



BRIDGING WORLDS

2025 ANNUAL
REVIEW





*Under the Patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet
of the Netherlands and Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven*

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MISSION

Building on the enduring heritage and values shared between the peoples of the Netherlands and the United States, the Netherland-America Foundation (NAF) seeks to further strengthen the bonds between our two countries through educational, cultural and business exchange.

The NAF offers the following programs:

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Netherland-America Foundation-Fulbright Fellowships: Awarded to Dutch and American students pursuing graduate level studies at universities in each other's countries, funded by proceeds from the NAF Ball, the Wilhelmina and Leendert Reuvers Educational Fund, and the Heersink Family Foundation.

Study Abroad Funding: The Netherland-America Foundation provides grants to bachelor's and master's students at the University of Amsterdam, Utrecht University, and Leiden University who wish to study in the United States for one semester, with funding from the estate of Johannes van de Pol and Stichting Zadelhoff Familiefonds.

Interest-free Study Loans: Awarded to Dutch students seeking to study in the United States and, on similar terms, to American students seeking to study in the Netherlands. Funding sources include the Maarten van Hengel Memorial Fund, Mark Pigott Family Education Fund, Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust, and NAF Study Loan Fund.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

NAF Dutch2USA Internship Program: NAF's largest internship program. Awarded to ambitious students enrolled in Dutch HBO and WO institutions who are pursuing internships in the United States. This program started in 2017 and is funded by the Golden Fleece Foundation. In 2021 the NAF launched the USA2Holland Internship Program, also funded by the Golden Fleece Foundation, which supports American students pursuing internships in the Netherlands.

Internships in Washington, D.C.: Awarded to students from the Netherlands and Dutch Caribbean for summer academic study at George Mason University and internships in our nation's capital at congressional offices, NGOs or private companies.

Heersink Family Global Health Internship Fund: Awarded to graduates of the Master of Global Health Program at Maastricht University, this grant funds students pursuing internships in the US in the field of global health.

Peter Grootenhuis Internship Program: Awarded to Netherlands-based students or graduates in the field of life sciences to pursue internships in the United States, in memory of Peter Grootenhuis.

J1 Visa Sponsorship: For Dutch students participating in internships or traineeships in the United States.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS

Cultural Grants: Supporting exchange between the United States and the Netherlands, for all areas of the arts. Both emerging artists as well as established organizations are eligible.

The Ottho G. Heldring Cultural Internship Grant: In memory of NAF Board Member Ottho Heldring, this grant assists students in the arts by providing funding for an internship abroad.

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Supporting the exchange of viewpoints, expertise and ideas among long-established companies as well as start-ups in the business community at NAF meetings and lectures.

NAF-ALUMNI PROGRAMS

Giving students who pass through NAF-sponsored programs opportunities to discuss career aspirations and connect with members through professional seminars and programs in the United States and the Netherlands.

FRIENDS FUNDS

Facilitating fundraising in the United States for Dutch cultural and educational institutions. Through this structure, U.S. donors' gifts may be tax-deductible.

LECTURES

Original programming on a range of topics of interest to Dutch-American heritage, relations and the Dutch-American experience via webinars and in person lectures, showcasing internationally recognized scholars and writers.

The NAF has chapters in Atlanta, Houston, New England, New York, Northern California, Southern California, Washington, D.C., and the Netherlands.

2025

BY NUMBERS

6

new grants were awarded to students who wish to study abroad in the United States for one semester

Provided visas to

17

Dutch students to intern at an American company

Signature events — the NAF Ball, the Ambassadors' Awards Dinner, and the Netherland-America Friendship Gala, and the inaugural New England Gala — raised over

\$470,000

in net proceeds

The Cultural Fund launched with

\$900,000

going towards cultural projects, classical music, and cultural internships

The Legacy Circle was created, with

6

funding commitments from NAF members

2

Dutch students who participated in The Fund for American Studies' summer program in Washington, D.C with a scholarship from the NAF

29

NAF-Fulbright Fellows

15

finished their year of exchange in the spring, and

14

started their fellowships in the fall

48

universities, nonprofits, and cultural institutions in the Netherlands supported as part of the NAF's Friends Funds program

