October 2026

Dearest Supporters, Neighbors, and Friends,

Years ago, as a history student, I found myself in a cavernous old building on Main Street just before the block became Whiskey Row. In a dark corner, propped against a wall, was a hand-lettered sign I just had to have. It left with me that day, and I have kept it in every office for more than twenty years, and now that I'm here at Locust Grove, I understand it more deeply than ever.



The history of Kentucky is cast... To cast something is to pour it into a mold and let it set. It then holds the shape of what held it long after the hands that made it are gone. Kentucky's history was poured into the land by the labor of its people, and it still carries their shape. History was not just recorded here; it was formed and shaped here.

The history of Kentucky is cast in the land... What was cast here is not cold metal, but rather an organic and living thing. It lives in our forest trails, the creek bed, and centuries-old trees that still stand witness to whoever walks beneath them. There is a kind of knowing that only happens on the ground itself, the way you come to know a place by heart rather than by map. Here, history is not something you just read about; it's something you can stand inside and feel. In feeling it, you create your own place within it.

The history of Kentucky is cast in the land and the labor of its people. At Locust Grove, that casting is often literal: the fingerprints of enslaved people are still set into the clay of our bricks, a reminder that those with the least amount of power can often leave the most lasting marks. The people of Kentucky labored and endured, but never alone, leaning on kin, faith, neighbors, and even strangers. They planted trees whose shade they would never sit in and built a future they would never see. Here we are, living inside their work - work we know remains unfinished.

We carry that work forward through our four pillars: through **History**, by sharing the whole story of this place in all its complexity; through the **Arts**, by helping us feel what facts alone cannot carry because some truths are best understood through a song, a story, or a stage; through **Civics**, as new citizens take their oath on this ground and young people learn to practice the virtues we name; and through the **Land**, where our gardeners grow tobacco as a gift to our Shawnee partners and plant American chestnut trees whose shade they, too, may never sit in. Each of these is its own kind of casting, and what we pour into this place now will hold its shape long after us. But just like those who came before us, we cannot do it alone.

Last year, you made 250for250 the most successful annual appeal in Locust Grove's history. This year, I ask you to add your hands to the work again. **Every gift, at every level, matters**. Whether through membership, sponsorship, or the annual appeal, you can give with the enclosed envelope or at locustgrove.org.

That sign still guides me. Someone made those letters by hand with no way of knowing who would ever read them, which is the nature of this work. We shape things we may never see finished, trusting they will hold. Two hundred years from now, I hope someone finds our fingerprints here, too.

With gratitude,



Jessica Dawkins
President & CEO
Historic Locust Grove

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



When I arrived at Historic Locust Grove in 2025, I knew I was stepping into an extraordinary place. I spent my first year learning its rhythms, listening to the people who know & love it, and gaining a deeper appreciation for traditions that shaped Locust Grove for decades. Preservation, research, interpretation, and education built the foundation on which we stand today.

But then I started asking questions. Who do we serve today? What does this place mean to them? What does Louisville need from us now? And perhaps most importantly, what could this historic site become? Those questions shaped the year you'll read about in these pages.

I learned that the ways people learn, gather, participate, and connect with institutions are changing. Our audiences are changing. The questions our communities ask about history, identity, and belonging are changing, too. I believe that creates a unique opportunity for Locust Grove - not to move away from what we have always done well, but to build upon it in ways that respond to the shifting world around us.

So we mobilized our mission around four interconnected pillars - History, Arts, Civics, and Land - creating a framework that reflects both the significance of our past and our future, and allowing us to complete the most successful annual appeal in Locust Grove's history, with our *250for250* campaign raising over $290,000. We strengthened internal operations, expanded organizational capacity, built new relationships, developed innovative educational programs, and expanded the boundaries of what a historic site can mean to the people it serves. But the larger work is creating new ways for people to find themselves in this place. We want a Locust Grove where people gather, create, question, participate, and better understand the community we share. That is the part that excites me most.

