by the Audit Committee. The second thing is we need a Nominating Committee to select the officers to be elected in December. That should take place. I will try to make a couple of calls to members of the Board to see if I can get a Nominating Committee together so that a slate can be put together for the December meeting. It is essential that we have a quorum for the

December meeting to vote in the officers for the new year. That is absolutely essential.

Anything else with Finance?

**MR. BEATTIE:**

No.

**MR. GISH:**

Good. I will just give you a quick run-down from my point of view regarding the cell tower issue. We did have a meeting with Terry Pearsall, Lance Reinheimer, Carol and myself at the Legislative Building this week. The cell tower was one of the things that we discussed. The cell tower RFP will go out by the end of the year. I have this week met with Site Technology, which is an independent building firm out of West Islip. I was trying to see what they might provide that a major carrier like Verizon or AT&T would not.

I originally spoke to Margaret O'Keefe who is the Clerk from Head of the Harbor – a 25 foot cell tower in Head of the Harbor, which is in a historic district. That interests me because a cell tower was put up in a historic district, and it was done so by the municipality. I figure any insight they might be able to give me on putting up a cell tower at the Vanderbilt, a national historic site, might expedite this a little bit. It might run a little bit quicker. But regardless of where we are at the end of December, an RFP will go out for the cell tower for the Vanderbilt. That's where we are with the cell tower, and that is an ongoing process.

We do have that Bella Gaia Night that's coming out. I will tell you that we could really use a sponsor for that evening. If anybody knows of anyone that would like to come up with \$1,500 for that sponsor, we have a number of ways, which we're trying to work that program in through gate receipts, but it would be really fine if we could do that very, very quickly. If anybody knows a bank, law firm, or a sponsor that would like to do something during the holiday season, that would be just spectacular.

We're trying to do these things that are sort of upbeat and positive. If you remember, Science and Song and a few of the other things we've done – but it does require some money upfront. We did not get a sponsor for the Veterans Appreciation Sunday, which was the attempt to bring in the helicopter from Cutchogue. That was not possible but

maybe next year. The attempts at the end of the year might be tough. But if anybody knows a sponsor, that would be great.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

If I could just jump in and say one thing. Dave Bush, our Planetarium Tech Producer, was able to get a sponsorship for the refreshments from Martha Clara Vineyards. We are thankful to Martha Clara. That will be a very special evening, not only the presentation in the dome and the live music, but the telescope observation session, weather permitting, following that as well as some refreshments, that will be part of the ticket.

**MR. GISH:**

Executive Director's Report.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

Again, following the revisions and rethinking in the Finance Committee and the Board as a whole, 2010 is looking to shape up a little differently than we had hoped in June 2009, which is when the original 2010 budget was put together. The assumption that we would have the Goto projector up and running by the end of October is being revised.

The state of the projector project is that it still has not gone out for RFP. It is hoped that that's going to come soon. But we are behind, so right now I would not assume that we have the projector up and running in 2010. The 2010 budget also was out together with the assumption that we would have the development professionals in place by then.

Those are two of our assumptions we assumed that we were getting \$750,000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax and \$250,000 from the interest from our endowment. We were told that that's probably more accurate to assume \$692,000 or is it \$695,000 from the Hotel/Motel Tax. Really, the wise thing might be to not assume any money from the endowment.

These are some very hard decisions we're going to have to make in recommendations that Finance will have to make to the Board. Those are some of the things we're going to be looking at.

The other thing is that clearly our economy, the whole context that we find ourselves in of philanthropic giving and donations and visitations, weddings and group tours is not as positive as we would like. I think

we should be more conservative in our projections for next year. All these things together, we're really going to have to take a good, hard look at our 2010 budget and revise it to try to be as accurate and conservative as we can.

In addition, we should look at our business plan. Again, the business plan was put together over the first six months of the year. It's time to look at that again. We might well have revisions to make on that. We studied at length catering. We looked at some other initiatives with the gift shop and other things that we learned more about. There is a lot of budgetary work that will be coming together in the next few months.

We talked about having an outside vendor coming in to use our curator's cottage as an arts and crafts center. We have moved forward with that. Janna Folger has been working very, very diligently in painting and cleaning and doing what she needs to do to get the curator's studio in shape. It is the former hall and studio of the curator – Mr. Vanderbilt's curator.

It's somewhat appropriate that it be used as an art studio as Belanski was an artist, as well. We hope to have little exhibits about Belanski and his art, but then have an opportunity to open that up to the community artists, so there is a place that art can be sold. We will get a percentage of that. This will also be a place where classes can be taught to adults, which is an area that we wanted to expand. We do wonderful programs for young children and school-aged children. We'd like to do a little bit more for the adults in our community.

We're looking forward to that partnership with Janna. I think that's going to be nice. It's nice to see some life coming in that area. That building has been closed for the past year.

Capital projects, we have three capital projects that have been submitted. Hopefully they'll be laid on the table in the next session and be voted on by the end of the year. Those capital projects are continuing ongoing projects.

One is the improvements to Normandy Manor. Capital Project, 7430, we're going to be requesting \$450,000 of construction money.

The second one is Capital Project 7441, restoration of the facades. We're requesting \$500,000 in construction money.

And the third Capital Project, 7433, restoration of the driveways, gutters, and it includes the bridge. We are looking for \$100,000 in planning money to study the bridge.