\$190,000

loaned to 12 Dutch and American students for master's-level exchange study- interest-free

42

grants were awarded for cultural projects throughout the US and the Netherlands, totaling

\$140,000

56

interns started an internship with help from the Dutch2USA & USA2Holland grants

135

individuals or institutions received a grant or loan from the NAF

FROM THE CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



JURJAN WOUDA KUIPERS
Chair



CAROLIENE HERMANS
Executive Director

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS:

It is our pleasure to present the NAF Annual Review for 2025, a memorable year for the NAF. While 2025 certainly brought its challenges, including in international educational exchange, the commitment to fostering strong connections between the United States and the Netherlands never wavered.

Our programs continued to grow, we hosted a range of inspiring and special events, and we brought together donors, volunteers, and organizations from both the Netherlands and the United States. Their ongoing commitment, reflected in a record amount of unrestricted contributions and donations, allows us to continue carrying out the NAF's mission. We are deeply grateful for all the support we received in its many forms, and we look back on the past year with great appreciation and pride.

The NAF awarded 56 Internship Grants funded by the Golden Fleece Foundation, 14 NAF-Fulbright Fellowships, 42 Cultural Grants, 12 Study Loans, established 6 new Friends Funds, and launched the NAF Cultural Fund as well as the Heritage Circle for those individuals who have included the NAF in their will. To better promote the NAF's mission to an outside audience, a new short NAF video was produced, explaining our cross-Atlantic work. A new NAF website was created, which launched in early 2026. At the same time we implemented a new house style and we developed and introduced brand guidelines to ensure the consistent use of the NAF logo and brand identity across all stakeholders and communications. These milestones reflect our ongoing investment in our mission and in creating opportunities that bridge the United States and the Netherlands.

We sincerely thank the Board of Directors, committee members, and staff of the Netherland-America Foundation. Together, we are dedicated to strengthening the bonds between our two countries through the NAF's three pillars: Education, Culture, and Business.

EDUCATION

Educational programs continued to grow in 2025, as we supported well over 100 students in an international internship, master's degree, or research project. This contributes to our growing alumni community of over 1,200 members.

We also launched a new program for Dutch students wishing to study in the United States for one semester. Thanks to the generosity of the estate of Johannes van de Pol and Stichting Zadelhoff Familiefonds, students with limited financial means can now experience a transformative semester in the U.S.

CULTURE

Cultural projects that span the U.S. and the Netherlands continue to inspire us. From world-renowned museums in Boston and Rotterdam to innovative initiatives in New York, Miami, and The Hague, each brought Dutch-American culture to the forefront. These artists and institutions, working across visual art, music, film, and other disciplines, received cultural grants to help them reach their goals.

In 2025, we created the NAF Cultural Fund to provide donors the option to support specific cultural genres within the Foundation's mission. At launch, the Fund includes the General Cultural Sleeve for various projects, the Classical Music Sleeve for musical initiatives, and the Ottho Heldring Cultural Internship Sleeve for internships. Early support came from three founding donors, and the Fund of currently around \$900,000 continues to grow.

BUSINESS

Throughout 2025, we organized a series of events designed to foster transatlantic business exchange. The New England Chapter's Business Roundtable, held before their annual Gala, brought together C-suite professionals for a lively afternoon of insights and networking. Inspired by this success, the Netherlands Chapter introduced its own Business Roundtable before the annual Netherlands Dinner, creating additional opportunities for leaders to connect and collaborate. These events not only deepened professional ties but also sparked new ideas for future cross-border partnerships.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to fulfilling the NAF's mission together in 2026.

Jurjan Wouda Kuipers
chair

Caroliene Hermans
executive director

EDUCATION

REPORT FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee of the Netherland-America Foundation gathers several times per year to review and award Fulbright grants, study abroad awards, and study loans, enabling the next generation of students to pursue an international education.

In 2025, the committee reviewed 100 applications from the Institute of International Education and the Stichting Fulbright Commission the Netherlands and selected 14 students—11 American and 3 Dutch—to receive the NAF-Fulbright Fellowship. These students pursue further study or research at various universities and institutions in the United States and the Netherlands.