We've gotten through US250, but Louisville has its own 250th anniversary in 2028. As the home of Louisville's founder, we intend to transform how people see Locust Grove and its importance to the city. Louisville does not have a dedicated city history museum, but it does have these 55 acres of historic landscape with stories that go back for centuries. Our job is to connect that past with you today, so that together, we develop a greater sense of responsibility for the Louisville we are building. And after my first year, I'm convinced that some of Locust Grove's most important history is still being written.

I give great thanks to our staff, board, volunteers, donors, and partners who embrace this work and helped make the accomplishments in these pages possible. Thank you for believing in us, and for your willingness to help imagine what comes next.

Jessica Dawkins



LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Dear Friends of Locust Grove,

As I begin my service as Board Chair of Locust Grove, I am filled with gratitude for the community of supporters who have sustained this extraordinary place for generations.

Before looking ahead, I want to first say thank you.

Because of your stewardship, Locust Grove continues to thrive as one of Kentucky's most treasured historic sites. Your generosity has preserved the historic home, protected the landscape, supported educational programs, and ensured that countless visitors can experience the stories, history, and beauty that make this place so special.

Every path through the grounds, every student who discovers history here, every family that gathers for a program or event is part of a legacy that you have helped nurture.

Now we have the opportunity and responsibility to carry that legacy forward.

As we look to the future, our commitment extends beyond preserving buildings and collections. We are preserving a place where people connect with history, where curiosity is sparked, where community is formed, and where future generations can find inspiration in the stories of those who came before them.

This work requires vision, care, and investment. Most importantly, it requires people like you who understand that historic places matter, not only because of what they tell us about the past, but because of what they can teach us about ourselves and our future.

As you consider your year-end giving, I invite you to renew your support of Locust Grove with a gift that is meaningful to you. Together, we can ensure that this remarkable landmark remains vibrant, welcoming, and accessible for generations yet to come.

The history preserved at Locust Grove belongs to all of us. The responsibility for its future belongs to us as well.

Thank you for your continued partnership, your generosity, and your belief in the enduring value of preserving our shared heritage.

With sincere appreciation,

Andrea Meriwether

STAFF PROFILES

*Weekend Staff not pictured: Kyleigh Mills, Alba Jennings



JESSICA DAWKINS
President & CEO



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Director of Experience



ELIZABETH COLÓN NELSON
Director of Engagement



RONNIE DREISTADT
Director of Education



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Director of Development



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Visitor Services Manager



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Gardener



KAITLYN TISDALE
Director of Mission



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Facilities Manager



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Caretaker



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Education Specialist

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2nd Vice President: BRENDA TUCKSON
Treasurer: ALICE COWLEY, CPA
Secretary: DEL MARIE VACCARO

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MESUDE DUYAR OZYUREKOGLU
SAVANNAH DARR
ROSALIND SCOTT
JESSICA DAWKINS