We're in the Capital Budget, so we're just requesting these appropriations.

We have been following through on our initiative to get more volunteers from all different areas in addition to Canon and some of the areas of non-profits, like local churches. We have also been working with the Red Cross. We have some very wonderful volunteers that are working with us and will be working with us for the next year. They have become valuable members of our team.

I also met with the Suffolk County Department of Labor. They have several different kinds of programs that I think are appropriate for us that will, again, bring in help in all different areas, not only our grounds and custodial but office work, as well. We are pushing forward with those kinds of initiatives, as well.

I just want to thank, again, Don and everyone, Noel, Gretchen, for all their volunteering. We tend to forget that our Board of Trustees are volunteers, as well. We thank all our volunteers.

One final note, our audio tours are moving along. We do expect within the next month, hopefully before Christmas, that the equipment will be in hand, and we will be able to start those tours.

Thanks, again, to Bill Rogers for that donation, which has been completed. We are getting much closer to getting that live Living History feel to our audio tour.

**MR. GISH:**

We were going through the emails today from Jared, who initially was the contact there. We're just trying to move up the – I think initially they wanted to use the spring for a training session. I would like to get the training session done in the winter, so that we could get all the little glitches out of the audio tour so that we're really ready, able and willing to go in the summer when we really need it. I don't want to wait until the summer. I'm trying to get them to start that training session as quickly as possible. As soon as the material arrives, we'll start working on that very, very quickly, but that is well underway.

Those of you who may have come by a little obscene Volkswagen that was sitting outside the doors tonight, that's an electric car. That is on permanent loan to us from the Smithtown Historical Society. Also, we have a gas golf cart that was loaned to us. Our lovely staff -- Peter, is diligently working to get those two little buggers going. The electrical car is actually working today, so that's a real plus. We hope to have them operating throughout the institution as the season wears on. We are doing a little better than we were last week with electric cars and gas golf carts.

Do we have any old business?

**MR. BEATTIE:**

I just want to point out that there are a lot of things that you can call Peter, but lovely isn't one of them.

**MR. GISH:**

Any new business? Barbara?

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

I just would like to bring something up. I don't know if you have visited this or not, but every month the Huntington Chamber of Commerce has a networking night. It's excellent in trying to find people for corporate sponsors and to mingle. Have you gone to that yet?

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

We actually just joined officially. I have been to one event so far.

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

I think the next one is December 6.

**MR. GISH:**

Yes. We did join Huntington Chamber. I am also a member of the Melville Chamber of Commerce. I went to a meeting there yesterday.

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

The networking should bring in a lot of people from the Huntington area. In the past I used to attend these meetings.

**MR. GISH:**

We made the commitment to do that just recently.

**MR. SWINSON:**

That's a Sunday, December 6.

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

Maybe it's not the December 6.

**MR. GISH:**

It's usually a Thursday night.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

Maybe it's the tenth.

**MR. MCKAY:**

I can get you the date. I could make that call for you.

**MS. LOMORIELLO:**

I could forward you the email that I got.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

Yes, I got the email already. I think we discussed this – actually, I met with the Director of the Huntington Arts Council, who was very helpful. One of the challenges for the Vanderbilt Museum has been that we're out on the end of this neck, and we've really never been part of the local community in the way that other historical societies are in the mix all the time. It's been difficult because of the time pressure here for staff to get out. But we have made the commitment and decided it's just something we have to do. I have to get out. Stephanie, Director of Curatorial Affairs, is going to try to get out there more. I'm going to rope Peter into getting out there, so we can all get out there to the community because you're right. Huntington is a very vital community.

**MR. MCKAY:**

It's not just the staff, but that really should be the job of the Trustees. The staff here has enough on their plate. I'll do whatever I can possibly do.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

The other thing is that Huntington is wonderful. We want to be part of that community, but our community is Suffolk County and all of Long Island, as well. Trustees, especially those who live in other areas, when you do see something that maybe the Vanderbilt should be at or involved with, we can try to get out and use our Trustees as extensions or volunteers, as well, to get out there to our extended

community, which certainly includes all of Suffolk County. As I said, our reach is far into Nassau County and Queens, as well as Suffolk County. That's good.

If anyone needs support for Trustees going to these things, we're talking about business cards, for example, we'll try to get you those kinds of things to be helpful, and we can try to do that.

Thank you, Barbara, for pointing that out to us.

**MR. GISH:**

I just wanted to let you know that we did join very recently. Anything else?

I am going to make a shift for the December meeting, which is December 16. We will be doing elections. I am going to switch that time, much to Ann Marie's chagrin, to seven o'clock. I'm going to attempt to see if we have more participation of the Trustees if I move the time of the meeting to seven. I don't know whether that will be productive, but I'm willing to try. We will have elections that evening. We will have a report from the Audit Committee. I would like that to take place, at least with a quorum on December 16, Wednesday. That will be the last meeting for the year 2009. I will send out an email on that.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

There is one more advertisement for our wonderful holiday dinner in the mansion. It's December 5. It's really a wonderful event. We start with appetizers in the first floor of the museum in the invertebrate room. We have wine. We tour the decorated mansion, and then we have a sit-down dinner, either prime rib or seafood and rice in the Northport porch area, and then that's followed with dessert in the Lancaster Room. Northport Caterers will be out caterers. It's a fun evening. We have a six o'clock seating. Currently we have 16 reservations for this. Eight o'clock I think we have eight or ten reservations. We only have a capacity of 36, so if you're thinking of coming, please let us know so you can reserve a seat.

