



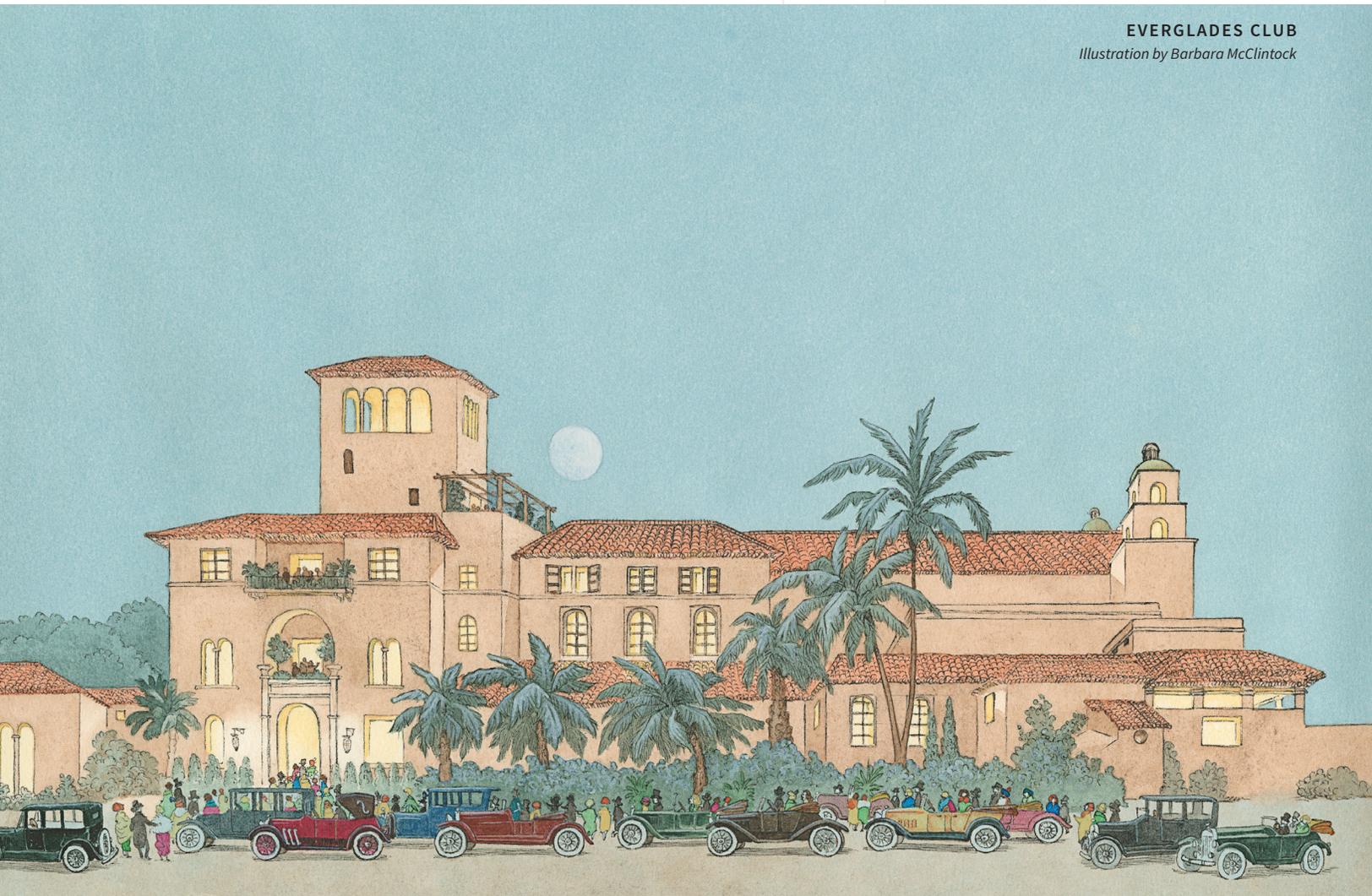
PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION
OF PALM BEACH

Knowledge. Stewardship. Culture.

