

Statement of Intent: Van Cortlandt House Museum Community Advisory Committee

New York City
April 2024

To Whom it May Concern,

By means of this statement, the Historic House Trust of New York City (HHT), the National Society of Colonial Dames in the State of New York (NSCDNY), and the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation (NYC Parks) express their intention to form a Van Cortlandt House Museum Community Advisory Committee made up of local residents and industry experts in order to provide guidance and input with respect to community engagement at the Van Cortlandt House Museum (VCHM).

VCHM strives to be a vital member of The Bronx cultural community and the larger region by preserving, researching, and interpreting the circa 1748 Van Cortlandt House, the stories of those both free and enslaved who lived there, and the museum's historical collection for the purpose of growing meaningful connections between the past and the present.

The main goals of forming this committee are to:

- Make connections within the local community and across the city to help grow VCHM's presence and aid in its mission of engaging community members;
- Contribute innovative ideas for fundraising, programming, exhibitions, and events;
- Advise on best practices for museum management.

Meredith Horsford agrees to Chair the Community Advisory Committee, bringing her 20+ years of house museum management and community engagement experience to this role. Meredith is both professionally and personally dedicated to bringing enslaved narratives to the forefront at cultural institutions nationwide, and is excited to steward renewed energy and interest in innovation at the Van Cortlandt House Museum.

We hope that the VCHM Community Advisory Committee will help perpetuate the Van Cortlandt House Museum's goal of playing a vibrant and vital role in the community it serves.



Meredith S. Horsford
Executive Director
Historic House Trust of New York City



Marguerite Morrison
President
National Society of Colonial Dames in the State
of New York



Jessenia Aponte
Bronx Borough Commissioner
NYC Parks