It's also a wonderful opportunity to have more one-on-one time with some of our most valued guests, members and visitors. If any Trustees can make it, it's nice to be able to have some time to talk.

**MR. GISH:**

And talk it up. Maybe you can get another person to come along with you, a friend or a couple.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

It's \$75.

**MR. MCKAY:**

Do you have a flyer or something?

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

It's in here, and it should be on our website by tomorrow or the next day.

**MR. GISH:**

Any other old business? Any new business? This is an informational meeting. Since we do not have a quorum, we will not take a vote on the minutes. We will do that at the next meeting in December. I thank you all for coming.

**DR. ROGERS:**

Before we leave, what is the status of the hangar and the boardwalk? Is there anything being done on that? Has that been tabled indefinitely?

**MR. GISH:**

By the County or the Board of Trustees?

**DR. ROGERS:**

Either one.

**MR. GISH:**

We walked two individuals through that facility. Ron orchestrated that with Mr. Lessing and Gary Melius to see whether in fact there was a potential for that being restored by outside sources with money for possibly a catering facility operating out of there.

There were a lot of heads nodding but not much vocal response. Right now the County – there is no movement by the County to do any restoration on that facility as it stands now. The Board is trying to see if we can get outside funds that might come in. That's what we've attempted to do now.

I will be honest from the County's level, that's not going to happen, at least not in this economic climate. At least that's what I see now. In fact, the capital request did not include the boat house, because we were kind of informed that was not going to take place.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

Just to recap for some people, we do have capital project money that was appropriated for the two projects, the seaplane hangar and the boardwalk. The money was appropriated and it was bonded. It was ready to go to bid. DPW did all their work and was stopped at some level.

**MR. MCKAY:**

If it was bonded, they can't use the money for anything else. Where's the money?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

The money wasn't actually bonded. The authorization to bond was granted. The money is not bonded until the project goes forward. So there was no borrowing for that project.

**MR. MCKAY:**

But was it authorized?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

It's usually authorized when they appropriate the funds. If funds were appropriated a couple of years ago, the \$2 million probably two or three years ago –

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

The boardwalk was more recent. The other ones were like 2002.

**MR. MCKAY:**

Authorized – So the Legislature authorized the bonding –

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

The first step is the Legislature appropriates the funds.

**MR. MCKAY:**

How do you appropriate the funds if –

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

To appropriation means the legal authority to spend the money. The next step is they pass a bonding resolution, which authorizes the

Comptroller to go out and bond when the project progresses. He has the authority to bond. He doesn't go out and bond for the project until DPW says they're ready go forward. No money has been borrowed for the project, but the authorization is there, that if they do go forward, then they can bond.

**MR. MCKAY:**

How can you – I'm confused. How can you go forward with a project if you have no money?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

They –

**MR. MCKAY:**

Right now the County is going to be – as far as the boathouse the Town of Huntington is going to give \$60,000 as a partner; they go out to the bond market. We're going out in the next week, the town, to borrow money once a year. Then the County is going to contribute, I guess, a million and a half dollars or something like that. That work hasn't commenced yet. The work can't commence until you have funds to hire a contractor.

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

The way it works with the County projects, DPW notifies the Comptroller of projects that will be going forward within the next six months. The Comptroller borrows usually twice a year, the spring and the fall, for the projects. If a project goes forward that is not on that list, they borrow from other funds. Then the Comptroller will go out and borrow the money and pay back the funds. So it's cash flow and projected authorization.

**MR. MCKAY:**

So what can we do to –

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Right now my understanding is it's with the County Executive and Public Works. Public Works was told not to go forward.

**MR. MCKAY:**

So Mr. Levy is saying solely that the project can't go through?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

I can't say specifically if that's the case, but I know that the Legislature has passed the resolutions. The money is appropriated.

The Comptroller can go forward, and Public Works isn't going forward with the project.

**MR. MCKAY:**

Does Mr. Levy have the authority to do that?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

He appoints the Commissioner of Public Works.

**MR. MCKAY:**

He can appoint whoever he wants, but does he have the legal authority to hold up funding if the projects have been approved by the Legislature?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

Yes, he has the authority as the Chief Budget Officer. He has the authority to administer the Operating Budget and the Capital Budget. He does have that authority.

**MR. MCKAY:**

And the Legislature – there is no overriding a veto here or something like that?

**MR. REINHEIMER:**

It's not that. The authorizations are there. It's the County Executive, as the Chief Budget Officer, who has the sole authority to say if projects go forward, if money is spent or not spent, even though the Legislature has appropriated the funds and said the project can go forward. The County Executive has, in this case, greater authority to act as the Budget Officer.

**MR. MCKAY:**

Maybe we should invite Levy to our dinner on December 5.

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

Specifically an RFP has been put together by DPW and was already to be put in the paperwork or whatever it needs to go, and it was stopped. There money was not released to do that. It's stopped.

**MR. GISH:**

Is there anything else on the agenda tonight? Any other questions that we can answer?

**MR. MCKAY:**

How about the boathouse?

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

The boathouse, an appropriation in the end of 2008 was passed for money for the boathouse, but it was not voted to be bonded at that time. We have to try to get the vote for the bonding.