FOUNDATION
FALL 2023
www.palmbeachpreservation.org
561.832.0731
NEWS

EVERGLADES CLUB

Illustration by Barbara McClintock



Letter from the President & CEO

Dear Friends of the Preservation Foundation,

As we look back on the year 2023, which is now, rapidly and unbelievably, approaching its end, I feel tremendous gratitude and pride in how expansive of a period it has proven for us. Our advocacy work, educational programs, and library of publications have grown and, with them, so has our platform for spreading knowledge and awareness about the unique architectural heritage of Palm Beach. These achievements have strengthened our ties to the community, which is really what sits at the core of the work that we do—fostering a community in which everyone plays a role in protecting Palm Beach’s unique sense of place. That solidarity is what it will take to shepherd our town into the future without losing the scenic quality and historic character that makes it unlike anywhere else in the world.

We think of our architectural heritage in holistic terms, and in order to protect the structures that represent our history, we can’t view them as separate from the environment in which they exist. The relocation and restoration of the Little Red Schoolhouse within Phipps Ocean Park is a prime example of the all-encompassing nature of the work we strive to do. For the last thirty years, the Schoolhouse has served as a venue where the younger residents of our community first come in touch with this heritage and, in the near future, it will become a case study for how to mitigate the impacts of sea-level rise on historic structures. This is one aspect within a larger plan to make Phipps Ocean Park not just an element of coastal resilience for the town, but a public space in which the Palm Beach community can come together, across generations.

These ideas have also manifested themselves in different ways over the past year. We have recently published two books exploring the architectural heritage of Palm Beach—the children’s book *Addison Mizner, Visionary Architect* authored by Bob Forbes and beautifully illustrated by Barbara McClintock, and *Palm Beach Style: The Architecture and Advocacy of John and Jane Volk* by Jane S. Day. The children’s book introduces young readers to the inspiring story of Addison Mizner who, in many ways, defined our town’s architectural landscape. *Palm Beach Style* honors John Volk’s most significant commissions and recognizes his wife Jane’s efforts to protect both his body of work and the town’s Landmarks program. Of equal importance is the Foundation’s commitment to carrying on their legacy of architectural passion and community advocacy, which is reaffirmed through this publication.

A number of exciting events are on the horizon, and as the season enters full swing, we’re excited to see you—our community—off the pages of this newsletter.

Kind regards,



Amanda H. Skier



Image by Capehart.



Demolition of the Historic Playhouse.

Advocacy Update

The Playhouse was discussed in depth at both the August and September Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) meetings, as well as the Town Council meeting held on September 13th. The Preservation Foundation was an integral part of these discussions and numerous conversations that took place in advance of these meetings. Councilman Ted Cooney stated, “I’d also like to express my gratitude to the Preservation Foundation for their participation in this process. Betsy, and to your Executive Committee, for stepping up to the plate...your commitment to the town and accountability is the hallmark of a good community. I think you have helped elevate and move along this discussion.” The involvement of the Preservation Foundation was vital to understanding how the Playhouse was allowed to be demolished. In consultation with legal counsel and planning experts, the Foundation thoroughly researched the project and provided a memo to the Town with our findings.

In light of our findings, we do not believe that the LPC approval process is broken. There are many examples of the process working properly in the past to protect treasured Landmarks like Louwana and Duck’s Nest. Unfortunately, in this case, the Town Code was interpreted differently and the over-demolition of the playhouse was allowed to occur without a thorough vetting by the LPC. A public hearing that was properly noticed and with backup provided should have occurred. The Town Council has recognized that this lack of transparency was concerning and should be avoided in the future. President Maggie Zeidman stated, “We have clearly become, I’m going to point this out, a little loosey-goosey in terms of our landmarks. Look at the Fire Station. We never even said take that back to Landmarks. We obviously have to firm up our processes. We have a heightened sense to preservation in this town. I do believe we that must protect the responsibilities and the obligation of those landmarks commissioners whom we appoint. This is my opinion, and I think it was confirmed with three other council members here, that LPC has to have meaningful participation going forward.”