MEMBERS AT LARGE

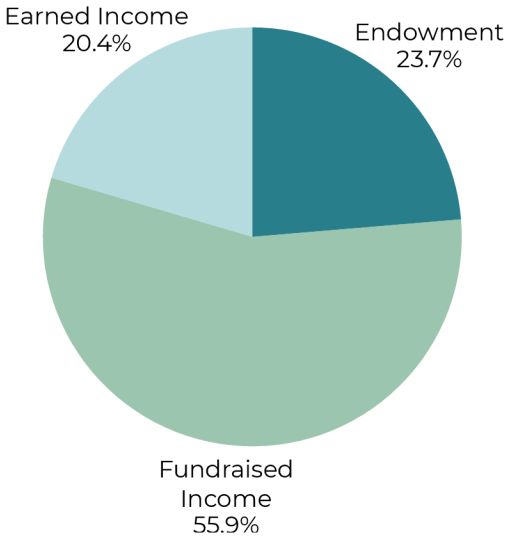
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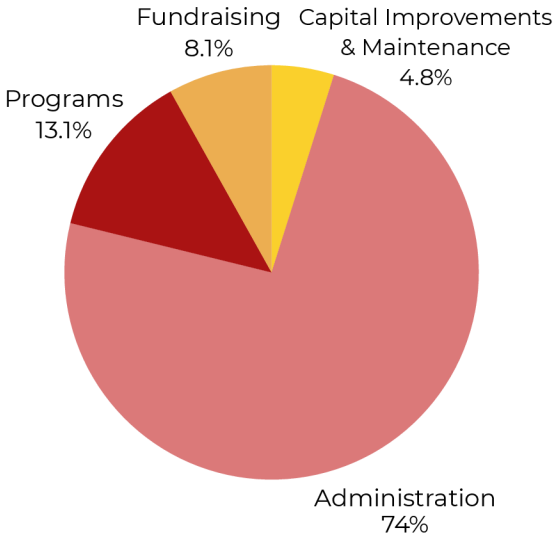
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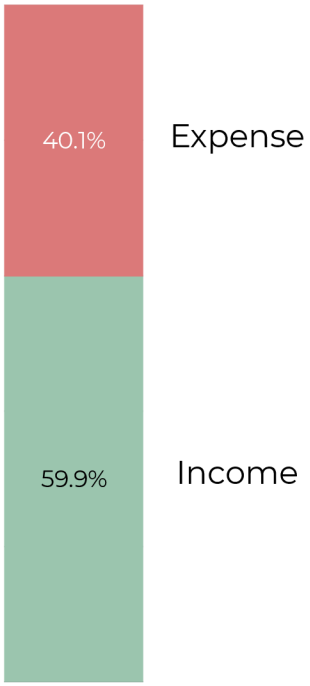
FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Income



Expenses





BY THE NUMBERS

TRENDING UPWARDS

ADMISSION INCOME
Up 10 %

PROGRAM INCOME
Up 41 %

FIELD TRIPS
Up 14 %

ANNUAL APPEAL
Up 50 %

STUDENTS SERVED
Up 21 %

SPONSORHIPS
Up 140 %

RENTALS
Up 76 %

NEW DONORS
Up 35 %

RENTAL INCOME
Up 74 %

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH

TOTAL MEMBERS
Down -8 %

TOTAL DONORS
Down -7 %

VOLUNTEER HOURS
Down 13%

2025-2026
PROGRAMS & PARTNERS

*Locust Grove serves as a cultural generator connecting authentic experiences across time and place through four pillars: **History**, **Art**, **Civics**, & **Land**. Here, the historic house, hearth kitchen, gardens, landscape, objects, & stories become our classroom, our common ground, and our connecting space. Through our public programs, we see these four pillars come to life.*

HISTORY

Author Talks
Lecture Series
Antiques Market
Candlelight Tours
60s Christmas
Book Sale

History Sponsors

PLENTIFUL WEALTH
JOHN & JEANNIE VEZEAU
JENNIFER MCCORMICK
VIRGINIA CROCKET
CHARLES & BONNIE BARTMAN

ARTS

Chamber Music Series
Burns Night Dinner
Frankenstein
Summer Concert Series

Art Sponsors

TIPPI MCTYEIRE
LOUISVILLE TOURISM
LOUGRASS
REV. GEORGINE BUCKWALTER
CLAY SMITH

CIVICS

4th of July
Civic Season
Field Trips
Cultural Pass

Civics Sponsors

INDEPENDENCE BANK

LAND

Gardeners' Fair
Afrobeats in the Garden

Land Sponsors

ANGEL'S ENVY
TIPPI MCTYEIRE
LAWNCO
KATE & MARK BOYER
PEGASUS TRANSPORTATION
NUGENT SAND COMPANY

OUR 2025-2026 PARTNERS INCLUDE:

Absynnia Louisville
Angels Envy
Asia Institute Crane House
Aurmose
Bourke Accounting
Buffalo Soldier Academy - KY Chapter
Crowler Catering
Dallas McGarity
Damaris Phillips
David Ratterman
Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
Debra Locker Group
Don Luchi Wines
Edge IT
Ennui_Go
Eric Lausch & ViWalker Silver Antiques
Harvey Venier
Filson Historical Society
Georgia's Sweet Potato Pie Company
Good Pain Wines
Gumby's Catering
Immacoolsomm
Independence Bank
Jane Austen Society
John Q AV & Sound
Kentucky Fund for the Arts
Kentucky Shakespeare
Kinnards BBQ
Kwetu African Cuisine
Les Dames de Escoffier (KY Chapter)
Liberty Hall Historic Site
Lincoln Performing Arts School
Louisville Academy of Music
Louisville Brass Band
Louisville Coalition on the History of Enslavement (LCHE)
Louisville Cream
Louisville Metro Parks
Louisville Metro US250 Commission
Louisville Tourism
Louisville Urban Forestry
Love Always
Medici Creative
Millenium Events
Parachute Ice Cream
Pegasus Transportation
Rent & Rave
Sons of the American Revolution (SAR)
Sommofalltrades
Stellas Venues
Studio George Productions
The Hue Society
The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Kentucky

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



A ‘60s Christmas Exhibition



Burns Night Dinner



Chamber Music Concert



School Field Trips



Afrobeats in the Gardens



Independence Day



Book Sale

THANK YOU DONORS

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Harriet Wood
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If you feel there has been an error or omission made for FY25-26, please contact jdawkins@locustgrove.org

MEMBERSHIP
INFORMATION



LOCUST GROVE

HISTORIC LOCUST GROVE

When you become a member of Locust Grove, you support so much more than a historic house.

Guided by our four pillars of History, Arts, Civics, and Land, we serve as cultural generators that connect authentic experiences over place and time. Your membership ensures we continue to share the stories of Locust Grove and its importance in the beginning of our city, state, and nation.

Your membership supports:

- Preservation of a National Historic Landmark
- Educational programming for students and families
- Dynamic experiences for lifelong learners
- Stewardship of 50+ acres of Kentucky landscape
- Thriving community partnerships and more



Plus, members at the Family and Supporter levels receive NARM benefits, which is free admission to over 1,000 cultural institutions across the nation through the North American Reciprocal Museum program.

NARM ASSOCIATION
NORTH AMERICAN RECIPROCAL MUSEUM (NARM) ASSOCIATION®


















TRAKTOR





Benefit:	Individual $60	Dual $90	Family $120	Supporter $240
Free Admission	● 1 member	● 2 members	● 2 adults + up to 5 children (17 & under)	● 2 adults + up to 5 children (17 & under) + 2 guest passes
Member-Only Discounts to Programs	●	●	●	●
Locust *Grove Gazette*	●	●	●	●
Early Access to Program Tickets	●	●	●	●
10% Museum Store Discount	●	●	●	●
Member-Only Events & Workshops	●	●	●	●
NARM Reciprocal Admission			●	●
2 Complimentary Signature Event Ticket				●





If you have any questions about membership or would like to renew, please contact Director of Development at www.locustgrove.org.

LOCUST GROVE

Historic Locust Grove
561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-9845

www.locustgrove.org

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram:
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Instagram: @historiclocustgrove



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MORE THAN JUST A HOUSE... WE'RE WHERE LOUISVILLE BEGINS









HISTORY

ARTS

CIVICS

LAND

WHY SUPPORT

Just minutes from the heart of the city, Historic Locust Grove offers 55 acres of public land where Louisville's heritage shines. Dedicated to preserving and sharing the rich history and stunning landscapes that help define our community, we offer a wide array of cultural programs that connect with the stories of the land and the people who lived and worked upon it.

At Locust Grove, we serve our mission through four institutional pillars: **History, Arts, Civics, and Land**. We believe these pillars represent opportunity for growth as individuals and as a community, and we create immersive experiences within each pillar to bring people together with authenticity, appreciation, and respect – not just for our past, but also for our future.



Invest in history to enhance community identity and foster a sense of place and belonging. We share history to advance knowledge and instill pride in what it means to be a part of the fabric of Louisville, while building compassion and understanding for those who came before us. We are an economic driver for tourism and celebrate our significant place in the history of our nation, state, and city.

$250-$5000+

EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Annual Book Sale (3x per year)
- Antiques Market (2x per year)
- Wednesday Lecture Series (monthly)
- Author Talks (3-4x per year)
- Special Exhibitions, Partner Programs, and More



Invest in the arts to inspire creativity, beauty, and empathy. Louisville has a proud tradition of expression through the performing arts like music, dance, theater, storytelling, and poetry, as well as drawing, painting, textiles, and culinary. With amenities like our indoor auditorium, outdoor pavilion, garden spaces, and the historic home, Locust Grove provides a comfortable backdrop to stimulate imagination and transformation.