**MR. MCKAY:**

The project started, and they stopped in the middle of it?

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

They ran out of money.

**MR. GISH:**

Yes, they ran out of money. The scaffolding was put up there –

**MS. GHIORSI-HART:**

They ran out of money, but we were able to request that money come from some other projects. We did put in a resolution. The resolution did pass, but they at that time did not bond the appropriation. That's a process I haven't gone through before. It's not normal. I shouldn't say normal – it's not routine to pass an appropriation without the accompanying bond. But we're in unusual times. That's another project that I know DPW feels is very important. We're going to work to try to push that along.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

But back -- if you don't mind -- back to the seaplane hangar because I have gone on record numerous time with this Board, and I think we should do it again. When it comes to the seaplane hangar and the potentially structural flaw in the south wall –

**MR. GISH:**

Northeast wall.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

And the boat ramp – somebody is going to get hurt there unless some of that money is used to stabilize that building. We have said it over and over again. We might as well say it again.

**MR. MCKAY:**

Or we leave the building to turn to rubble, which would be a travesty.

**MR. BEATTIE:**

Well, that would be a travesty and also if someone gets hurt on the ramp, because we've all walked on that and have fallen through it.

**MR. GISH:**

DPW has looked at it and said that there is a structural flaw in the front wall. They are aware of that. But there has been no movement to either restore it or stabilize it. They feel the money would be better used in other places. We are on the record of telling them there is a liability issue at that site. I don't think that it would be good if something were to happen. The County is in a difficult situation. We have let them know where we are regarding that.

I would love to have the boathouse fixed. Let's go through the Gish wish list. Let's have the boathouse all fixed up and used and then rented out during the summer for income or, in fact, used by kids in a marine program down by the water. That is one of our few access ways to the water, the boathouse.

Two, to fix up the seaplane hangar. It is an historic building on this property. It was the seaplane hangar for Mr. Vanderbilt. It could, in fact, be used for catering, which would be income generation for this institution. We would eliminate the tent and problems with the neighbors with the sound issue, because it would be contained. It would be on the water. We could include in the boathouse, and I have mentioned it to Bill on numerous occasions, to move the dinosaurs out of the temporary Butler Building and down into the seaplane hangar with a second floor placed in it where it could, in fact, be used not only as an education center but could also be used for catering. We would still keep both functions going. But that's Gish's wish list. That is not going to happen in 2010. That's all on the record, so I'm really cooked.

Any other questions, since this is just an informational meeting? Is there a motion to adjourn?

**MR. SWINSON:**

Motion.

**MS. OLDRIN MONES:**

Second.

**MR. GISH:**

All in favor? Opposed? We stand adjourned. (Vote: 6/0/0/9  
Absent: Mr. DeLuise, Ms. Anker, Ms. Dwyer, Dr. Gittelman, Mr.  
Glascock, Mr. Olivieri, Dr. Pecorale & Mr. Sillman. One vacant  
position.)

(Mr. Gish adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.)

**NG:ap**  
**Attachments**

Suffolk County  
*Vanderbilt*  
Mansion • Planetarium • Museum

Agenda  
Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum  
Board of Trustees  
November 18, 2009

- 1- Introduction of Guests
- 2- Approval of Minutes
- 3- Suffolk County Oversight Committee—comments/concerns
- 4- Committee reports
  - A-Education and Exhibits---Gretchen Oldrin-Mones
  - B- Finance—Ron Beattie
  - C- Development
  - D- Building and Grounds
- 5-Executive Director's Report
- 6-Presidents Report
- 7\_ Old Business
- 8\_ New Business
- 9- Adjourn



# SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM

## Treasurer Report

September 2009

	Actual September	Budget September	Variance
<b>Revenue</b>			
Admission	\$ 30,209	\$ 35,500	\$ (5,291)
Membership	\$ 2,355	\$ 3,333	\$ (978)
Museum Store	\$ 2,377	\$ 3,500	\$ (1,123)
Special Events	\$ 16,271	\$ 45,000	\$ (28,729)
Suffolk County Funds	\$ 63,279	\$ 66,666	\$ (3,387)
Endowment	0	0	0
Site Use	\$ 17,802	\$ 12,000	\$ 5,802
Donations & Gifts	\$ -	\$ 6,666	\$ (6,666)
Other General	\$ 453	0	\$ 453
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 132,746</b>	<b>\$ 172,665</b>	<b>\$ (39,919)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries & Wages	\$ 64,815	\$ 81,666	\$ (16,851)
Benefits	\$ 21,848	\$ 25,000	\$ (3,152)
Maintenance & Equipment	\$ 8,885	\$ 9,166	\$ (281)
Insurance	\$ 7,100	\$ 6,250	\$ 850
Professional	\$ 26,658	\$ 21,666	\$ 4,992
Museum Store	\$ 889	\$ 1,100	\$ (211)
Telephone	\$ 2,426	\$ 2,333	\$ 93
Utilities	\$ 17,065	\$ 19,000	\$ (1,935)
Supplies, Programs, Gala	\$ 14,225	\$ 23,000	\$ (8,775)
General Expenses	\$ 8,448	\$ 5,000	\$ 3,448
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 172,359</b>	<b>\$ 194,181</b>	<b>\$ (21,822)</b>
<b>Excess / Deficiency</b>	<b>\$ (39,613)</b>	<b>\$ (21,516)</b>	<b>\$ (18,097)</b>