Preservation of this community is a task that we pursue with great pride, knowledge, and expertise. We will continue to work, as we always have, for the protection and betterment of the town’s architectural heritage. As our Chairman Betsy Shiverick has stated, “The way Palm Beach looks is its currency and we recognize its value through our tireless advocacy.” Councilman Lew Crampton agreed, stating, “Something that has kind of gobsmacked me is just how important preservation is to this community. Preservation as a concept, preservation as a belief, and preservation as a religion. That is something that until this project came along I really didn’t realize. I give credit to the Preservation Foundation, which has been a rock in its advocacy, a rock in making sure that its point of view was followed to the letter. And this conflict, as I say, has produced some lessons learned and some improvements in the process that we can have going forward.”

As an organization that has been dedicated to preservation education and advocacy for over 40 years, we understand the importance of fairness and transparency in the decision-making process. We are committed to, and have already begun, working with the Town to put additional safeguards in place.

Worth Avenue Walking Tour

In continuation of its annual tradition, every Wednesday starting from November 22nd, the Worth Avenue Association will conduct a 75-minute historical walking tour led by Rick Rose, the Association's historical docent. Through colorful anecdotes and commentary, the exciting and informative tours explore the origins and character of Worth Avenue, its unique architecture, the historical significance of many of its legendary landmarks, and some of its famous residents.

This year the Preservation Foundation has been chosen as the Association's community partner of choice, extending our partnership with the local business community. The tours begin at 10:30 am in Via Amore at 256 Worth Avenue across from Tiffany & Co. and Chanel. There is free two-hour parking on the street or at the Apollo parking lot for a fee. The cost of the tour is \$25 per person, and the net proceeds benefit the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach. For the ultimate tour experience, groups have been limited to a maximum of 40.

For more information, visit: www.worth-avenue.com/worth-avenue-historic-walking-tour/



Worth Avenue circa 1960s.



Bob Forbes and Barbara McClintock. Image by Gabrielle Wilde Photography.



Children participating in the drawing workshop. Image by Gabrielle Wilde Photography.

Addison Mizner, Visionary Book Launch

On October 28th, the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach celebrated the launch of the children's book *Addison Mizner, Visionary Architect*. Authored by Robert L. Forbes and beautifully illustrated by Barbara McClintock, the book was created for readers aged 8 to 12 to complement the Foundation's Heritage Education program and offers a unique perspective on Addison Mizner's formative years, a time marked by his adventurous spirit and global travels. The whimsical celebration was hosted at a private Mizner-designed residence, delivering a day of inspiration, creativity, and fun for the entire family.

The Visionary Architect event transported attendees into the world of Addison Mizner, a renowned figure in shaping the architectural landscape of Palm Beach. The event featured a range of engaging activities suitable for both children and their families, creating an ideal weekend outing. Event highlights included: a reading by Author Robert L. Forbes with live illustrations by Barbara McClintock; a drawing workshop led by Barbara McClintock; and a creative writing activity organized by Rohi's Readery.

The Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach introduced its Heritage Education Program in 1987. Today, the program is currently offered at Palm Beach Day Academy, Palm Beach Public, Rosarian Academy, and St. Ann's School. As part of its commitment to share Mizner's inspiring story with the community, the Foundation has generously provided complimentary copies of the book to interested schools throughout Palm Beach County, along with access to a virtual version of its Heritage Education Program.

Publication of the book was made possible through the generosity of Muffy and Don Miller, and Sallie Phillips. The book launch party was underwritten by Hive Home, Gift & Garden and graciously hosted by Dale Coudert.