The Education Committee extends its sincere appreciation for the support received from the NAF Ball, including the following generous sponsors of the American NAF-Fulbright awardees: the Aegon Transamerica Foundation, Corendon, Heineken USA, the Heersink Family Foundation, the Van Hengel Family, Joost van Gestel, the Northstar Family Foundation, Erik Stapper, Stichting Lucendi, and Hugo Verdegaal. We also sincerely thank the Reuvers Fund and the Heersink Family Foundation for their contributions to Dutch NAF-Fulbright awardees.

In 2025, the NAF launched the Johannes van de Pol Student Exchange Fund, creating a new and exciting opportunity for students to receive additional support for one semester during their university-sponsored study abroad program in the United States. In its inaugural year, the Fund supported 6 students from Leiden University's Faculty of Law. In 2026, we will expand the funding to students at Utrecht University pursuing a semester abroad in the US. We are deeply appreciative to the estate of Johannes van de Pol for their support. We are also very grateful for the Stichting Zadelhoff Familie Fonds for their gift to make a study abroad semester possible for students at the University of Amsterdam, with applications being solicited in 2026.

In addition to the NAF-Fulbright grants, the Education Committee selected 12 students who will receive interest-free loans through the NAF's Study Loan Program, supported by the Maarten van Hengel Memorial Fund, the Mark Pigott Family Education Fund, the Samuel Freeman Charitable Trust, and the NAF Study Loan Fund. These generous donors have long supported our Study Loan Program and enabled over 500 students since 1989 to pursue an international master's degree by receiving loans with zero interest.

I am deeply grateful to the members of the Education Committee for their commitment to advancing international academic exchanges: Vivienne Aerts, Mila Heersink Dovich, Marthe Haverkamp, Vlad Hogenhuis, Alexander van der Horst, Wagaye Johannes, and Claudia Teich Lepore. Their time and insight play a key role in identifying outstanding Dutch and American candidates for the NAF-Fulbright awards and study loans, and I am grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with this devoted and energetic committee.

Eleanne van Vliet
committee chair

EDUCATION

FELLOWSHIPS, STUDY LOANS, COLLABORATIONS



My experience as an NAF-Fulbrighter was transformative and life-changing. I am profoundly grateful, not only for the research opportunities and the chance to immerse myself in Dutch culture, but also for the relationships I built and how they have continued to shape me. Several fellow NAF grantees, both in my cohort and from previous cohorts, have become some of my closest friends. When reflecting on my time in the Netherlands, I feel inspired by the people who surrounded me. We all arrived with different passions and diverse backgrounds, but were united in this experience of immersing ourselves in Dutch culture and sharing our American experience. I feel a sense of pride and utmost gratitude to have had the chance to be a small part of the incredible legacy of transnational friendship, learning, and exchange that the Netherlands-America Foundation represents.

RILEY DAMIANO

NAF-Fulbright Fellow, 2024-2025



NAF-FULBRIGHT FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowships for study in the Netherlands for the 2025-2026 academic year, raised at the NAF Ball in 2024, were awarded to:

Daniela Andrade

Communications,
University of Amsterdam
Sponsor: Hugo Verdegaaal

Kristina Ayers

Public Health, Maastricht
University
Sponsor: Heersink Family
Foundation Fellowship in
Global Health

Brenna Bruffey

Environmental Sciences,
TU Delft
Sponsor: Joost van Gestel

Isabella Culotta

Design, Design Academy
of Eindhoven
Sponsor: Corendon

Jesse Ferraioli

Environmental Studies,
IHE Delft
Sponsor: Heineken USA

Aashi Mendpara

Anthropology, Trimbos
Institute
Sponsor: Stichting
Lucendi

Mia Rode

Public Health, University
Medical Center Utrecht
Sponsor: Aegon
Transamerica Foundation

Micah Slater

Film/Cinema Studies,
University of Amsterdam
Sponsor: Van Hengel
Family

Mya Vander Pol

Museum Studies,
University of Amsterdam
Sponsor: The Gree
Polder and Charles
Stapper Fellowship in
Netherlandish Art
(Erik Stapper)

Ishita Verma

Public Health, Erasmus
Medical Center
Sponsor: Northstar
Family Foundation

Jaela Williams

Sociology, University of
Amsterdam
Sponsor: Northstar
Family Foundation

Fellowships for study in the United States for the 2025-2026 academic year were awarded to:

Demy Donkervoort

Medical Sciences,
Cincinnati Children's
Hospital Medical Center
Sponsor: Heersink Family
Foundation Fellowship in
Global Health

Björn Keyser

Neuroscience, California
Institute of Technology
Sponsor: Reuvers Fund

Alison Wetzelaer

International Relations,
Tufts University
Sponsor: Reuvers Fund

STUDY LOANS

Interest-free study loans were issued for the 2025-2026 academic year to:

MAARTEN VAN HENGEL MEMORIAL FUND LOANS

Up to \$20,000 loaned to candidates with a record of superior academic accomplishment.

Olivier Backx

International Relations,
Georgetown University

Erin Gentry

Sustainable Development,
Utrecht University

Sam de Paauw

Life Science & Technology,
Dana-Farber Cancer
Institute

PIGOTT FAMILY EDUCATION FUND

Up to \$20,000 loaned to Fulbright fellows in the Netherlands or United States.

Sacha Gyapjas

International Relations,
New York University

Robin Vergouwen

Public Health,
Harvard University

SAMUEL FREEMAN CHARITABLE TRUST

Loans of \$10,000 for candidates with a record of superior academic accomplishment and leadership skills.

Theresa Koelé

LLM, Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

NAF STUDY LOANS

Up to \$20,000 loaned to candidates for exchange study or research.

Campbell Gibbs

Health Economics, Erasmus
University Rotterdam

Simon Jung

Financial Mathematics,
University of Chicago

Grant Thomas

Double Bass Performance,
Codarts Rotterdam

Aisha Hassan

Agriculture, Massachusetts
Institute of Technology

Charlotte Schmitt

Metropolitan Analysis
Design and Engineering,
TU Delft and Wageningen
University & Research

Nicole Woods

Design, TU Delft

NAF STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

Grants were given to the following students in the Leiden University Faculty of Law to study in the United States for one semester:

Marco van Diest

Cornell University

Ploun van der Kooi

University of Florida,
Levin College of Law

Musa Naryapragi

University of Florida,
Levin College of Law

Fleur van Dun

University of California,
San Francisco

Alex Meijs

University of California,
San Francisco

Anton Wiebe

Cornell University

INTERNSHIPS

REPORT FROM THE INTERNSHIP COMMITTEE

The NAF operates several internship programs that are designed to provide high-achieving students with the opportunity to pursue professional internships in the United States or the Netherlands. The Internship Committee reviews applicants for internship grants and drives the direction of the NAF's internship program. In 2025 we have assisted over 80 students who embarked on a life-changing international internship through providing funding and/or their visa.

In strong partnership with the Golden Fleece Foundation, the NAF's Dutch2USA and USA2Holland Internship Grants were awarded to 56 students in 2025, and 63 completed an internship.

Each year, Dutch students intern in Washington, D.C. for an unforgettable summer participating in The Fund for American Studies' summer internship program. Two students were able to travel to the United States' capital city in summer 2025 with this scholarship, allowing them to intern at a local organization and attend lectures, networking events, and site briefings.

In addition, the NAF awarded grants for two applicants of the Heersink Family Global Health Internship Fund and one applicant of the Peter Grootenhuis Life Sciences Internship Grant. We also assisted 17 students in securing their J-1 visa for an internship or traineeship in the United States, with help through the J-1 visa sponsor CIEE.

I'd like to thank the following people for their contributions to the NAF's internship programs: Marthe Haverkamp, Alexander van der Horst, Gonnie Klabbers, Joop Saan, Stan Veuger, and Eleanne van Vliet.

In particular, my special thanks goes to the NAF Internship Committee: Mary Vermeer Andringa, Andrew Enschedé, Jim Dykstra, Hélène Fiene, Charles Wijnen Gonzales, Maria Infante Pulido, and Noah Verduyn Lunel.