**SUFFOLK COUNTY VANDERBILT MUSEUM  
TREASURER REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 2009**

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Project	Business	Dollar	
	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Year End	Plan	Variance					
<b>REVENUE</b>																				
<b>EARNED INCOME</b>																				
Admissions	37,753	59,540	48,355	66,987	55,282	41,264	65,937	68,648	30,209	49,500	55,500	34,500	613,475	700,000	(86,525)					
Membership	2,180	4,892	668	1,375	375	885	3,265	2,405	2,355	3,333	3,333	3,337	28,403	40,000	(11,597)					
Museum Store	1,646	5,528	4,738	4,344	8,509	3,393	3,954	4,398	2,377	2,800	4,000	3,000	48,687	70,000	(21,313)					
Special Events	356	19,087	2,073	2,309	2,221	1,589	13,540	14,019	16,271	5,000	8,000	14,000	98,465	120,000	(21,535)					
Suffolk County Funds	0	0	10,000	79,835	76,470	68,980	81,279	70,821	63,279	66,666	66,666	66,674	650,670	800,000	(149,330)					
Endowment	0	45,500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					
Site Use	5,585	6,555	4,652	6,100	31,969	12,229	12,159	11,783	17,802	6,000	8,000	17,500	140,334	100,500	39,834					
Donations & Gifts	7,384	10,147	15	2	1,365	250	0	0	0	6,666	6,666	6,674	39,169	80,000	(40,831)					
Other General	45	233	341	149	233	152	15	79	453				1,700		1,700					
<b>Total Earned Income</b>	<b>54,949</b>	<b>151,482</b>	<b>70,842</b>	<b>161,101</b>	<b>176,424</b>	<b>128,742</b>	<b>180,149</b>	<b>172,153</b>	<b>132,746</b>	<b>139,965</b>	<b>152,165</b>	<b>145,685</b>	<b>1,666,403</b>	<b>1,956,000</b>	<b>(289,597)</b>					
<b>EXPENSES</b>																				
Salaries & Wages	73,493	66,678	64,142	67,475	70,877	68,961	79,257	77,667	64,815	81,666	81,666	81,674	878,371	980,000	(101,629)					
Benefits	23,900	16,576	29,272	18,076	18,868	18,793	23,093	16,437	21,848	25,000	25,000	25,000	261,881	300,000	(38,119)					
Maintenance & Equip.	2,069	3,888	3,678	3,746	2,463	2,542	1,773	2,342	8,885	9,166	9,166	9,174	58,892	110,000	(51,108)					
Insurance	6,800	6,971	8,337	6,919	6,419	6,418	6,500	7,100	7,100	6,250	6,250	6,250	81,314	75,000	6,314					
Professional	17,357	23,084	16,310	24,427	29,426	18,279	16,928	24,818	26,558	21,666	21,666	21,674	262,293	260,000	2,293					
Museum Store	2,725	1,229	3,146	2,493	4,345	1,490	2,485	1,327	889	2,775	2,400	1,400	26,704	35,000	(8,296)					
Telephone Communic.	2,891	2,264	2,276	2,371	2,304	2,255	2,312	2,235	2,426	2,333	2,333	2,337	28,337	28,000	337					
Utilities	17,249	12,624	15,273	13,854	10,435	11,369	15,355	22,182	17,065	19,000	15,000	17,000	186,426	200,000	(13,574)					
Supplies, Prgm., Ball	2,473	7,541	5,149	2,571	8,606	7,200	5,205	9,092	14,225	9,000	8,500	9,000	88,562	110,000	(21,438)					
General Expenses	757	2,130	1,491	9,359	410	4,526	1,340	113	8,448	5,000	5,000	5,000	43,574	60,000	(16,426)					
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>149,714</b>	<b>142,985</b>	<b>149,074</b>	<b>151,291</b>	<b>154,171</b>	<b>141,853</b>	<b>154,248</b>	<b>163,313</b>	<b>172,359</b>	<b>181,856</b>	<b>176,981</b>	<b>178,509</b>	<b>1,916,354</b>	<b>2,158,000</b>	<b>(241,646)</b>					
<b>Excess / Deficiency of Revenue</b>	<b>(94,765)</b>	<b>8,497</b>	<b>(78,232)</b>	<b>9,810</b>	<b>22,253</b>	<b>(13,111)</b>	<b>25,901</b>	<b>8,840</b>	<b>(39,613)</b>	<b>(41,891)</b>	<b>(24,816)</b>	<b>(32,824)</b>	<b>(249,951)</b>	<b>(202,000)</b>	<b>(47,951)</b>					

HOLIDAY

SUFFOLK COUNTY  
**VANDERBILT**  
MANSION • PLANETARIUM • MUSEUM

2009

## EAGLE'S NEST EVENTS

Dec. 19th at 8 PM the Vanderbilt Museum is proud to present a Winter Solstice Celebration featuring Kenji Williams's *Bella Gaia* followed by live telescope viewing of our night sky with refreshments courtesy of Martha Clare Vineyards.

*BELLA GAIA* (Beautiful Earth) is an audio visual "Living Atlas" journey of our world, expressing the deeply moving beauty of planet Earth as seen through the eyes of astronauts.