Addison Mizner, Visionary Architect is readily available for purchase on the Preservation Foundation's website and can also be found at its headquarters in Palm Beach. To purchase, visit the Foundation's headquarters or online at www.shoppalmbeachpreservation.org.

Phipps Ocean Park Update

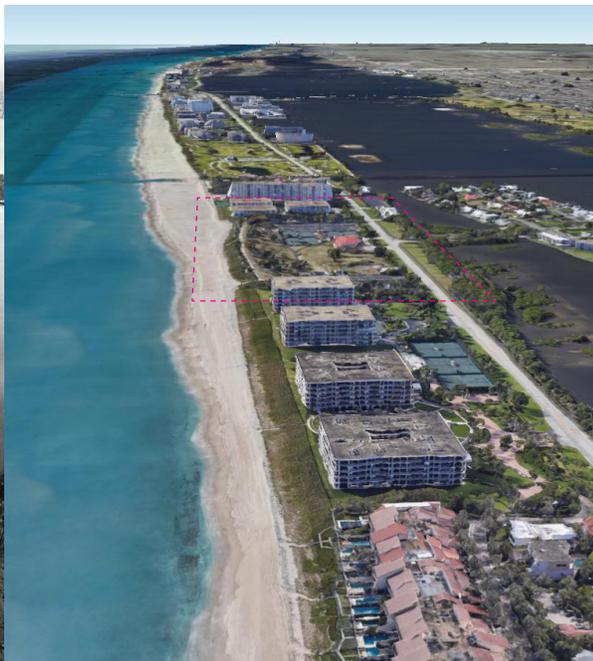
By Jan Sjostrom

It's been three years since talks began at the Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach about renovating the 1886 Little Red Schoolhouse in Phipps Ocean Park. Today those discussions have evolved into a full-scale revitalization of the park as a magnet for residents, a paradise for native plants, and a haven for indigenous wildlife. "This is the biggest project we've done by far, not only in scale but in the amount of money we've raised," said Amanda Skier, the Foundation's President and CEO.

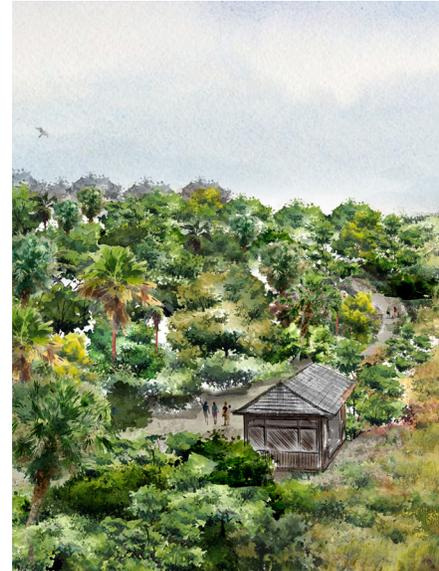
With more than \$24 million in private contributions, a \$2 million commitment from the Town of Palm Beach for infrastructure improvements, and a \$442,195 state grant to help renovate and relocate the schoolhouse, the Foundation has raised nearly \$27 million for the project towards the \$30 million construction budget. Plans call for breaking ground at the 20-acre, town-owned site next summer and completing work within 12 to 18 months.

Progress hasn't been quite as fast as the Foundation anticipated when the Town Council approved landscape architect Raymond Jungles' master plan in December 2022. Working with the town, which approves all plans and oversees construction, as well as the design and engineering team takes time. "There are a lot of moving parts," Skier said. Last spring, when the design was about 50 percent complete, contractor Burkhardt Construction's cost estimate came in considerably higher than expected.

The Foundation has spent the past several months shaving costs with its design partners to stay within budget without sacrificing vital elements of the design. Since the Phipps family donated the land in 1948, the park has been underused, visited mainly by beachgoers, tennis players, and 4th graders participating in the Foundation's schoolhouse program re-creating a school day in the late 19th century.



