



SYLVESTER MANOR

2026 Economic Impact Statement



OUR MISSION

Preserve, Cultivate and Share Historic Sylvester Manor

\$2.5M

spent on jobs, programming
and services

73

people employed; 85%
Shelter Island residents

18,000

visitors to programs, the
Farm and grounds

236

acres of farmland and open
space stewarded

How We Serve the Community

-  Acknowledging and interpreting the complete history of Sylvester Manor, with a particular focus on those who built and sustained this place
-  Expanding educational programming for learners of all ages, from the youngest children to adults and eminent scholars
-  Growing food for the whole community on a 60-acre sustainable working farm
-  Offering extensive educational and cultural arts programming
-  Maintaining nearly 5 miles of public walking trails and stewarding 236 acres of farmland and open space for the community
-  Rehabilitating and adaptively reusing historic structures, restoring the landscape and ecosystems, and redeveloping the site for accessibility and community benefit



Budget & Staffing

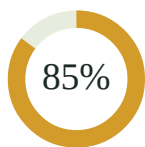
2026 ANNUAL EXPENDITURES

73 people employed

Each square is one Sylvester Manor employee in 2026.



- 11 year-round FT/FTE ■ 38 youth programs staff
- 13 farmstand staff ■ 7 farm apprentices & field crew
- 4 other seasonal / part-time



of employees are **year-round or seasonal Shelter Island residents**. 62 of the 73 positions are seasonal or part-time.

Money that stays local

Farm expenditures, educational and cultural programming, and property maintenance.

\$2.5M

operating budget

\$240K

capital expenditures

Programming spent with East End vendors ≈ \$675K

Shelter Island \$300K

Rest of East End ≈ \$375K

EAST END VENDORS • \$675K

\$300K

Shelter Island businesses

44¢

of every East End vendor dollar stayed on the Island



Education & Outreach

18,000

visitors welcomed to programs, the Farm and grounds

700+

school children hosted through Summer Youth Programs and field trips, including no-cost trips for Shelter Island School

\$7,000+

in scholarships offered for Shelter Island resident children to attend Manor programs

~200

families provided with summer educational programming

SHELTER ISLAND PARTNERS

Shelter Island School

Shelter Island Food Pantry

Perlman Music Program

Shelter Island Library

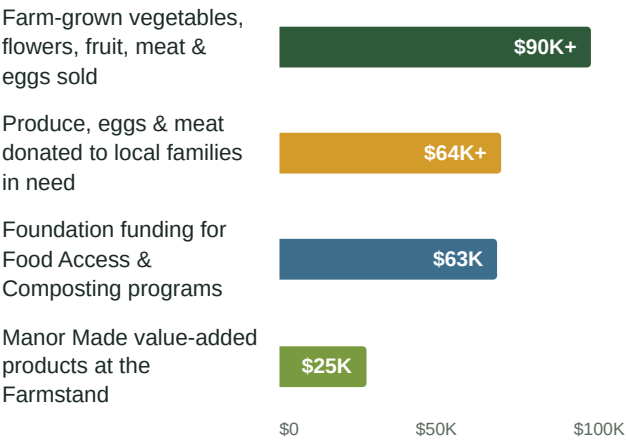
CAST



Farm & Grounds

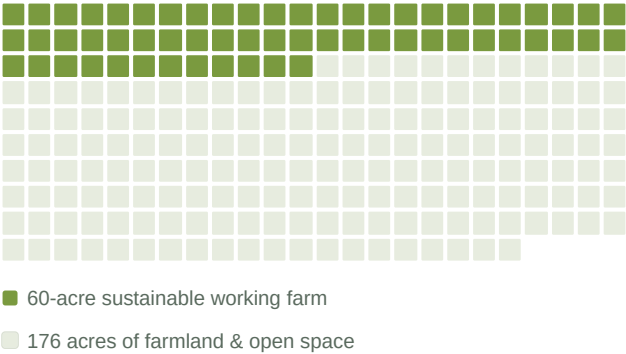
The Farm in dollars

2026 farm revenue, funding and giving.



Land in trust for the community

236 acres stewarded — each square is one acre.



25,000 lb

of food and landscape waste diverted from the Town Recycling Center by our food scrap collection

36

volunteers on the Farm — a record — helping harvest, arrange flower bouquets, weed and more

\$63K

in private foundation funding for Food Access and Soil Health Composting

1,500+

hours logged by Farm volunteers



Cultural Programming

[R]evolution: The 3rd Sculpture @ Sylvester Manor Exhibition

3,900+ visitors

19 local East End artists

11 guided & self-guided tours



Shakespeare at the Manor: *Twelfth Night*
Expanded into a **four-day event**, drawing record crowds from Shelter Island, the North Fork, the South Fork and New York City.



Historic Preservation

- ✓ Expanded preservation to the **Old Farmhouse**, which will become Sylvester Manor's future office and programming space
- ✓ Redesigned the **primary entry**, evoking a 19th-century historic design, to make Sylvester Manor more welcoming and accessible to all
- ✓ Partnered with the **Town Fire Commissioners** to plan fire access routes, protecting historic resources and first responders
- ✓ Continued to inventory and pack our **Manor House collections**



21,000+

digital collection records
created

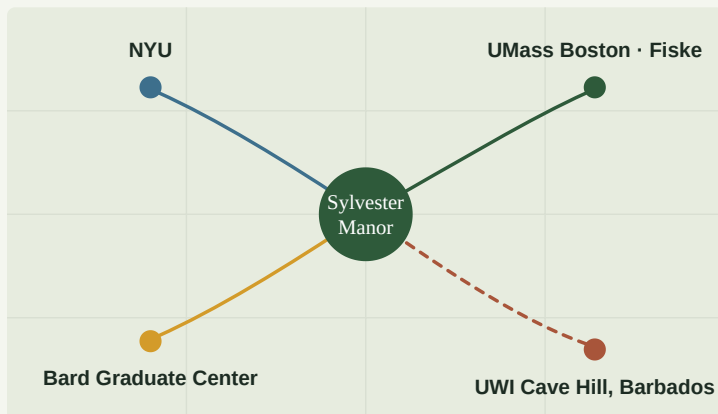


440

volunteer hours assisting our
collection and historic
preservation efforts

History & Heritage

In the third year of the Sylvester Manor Mellon Foundation Higher Learning project, scholars from four universities, from New York City to Barbados, worked in our archives, archaeological sites and collections, uncovering the stories of the people who built and sustained this place.



New York University

The History Department hired **three graduate students and one undergraduate** to make the Sylvester Manor archive at NYU's Special Collections more accessible to scholars and the public.

UMass Boston & the Fiske Center for Archaeological Research

Our **25+ year** partnership continued. **Three graduate students** presented and defended MA theses built on finds and excavation work here, and **six more** continued theses such as "An Analysis of Smoking Pipes from Sylvester Manor Plantation" and "Aspects of Everyday: Descriptions of Enslaved Life using Material Culture at Sylvester Manor."

Bard Graduate Center

Selected **one postgraduate fellow** for a Spring 2027 Fields of the Future fellowship, working with objects from the Sylvester Manor Decorative Arts collection.

University of the West Indies, Cave Hill (Barbados)

Partnered with Sylvester Manor for the first time through its **\$1M Mellon Foundation grant**, "Constant and Carmichael Plantation Research Project," which studies the Sylvester family's plantation properties in Barbados and the historical connection to Shelter Island.