Collaborating with NASA, *BELLA GAIA* is a new theater experience, created by award winning director and classically



trained violinist Kenji Williams. *BELLA GAIA* features a 45 minute live performance by Kenji with amazing visualizations of Earth from space. (continued on next page)

## HOLIDAY DINNER IN THE MANSION

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 5TH

6 PM AND 8 PM SEATINGS

Reserve your seat for one of the most popular and coveted events at the Vanderbilt Museum—our progressive Holiday Dinner in the Mansion.

The evening begins with appetizers and drinks in the Memorial Wing of the Vanderbilt Mansion. After a brief tour through Mr. Vanderbilt's festively decorated private living quarters, sit down and have a leisurely dinner in the Northport Dining Room Porch. Dessert follows in the Lancaster Room, with a side trip to the Library and Moroccan Court (and Egyptian Mummy).

There will be two seatings this year, with only 36 tickets available per time slot. This has become a Vanderbilt tradition. It is a special opportunity to enjoy an intimate experience with friends and kick-off the winter holidays in Vanderbilt style.

We make every effort to accommodate your party, so get your reservations in soon. Tickets for this event are \$75 for members and for those who reserve by November 20th. After that date tickets will be \$85 per person. To reserve your place and put in your dinner choice (there will be three main course offerings) contact the Vanderbilt Museum at (631) 854-5579.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



# LASER ROCK AND FAMILY SHOWS



A sampling of songs you will hear:

**Beatles Laser Anthology:** I Wanna Hold Your Hand, Help!, Yesterday, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, Strawberry Fields Forever, The End.

**Laser Radiohead:** 2+2=5, You, Karma Police, There There, Packt like Sardines in a Crushed Tin Box, High and Dry, Pyramid Song, Idioteque,

**Laser Led Zeppelin: Lased and Confused:** In the Light, Ramble On, Black Dog, Good Times, Bad Times, Dazed and Confused, Song Remains the Same

**Laser Pink Floyd: The Wall:** In the Flesh, Thin Ice, Mother, Empty Spaces, Young Lust, Hey You, Stop, The Trial, Hey You, Comfortably Numb.

**Holiday Magic Laser Show:** Jingle Bell Rock, Linus and Lucy, White Christmas, Snow Miser, Let it Snow, Russian Dance form Nutcracker, We Three Kings.



Evening Shows: \$10/\$9 student/\$8 child Daytime: Gen. Admission+\$5/4/\$3 Members Free!  
Laser Beatles and Holiday Magic are family friendly. Some shows may contain lyrics parents may find objectionable

## HOLIDAY TIME PLANETARIUM SCHEDULE

### FRIDAY EVENINGS Nov.26-JAN. 1

8:00 p.m. Star of Wonder  
9:00 p.m. Laser Beatles  
10:00 p.m. Laser Led Zeppelin Lased and Confused

### SATURDAYS (Nov.27-JANUARY 2)

11:00 a.m. A Trip to the Planets  
12:00 Noon One Small Step  
1:00 p.m. Journey through the Solar System  
2:00 p.m. Star of Wonder  
3:00 p.m. Holiday Magic Laser Show  
4:00 p.m. One Small Step  
5:00 p.m. Star of Wonder (December 26th only)

### SATURDAY EVENINGS Nov. 27- JAN. 2

(NO EVENING SHOW ON DECEMBER 19- SEE PG. 1)

7:00 p.m. Laser Beatles  
8:00 p.m. Star of Wonder  
9:00 p.m. Laser Radiohead  
10:00 p.m. Laser Pink Floyd: The Wall

### SUNDAYS (Nov. 29-JANUARY 3)

12:00 Noon A Trip to the Planets  
1:00 p.m. Journey through the Solar System  
2:00 p.m. One Small Step  
3:00 p.m. Star of Wonder  
4:00 p.m. Holiday Magic Laser Show  
5:00 p.m. Star of Wonder (December 27th only)

### WEEKDAY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE (Nov.26, DEC.28, DEC.29, DEC.30, DEC. 31)

11:00 a.m. A Trip to the Planets  
12:00 Noon One Small Step  
1:00 p.m. Journey through the Solar System  
2:00 p.m. Star of Wonder  
3:00 p.m. Holiday Magic Laser Show  
4:00 p.m. One Small Step

**THE ARENA PLAYERS  
AT THE VANDERBILT**  
Children's Theatre- *A Visit from St. Nick*  
Saturdays Nov. 27-Dec 26 3 p.m. Admission \$10 (no member discount)

## MUSEUM HOURS AND FEES

Every Tuesday 12-4 Last Mansion Tour 4 PM  
Saturday 11-5 Sunday 12- 5 Last Mansion tour 4 PM  
Open Friday Nov. 26, December Mon. 28, Tue 29, Wed 30, Thu 31  
Candlelight Tours 6PM-8PM on Sat Dec. 26th and Sun. 27th

General Admission: \$7 adult/ \$6 senior & student/\$3 child  
Mansion Tour additional \$5 per person

Daytime Planetarium Show General Admission plus additional \$5 adult/\$4 Student & Senior/\$3 child  
Evening Admission for *One Small Step* \$7adult/\$6/\$3.50 child  
Evening Laser Shows: \$10/\$9 student/\$8 child  
Members: Free admission— tours, laser and planetarium shows.  
Gates shut one hour before closing.