A comparison of Phipps Ocean park from 1949 to 2020.



Rendering of the dune restoration and pathways.



Illustration of the schoolhouse relocation.



Current location of the schoolhouse.



“The park has never been completely maintained,” Town Councilman Lew Crampton said. He agrees with architect Rick Gonzalez, who served on the panel judging the state grants. “The plans are beautiful,” Gonzalez said. The revamp calls not only for upgrades to Southeast Florida’s first schoolhouse, which the Foundation leases from the town, but also moving it to a more prominent site where it will be protected from flooding and harsh ocean winds.

The project unites the Foundation’s mission of preserving the distinctive features of Palm Beach’s past and protecting the town’s unique scenic quality by encouraging the use of native plants to create more sustainable landscapes. “If we’re going to make it as a species, these ecosystems are critical to the planet and life as we know it,” said Susan Lerner, the Foundation’s Director of Horticulture. The changes will make the park more resilient to storms and climate change as well as more attractive to visitors and an educational experience.

Among the improvements: beach pavilions and overlooks, ADA accessible trails winding through native vegetation, educational signage, an open-air classroom, a Coastal Restoration Center where visitors can learn about restoring coastal ecosystems, a native wildlife-themed playground by Danish-designer Monstrum, upgraded restrooms, and new pickleball courts. The Town and the Foundation have committed to staff and maintain the park once work is completed.

Summer Intern Project

This fall, up on our website, is an online exhibition titled *Bermuda Architecture in the Isles*, researched and curated by Preservation Foundation of Palm Beach's Sallie B. Phillips Archival Intern Avery Finch. The exhibition explores John Volk's inspiration and application of Bermuda-style architecture in his designs for Andros and Paradise Island's development. The Austrian-born architect, embarked on a 60-year career in the 1930s and designed over 2,000 projects. His fascination with Bermuda-style architecture was ignited during a visit to the island, inspiring his subsequent work.

The exhibition looks at key examples of Bermuda-style designs in Palm Beach, including Volk's White Gables and Howard Major's Major Alley, as well as delving into the history of The Bahamas and its transformation from pirate haven to a Crown Colony. Andros Island, particularly its timber and sponge industry, and its revival under the guidance of Dr. Axel Wenner-Gren is also explored. John Volk's contributions to Andros Town's development and the formation of Paradise Island are detailed, with a focus on its architectural design and infrastructure development.

Despite Huntington Hartford's eccentricities and subsequent financial troubles, the Paradise Island project became a celebrity hotspot. Ultimately, he sold it to James Crosby and later Sol Kerzner acquired it. The Ocean Club remained successful throughout the changes in ownership and today the site is owned by The Four Seasons. In more recent times, Atlantis Resort has also played a significant role in the transformation of the rest of Paradise Island.

John Volk's architectural influence, characterized by Bermuda-style elements, is credited with shaping the aesthetic of not only Palm Beach but also many Caribbean regions. To learn more, go to the "Storymaps" section of our website: www.palmbeachpreservation.org.



Intern Avery Finch presenting her research on Volk and the Bahamas.



Book Cover.



Jane and John Volk.

Palm Beach Style: The Architecture and Advocacy of John and Jane Volk

Palm Beach style is the expression of elegance and romance everywhere evident in this paradise and epitomized in the lives and work of architect John Volk and artist-preservationist Jane Volk. Together they conjured up much of the magic that now makes the place. *Palm Beach Style: The Architecture and Advocacy of John and Jane Volk* explores this unique chemistry and the dazzling homes that are the result. John Volk was one of the “big five” architects of Palm Beach. It was here, during his sixty years of practice, that he was commissioned to design over 2,000 projects, among them Royal Poinciana Plaza as well as additions and renovations to the Everglades Club. This book is about the Volks and the part they played in conjuring the spell with which Palm Beach continues to enchant.

