



NEW EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Please apply directly to kendra@vanderbiltmuseum.org

Job Title: Gardener/Part-time

Summary: The Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum and Reichert Planetarium is seeking an experienced part-time Gardener to join our team. The primary function of the Gardener will be to perform a variety of routine and manual tasks in maintaining the appearance and condition of the grounds, trees and plantings on our 43-acre property. The Gardener will develop land stewardship skills in a beautiful setting while working under the direction of the Facilities and Operations Supervisor.

Location: Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum & Reichert Planetarium, 180 Little Neck Rd., Centerport, NY 11721

Range: \$16.00 - \$20.00 per hour

Status: Non-exempt

Hours: Part-time position from **mid-March until end of November**, Monday – Friday, between the hours of 8 AM – 4 PM, approximately 30 hours per week, **in person**.

History: The Museum was created by William Kissam Vanderbilt II (1878-1944), great-grandson of railroad magnate 'Commodore' Cornelius Vanderbilt (1794-1877), who built the New York Central Railroad and Grand Central Terminal in New York City and controlled many of the nation's railroads between New York and Chicago.

Mr. Vanderbilt purchased 43 acres of waterfront land in Centerport, New York, and built his *Eagle's Nest* Estate and 24-room waterfront Mansion in stages, between 1910 and 1936. The Mansion is one of the few great houses that remain of the more than 1,200 Gold Coast mansions built on the North Shore of Long Island from the 1890s through the 1930s. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mr. Vanderbilt created a marine museum, the Hall of Fishes, and opened it on a limited basis in 1922. It was the first stage of what became his larger museum complex. He traveled the world to collect thousands of specimens, including fish, insects, invertebrates, birds, and wild animals, along with cultural artifacts from Africa and the Pacific. The Vanderbilt Museum has the largest collection of privately assembled marine specimens from the pre-atomic era.

The Mansion – a remarkable museum in itself – preserves and exhibits a rare, privileged way of life from America's Jazz Age through the Great Depression. The Vanderbilt has been called a "museum of a museum," and it remains today just as it was when the family lived on the Estate, from the 1920s through Rosamond Vanderbilt's death in 1947. Mr. Vanderbilt left the Estate and Museum to Suffolk County, New York. It was opened to the public in 1950.

Duties and Responsibilities include the following:

- Supervise and work cooperatively with our volunteer Master Gardeners.
- Handle day to day garden maintenance; weeding, watering, deadheading, mulching, pruning, planting, staking/training, fertilizing, cleaning, etc. The focus of tasks shifts in accordance with the growing season.
- Must have extensive knowledge of plant names, identify a variety of annuals and perennials, and know their horticultural requirements.
- Monitor plant development and remove substandard plants to maintain quality standards, when necessary.
- Possess in-depth knowledge of the safe handling and application of chemicals such as fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and fungicides.
- Inspect plants, shrubs, bushes and trees on a regular basis to ascertain a wide variety of conditions such as diseases, fungi and existence of pests.
- Mow, edge, trim and perform other various landscape related tasks.
- Utilize hand tools such as shears and pruners.
- Use all lawn tools including ride-on mowers, blowers, weed trimmers, chain saws and related items.
- Operate landscaping and power tools safely.
- Keep track of tools at all times, and ensure tools are organized and secured when grounds are open to the public.
- Rake, shovel, and remove debris by hand, such as leaves and branches, when necessary.
- Must have flexibility in schedule during emergencies such as inclement weather.
- Must be able to work outside in the elements.
- Report problems or concerns regarding property maintenance to the Facilities and Operations Supervisor.
- Report problems or concerns regarding equipment and tools, or need for equipment and tools to the Facilities and Operations Supervisor.
- Assist Facilities and Operations Department as needed for facility maintenance projects.
- Work both independently and as part of a team.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Skills:

Ability to work without supervision and use good judgment
Medium to heavy physical effort
Physical stamina to perform manual labor tasks
Excellent verbal communication and interpersonal skills
Maintain tools and supplies keeping a tidy on-site work and storage area
Must be able to lift up to 50+ pounds

Adhere to the basic rules of good conduct as expected on public grounds
Ability to stand and walk for long periods of time while working outside in the elements
Possess a temperament which thrives on a pivoting between a variety of tasks ranging from repetitive manual labor to delicate, aesthetic problem solving

Experience:

Valid NYS Drivers License (Required)
US work authorization (Required)
Historic landscape experience: 1 year (Preferred)
Gardening: 2 years (Preferred)
Horticulture: 1 year (Preferred)

Smoking is prohibited on Suffolk County property.

The Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium is an Equal Opportunity Employer.