## WINTER SOLSTICE

Multicultural experiences are also part of BELLA GAIA, through earthbound journeys from exotic Japanese temples to Egyptian pyramids. Following the performance of BELLA GAIA, the planetarium observatory will be open for live telescope observations of many winter sky objects, including galaxies, nebulas and clusters. In addition, visitors will be treated to delicious Long Island wines as they take in the sights and sounds of the evening's presentation.

Tickets for the December 19th 8 PM performance, viewing and refreshments are \$25, \$30 at the door and \$20 for members. Reservations are strongly suggested and may be made at [vanderbiltmuseum.org](http://vanderbiltmuseum.org) or by calling 631.854.5579.

## MANSION BY CANDLELIGHT

Saturday December 26th and Sunday December 27th from 6 PM until 8 PM, the Vanderbilt Mansion will be opened for special Candlelight Tours. William K. Vanderbilt II's home

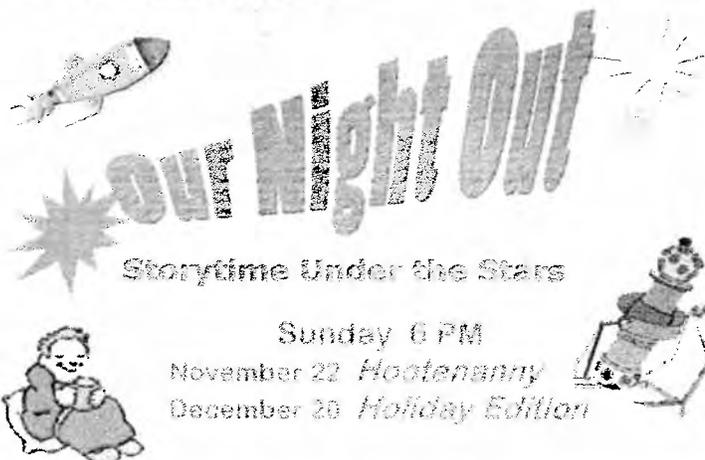


is beautifully decorated for the holidays, and guests will get a shimmering glimpse of a magical time of year at the museum. Evening visitors will enjoy a special hot chocolate and cookie treat. You may have been through the mansion before, but these evenings are truly special. Groups are welcome, and reservations are strongly recommended. Please call 631.854.5579 for more information.

## OUR NIGHT OUT

**OUR NIGHT OUT** is your family's chance to get out and do something fun and exciting together. In this one-hour program huge pictures are projected on the dome under star-filled skies as your favorite bedtime stories are told. Children enjoy these classic tales as they learn something about the objects they might see in the nighttime sky.

All are welcome to wear their most comfy pajamas, bring their favorite stuffed animal, blanket and pillow. Audience participation in the singing, laughing and yelling is expected, so have fun. Please call 631.854.5579 or go to [vanderbiltmuseum.org](http://vanderbiltmuseum.org) for more information. Tickets are \$6 and reservations are strongly suggested.



## NEW YEAR'S EVE LASER ROCKFEST



Welcome the New Year at the Vanderbilt Planetarium at our third annual New Year's Eve RockFest.

The festivities start at 8 PM. with Laser Beatles, and rock on at 9 PM with Aerosmith. Led Zeppelin at 10 PM and Pink Floyd at 11 PM complete the evening's marathon presentation.

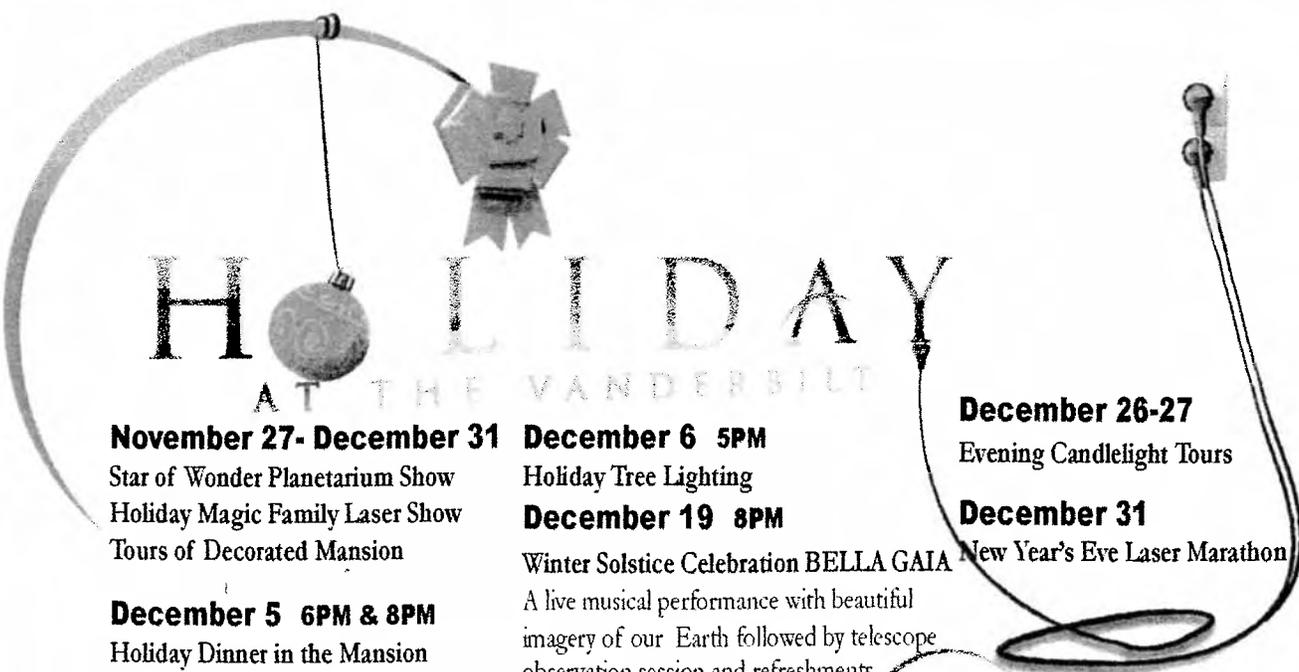
Following the 11:00 show, the countdown will begin as we welcome in the New Year with complementary sparkling cider and cookies.