Palm Beach, among other things, is its architecture. Red tile roofs and cast stone columns hint of the Mediterranean. Evidence of inspirations from Spain and Morocco abound. After the economic collapse of 1929, the classical architectural orders began to appear on columns and porticos. The Bermuda style and Modernism made appearances later. Yet there is no one style exclusively associated Volk; here he perfected many styles, and his architectural legacy can be found on almost every street. While this book honors John Volk’s architecture and his enormous impact, it also celebrates Jane’s contribution to Palm Beach and her devotion to protecting the town and its historic character.

Thatch Palm Story

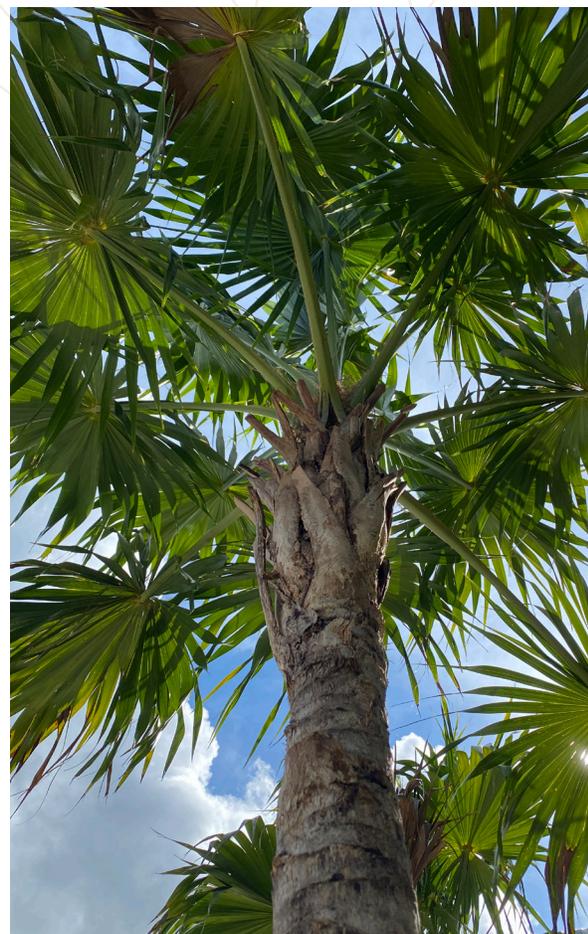
By Susan Lerner, Director of Horticulture

Pan's Garden has been in a state of evolution since its inception as a "botanical garden of native plants" in 1994. Over the years there have been hundreds of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous flora that have failed to thrive for assorted reasons. Thankfully, the garden's elegant design holds Pan's everchanging contents in gracious harmony, while its evolution continues to be supported by magnanimous donors.

If you have chanced to see the garden since last season, you may have noticed that the Pigeon Plums and turf along Hibiscus Avenue have been replaced with tall palms and a flowering groundcover. It was a long time coming: The pleached Pigeon Plums along Hibiscus and Chilean have been considered for removal almost since their installation, and many have been replaced over the years. This species is most effectively used in its natural hammock habitat, rather than as a front-line tree. A combination of stressors weakened them over time, making them susceptible to insect attack and disease: the high water table, constant pleach trimming, and non-hammock location made their decline inevitable. Thanks to a generous (anonymous) donor, the trees have been saved offsite for rehabilitation, to be re-planted in hammocks at Phipps Ocean Park.

The choice of Florida Thatch Palms was inspired by the pair that grace the entrance to the Foundation's headquarters. One of only eleven palms native to Florida (nine are living in the garden), *Thrinax radiata* can reach 20 feet in height. A total of nineteen Florida Thatch Palms have been planted. A gift by The St. George's Society of Palm Beach funded five palms on Chilean last summer, and fourteen palms were planted along Hibiscus this July. Now that the Pigeon Plums are gone, the interior east walkways have been basking in morning light for the first time in years!