$250-$5000+

EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Summer Concert Series (4x per year)
- Kentucky Shakespeare performances (2x per year)
- Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series (4x per year)

LOCUST GROVE?

What makes sponsorship with Locust Grove so unique? We ask for your support of our mission rather than a program or event. By investing in the program pillar that best aligns with your values, we acknowledge your support for all events within that pillar so audiences connect you or your company with those values. This is our way of highlighting the importance of our work in all its forms, as well as the people who believe in our cause. Now, you receive recognition for investment in our mission rather than a moment.

This unique approach ensures our dynamic initiatives succeed and thrive, allowing us to serve the public trust each year. All sponsorship tiers include traditional benefits but also receive increased marketing recognition throughout the year for numerous events & programs.



Invest in civics to help build productive and engaged citizens. Civic action improves critical thinking skills, strengthens the value of teamwork and collaboration, and promotes informed discourse. We focus on the power of individual virtue for the common good, and we connect founding American ideals with opportunities for social betterment through community efforts and active participation in democratic processes.

$250-$5000+

EVENTS INCLUDE:

- Civic Virtue Education Programs
- Civic Season
- Statehood Day
- Juneteenth
- Independence Day

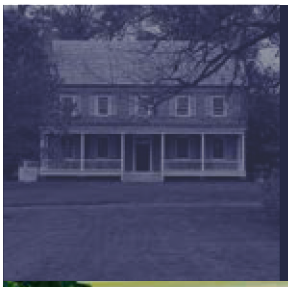


Invest in land to cultivate a deeper appreciation for Kentucky's natural landscape through environmental education and sustainable practices. We believe stewardship of the land encourages health and wellness for the mind, body, and soul. As a Louisville Metro Park, the grounds of Locust Grove offer urban trails, a pollinator meadow, interpreted formal gardens, and educational food gardens to connect the community with the bounty of our natural resources.

$250-$5000+

EVENTS INCLUDE:

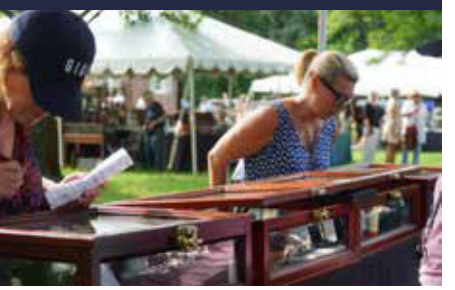
- Gardeners Fair (Mother's Day Weekend)
- Workshops & Classes
- Seed to Harvest Education Programs
- Historic Distillery Programs



HISTORY
SPONSORSHIP







Your sponsorship funds expert lectures, vendor showcases, and hands-on learning experiences, ensuring traditional knowledge is preserved and shared with the community. By supporting events like the Book Sale, you help make history and literature more accessible, fostering lifelong learning and continued discovery for all who visit.

$250 Announced at each event within the pillar, Recognition in Annual Report, Recognition as a sponsor on Locust Grove website & Lobby digital signage, 2 complimentary tour tickets

$1000 Logo listed in marketing materials, sponsor receives 2 tickets to event of their choice, 4 complimentary tour tickets

$2,500 Sponsor mentioned by name in promotional interviews, receives 4 tickets to event of their choice, invitations to welcoming reception for Author Talks, 8 complimentary tour tickets

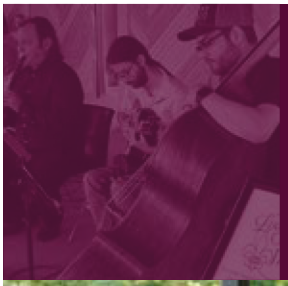
$5,000 Premiere recognition (name/logo on printed materials), sponsor ad placed inside each book sold at author talks and book sales, 10% facility rental discount, 10 complimentary tour tickets

PROGRAMS SPONSORED:

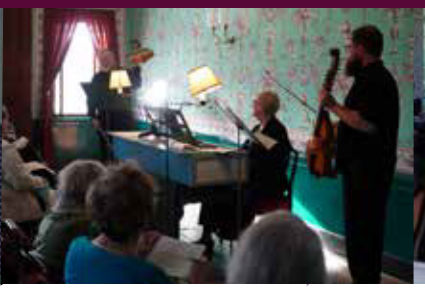
Monthly Lecture Series, Author Talks, the Antiques Fair, and the Book Sales

"Plentiful Wealth is proud to partner with Locust Grove. We believe deeply in preserving Kentucky's history, and Locust Grove's mission aligns perfectly with our values of stewardship and community. It's an honor to support their work and help ensure that this remarkable place continues to thrive for generations to come."

Jeb Jerrell, CFP Financial Advisor, Plentiful Wealth



ARTS
SPONSORSHIP


Your sponsorship supports performances like the staged reading of Frankenstein, the Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series, and our Summer Concert Series, bringing high quality arts experiences to our community.

$250 Recognition in Annual Report, Recognition as a sponsor on Locust Grove website & Lobby digital signage, 2 complimentary tour tickets

$1000 Logo listed in marketing materials, sponsor receives 2 tickets to event of their choice, 4 complimentary tour tickets

$2,500 Sponsor mentioned by name in promotional interviews, receives 4 tickets to event of their choice, 8 complimentary tour tickets

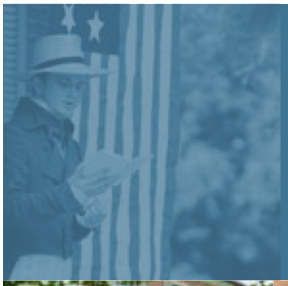
$5,000 Premiere recognition (name/logo on printed materials), speaking opportunity at opening night, 10% facility rental discount, 10 complimentary tour tickets

PROGRAMS SPONSORED:

Locust Grove's Summer Concert Series, the Emilie Strong Smith Chamber Music Series, staged readings, poetic recitations, and more.

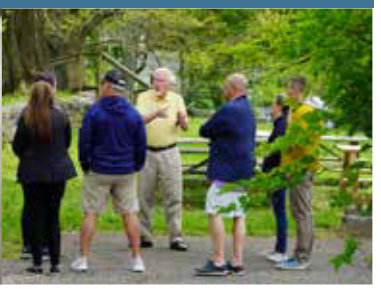
"Louisville Tourism is proud to support Locust Grove, one of our city's most treasured attractions. With a mission to share Louisville's heritage with the world, Locust Grove offers immersive programming and authentic experiences that invite visitors to explore the history that not only shaped our community, but the American story itself."

Rosie Mastin, Louisville Tourism



CIVICS SPONSORSHIP



Your support helps ensure we continue to prioritize civics education, creating an informed & inspired community that honors our nation's history & ideals.

$250 Recognition in Annual Report, Recognition as a sponsor on Locust Grove website & Lobby digital signage, 2 complimentary tour tickets

$1000 Logo listed in marketing materials, sponsor receives 2 tickets to event of their choice, 4 complimentary tour tickets

$2,500 Sponsor mentioned by name in promotional interviews, receives 4 tickets to event of their choice, 2 sponsor representatives given designated seating at Naturalization Ceremony, 8 complimentary tour tickets

$5,000 Premiere recognition (name/logo on printed materials), sponsor representative invited to read the Declaration of Independence at Fourth of July celebration, 10% facility rental discount, 10 complimentary tour tickets

PROGRAMS SPONSORED:

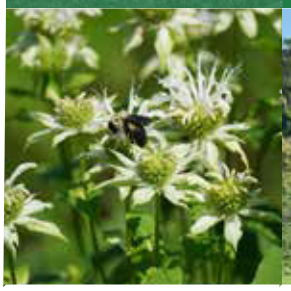
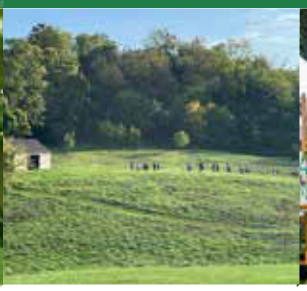
Civic Season, annual Independence Day program and Naturalization Ceremony, Cultural Pass, and all US250 Programs.