This is a fun way to begin your year with music and stars. Tickets for this special evening are \$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors, and \$8 for children per show. A marathon pass of \$25 adults and students, \$20 children will get you into as many shows as you like!

Reservations are strongly recommended at 631.854.5579 or check our website at [vanderbiltmuseum.org](http://vanderbiltmuseum.org)

180 Little Neck Road  
P.O. Box 0605  
Centerport NY 11721

SUFFOLK COUNTY  
**VANDERBILT**  
MANSION • PLANETARIUM • MUSEUM



# HOLIDAY

AT THE VANDERBILT

**November 27- December 31**

Star of Wonder Planetarium Show  
Holiday Magic Family Laser Show  
Tours of Decorated Mansion

**December 5 6PM & 8PM**

Holiday Dinner in the Mansion  
Progressive dinner through museum  
and mansion.

**December 6 5PM**

Holiday Tree Lighting

**December 19 8PM**

Winter Solstice Celebration BELLA GAIA

A live musical performance with beautiful  
imagery of our Earth followed by telescope  
observation session and refreshments.

**December 20 6 PM**

Our Night Out Children's Show

**December 26-27**

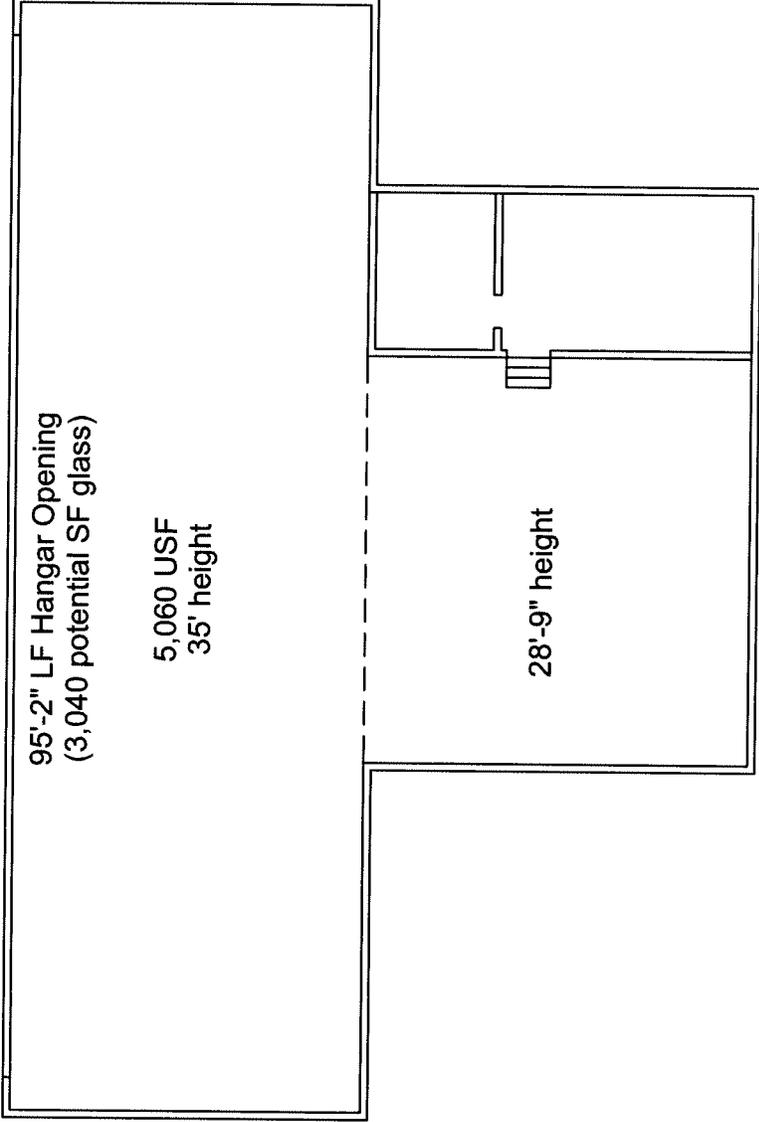
Evening Candlelight Tours

**December 31**

New Year's Eve Laser Marathon

For more info 631.854.5579 or [www.vanderbiltmuseum.org](http://www.vanderbiltmuseum.org)

SUFFOLK COUNTY  
**VANDERBILT**  
MANSION • PLANETARIUM • MUSEUM



Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum / Seaplane Hangar