Using Twinflower and Fogfruit rather than sod under the palms maximizes the ecological impact of the garden's footprint and is in alignment with the garden's mission to protect and celebrate Florida's indigenous plants and the wildlife they support. Already bees and butterflies are visiting the new plantings! This was a summer of many changes— I invite you to please visit and see them all!



View of the Thatch Palm from underneath



ZenHippo in the Garden.



Natural Movers Class with the Palm Beach Opera.

Garden Partnerships: Natural Movers and ZenHippo

We are pleased to announce our partnership with Natural Movers Foundation—the nonprofit dedicated to fostering cross-generational engagement with art and dance in Palm Beach. Together, from 4–5 PM on the first Friday of each month from October 2023 through May 2024, we will be presenting Young Artists—an arts-exposure program set amongst the native Floridian flora of Pan’s Garden.

This program provides arts and cultural experiences for children and an accompanying adult. Entry into a variety of disciplines including dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts will be offered in this year-round program. The program is open and complimentary to the public; please register at <https://www.naturalmovers.org/natural-movers-young-artists>.

In partnership with ZenHippo and their collective of local experts, we will be presenting programming for new and expecting parents, caregivers, grandparents, babies, and toddlers at Pan’s Garden on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, with the aim of providing families with the education, community, and meaningful engagements that are so critical during this life phase. The program, designed and facilitated by early childhood specialists, includes monthly talks on parenting, child development, and maternal wellness with local experts, as well as weekly classes for babies and toddlers with music, movement, sensory play, and more. Please visit <https://www.wearezenhippo.com> for programs and registration.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All events located at 311 Peruvian Avenue unless otherwise noted.
Space is limited for all events. Reservations are required.

All events are subject to change, and exhibition dates may vary based on hours and holidays. For all lectures at headquarters, doors open at 5 pm and lecture begins at 5:30 pm. **Please consult the website for our most updated event listings.**

NOVEMBER 2023

November 8 to February 2 |
Weekdays 10 am to 4 pm
Exhibition

Addison Mizner, Visionary Architect

Open and Complimentary to the Public

Tuesday, November 28, 6:30 pm

Phipps Ocean Park Campaign Dinner

Private Residence
By Invitation

DECEMBER 2023

Friday, December 1, 4 pm
Family Event

Family Yoga by the Natural Movers Foundation

Pan's Garden
Open and Complimentary to the Public; Registration Required

Thursday, December 7, 5 pm
Lecture

The Duchess of Rutland on the Restoration of Belvoir Castle

Members Only

Tuesday, December 12, 6 pm
Cocktail Reception

Palm Beach Style: The Architecture and Advocacy of John and Jane Volk Book Launch

By Invitation

JANUARY 2024

Friday, January 5, 4 pm
Family Event

Natural Movers Young Artists

Pan's Garden
Open and Complimentary to the Public; Registration Required

Monday, January 8, 5:30 pm
Meeting

Annual Trustee Meeting

By Invitation

Thursday, January 18, 6 pm
Award Presentation & Reception

Ballinger Award

Private Residence
By Invitation

FEBRUARY 2024

Thursday, February 1, 5 pm
Lecture/Book Signing

Home by Stan Dixon

Members Only

Friday, February 2, 4 pm
Family Event

Natural Movers Young Artists

Pan's Garden
Open and Complimentary to the Public; Registration Required

Thursday, February 8, 5 pm
Lecture/Book Signing

From City to Country by Peter Pennoyer

Members Only

February 12 to May 3 |
Weekdays 10 am to 4 pm
Exhibition

The Architecture and Advocacy of John and Jane Volk

Open and Complimentary to the Public

Thursday, February 15, 5 pm
Cocktail Reception

Opening Evening for The Architecture and Advocacy of John and Jane Volk

Members Only

MARCH 2024

Friday, March 1, 6:30 pm
Gala

Annual Dinner Dance

By Invitation