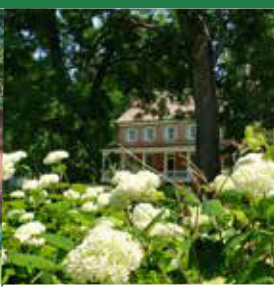
"Locust Grove is Living History. It is a unique experience where we can glimpse upon our past and integrate our history with today. We can learn from our triumphs and mistakes and educate people to build a better community."

Louis Straub, President, Independence Bank



LAND
SPONSORSHIP



Your sponsorship helps preserve Locust Grove's historic gardens and green spaces while fostering conversations about conservation, foodways, and sustainable living. Through hands-on experiences and expert-led programs, you help cultivate a deeper appreciation for the land and its role in our shared history.

$250 Recognition in Annual Report, Recognition as a sponsor on Locust Grove website & Lobby digital signage, 2 complimentary tour tickets

$1000 Logo listed in marketing materials, sponsor receives 2 tickets to event of their choice, 4 complimentary tour tickets

$2,500 Sponsor mentioned by name in promotional interviews, receives 4 tickets to event of their choice, sponsor receives 4 tickets to Tea in the Garden during Gardeners' Fair, 8 complimentary tour tickets

$5,000 Premiere recognition (name/logo on printed materials), sponsor receives 6 tickets to Tea in the Garden during Gardeners' Fair, 10% facility rental discount, 10 complimentary tour tickets

PROGRAMS SPONSORED:

Environmental education program and workshops, Gardeners' Fair, Distillery programs, and more.

"We are very fortunate a previous generation of Kentuckians preserved not just the house, but 55 acres of the original land. This land is historic in itself and showcases the house beautifully in a wider setting. Restoration, interpretation, and site improvements are constantly happening on the full property, because all of it is a place we hold in trust."

Kate Boyer, Locust Grove Director Emerita



WE APPRECIATE YOUR GENUINE CONSIDERATION

To discuss exclusive benefits, please contact the Director of Development at www.locustgrove.org/support/sponsorship

HISTORIC
LOCUST
GROVE

Historic Locust Grove
561 Blankenbaker Lane
Louisville, Kentucky 40207
www.locustgrove.org

LOCUST GROVE

RENTAL INFO

With Historic Locust Grove as a stunning backdrop, we offer convenient amenities while showcasing the splendor of Kentucky's natural landscape.

Inclusions

- Access from 10am - 11pm
- Open vendor policy (vendors must be licensed & insured)
- On-site team member
- Restrooms
- Parking
- State-of-the-art catering kitchen
- Onsite tables ($10 each) and chairs ($2 each) available to rent.
    - Sixteen 60" Round Tables
    - Twelve 8' Long Tables
    - 6 Cocktail Tables
    - 160 white folding chairs

Booking Information

502-897-9845, x. 1011

www.locustgrove.org

sbaker@locustgrove.org



The Pavilion

Restrooms, wifi, power, lights, fans. Capacity: 300 seated.



The Gardens

Flexible event space for cocktail hours, showers, teas, ceremonies.



The Audubon Room

Renovated 2025 with built-in AV & excellent acoustics. Capacity: 125 seated.

LOCUST GROVE

Pricing Sheet

April, May, June, September, October, November

The Pavilion

Mon - Thurs $1750
Fri & Sun $2500
Saturday $3500

The Quadrant Gardens

Mon - Thurs $1250
Fri & Sun $2250
Saturday $2500

The Audubon Room

Mon - Thurs $1250
Fri & Sun $1800
Saturday $2200

January, February, March, July, August, December

The Pavilion

Mon - Thurs $1200
Fri & Sun $2100
Saturday $2500

The Quadrant Gardens

Mon - Thurs $750
Fri & Sun $1500
Saturday $1800

The Audubon Room

Mon - Thurs $1200
Fri & Sun $2100
Saturday $2500