INTERNSHIPS

INTERSHIP PROGRAMS

DUTCH2USA/USA2HOLLAND GRANTS

In 2025, the following awardees of the Dutch2USA/USA2Holland Internship Grant successfully completed an international internship:

DUTCH2USA

[Karst Adriaansens](#)

Mayo Clinic

[Golshan Akbari](#)

Brigham and Women's Hospital

[Ayuub Ali](#)

University of California, Davis

[Fatmanur Aydin](#)

Mass General Brigham
Incorporated

[Jette Boxem](#)

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

[Cameron Chung](#)

Boston Children's Hospital

[Matteo Demorest](#)

Schepens Eye Research Institute
of Massachusetts Eye and Ear
Hospital

[Johan Diepeveen](#)

Brigham and Women's Hospital

[Kim Duijsens](#)

Westville

[Laura Ernest](#)

University of Florida

[Hélène Fiene](#)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Consulate General of
The Kingdom of Netherlands

[Susanne Gamas Vis](#)

Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical
Discovery Institute

[Sibel Gökbekir](#)

Embassy of the Kingdom of
the Netherlands

[Azra Gül](#)

Brigham and Women's Hospital

[Jacob-Jan Haaksma](#)

Massachusetts Institute of
Technology

[Ties Hensen](#)

Embassy of the Kingdom of
the Netherlands

[Sven Huiting](#)

Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center

[Samuel Kassa](#)

Embassy of the Kingdom of
the Netherlands

[Amro Kharrat](#)

General Atomics

[Ion Kolkhuis Tanke](#)

University of Wisconsin

[Bjarne Langkamp](#)

Embassy of the Kingdom of
the Netherlands

[Linn Mahabier](#)

Acquolina Catering & Event

[Samanta Dil Mohamed](#)

Shrike Zhang Lab at Harvard
Medical School/Brigham and
Women's Hospital

[Jamaal Mohmoud](#)

Massachusetts General Hospital

[Omar Moussa](#)

Massachusetts General Hospital

[Xiara Pichotte](#)

Westville

[Daan Pijs](#)

Boston Children's Hospital

[Tsiporah Reijzer](#)

Consulate General of the
Netherlands in New York

[Luke Rossen](#)

Church Lab at Harvard University

[Kamiel Sauer](#)

FitBiomics

[Alec Schmitz](#)

Crizit

[Dorien Schonebaum](#)

Beth Israel Deaconess
Medical Center

[Stuart Smits](#)

Harvard T.H. Chan School of
Public Health

[Stefanie Sturm](#)

Columbia University in the
City of New York

[Nudrat Tahir](#)

RTL Nieuws

[Mats Teeken](#)

Brigham and Womens Hospital

[Jan van Bebber](#)

United Nations

[Nora van Dijk](#)

Melitta Baumeister

[Anna van Poucke](#)

Nederlandse Omroep Stichting

[Daphni van Rinsum](#)

Icahn School of Medicine at
Mount Sinai

[Mark van Voorst](#)

University of Michigan School of
Dentistry

[Elena Vazquez Alferez](#)

Harvard T.H. Chan School of
Public Health

[Job Veerman](#)

Permanent Representation of
the Netherlands to the
United Nations

[Noah Verduyn Lunel](#)

University of California, Berkeley

[Pim Voogt](#)

Miami Restaurant Supplies

[Thomas Westerhuis](#)

Brigham and Women's Hospital

[Shania Worm](#)

University of Illinois Chicago

[Hidayet Yilmaz](#)

Mayo Clinic

[Elizabeth Zantema](#)

Stratevi

USA2HOLLAND

[Stacy Bediako](#)

Nouryon

[Chayti Biswas](#)

Amsterdam Arts and
Social Science Labs

[Kutina Cabrera](#)

Radboud University

[Jackson Galitski](#)

Portera

[Sikkiim Hamilton](#)

Stichting 100WEEKS

[Grace Harsche](#)

Dutch & Detained

[Bryce Kilburn](#)

Talk 360

[Xiyu \(Ren\) Liao](#)

Solaq

[James Pelaez](#)

CAIDEL: Continuous AI Delivery

[Rajeev Rai](#)

Startupbootcamp

[Angel Ramirez](#)

Wageningen University & Research
Laboratory of Genetics

[Marissa Rueda](#)

Nekod

[Sofia Schuhbeck](#)

Amsterdam Arts and
Social Science Labs

[Lily Xu](#)

RespiQ

INTERNSHIPS

INTERSHIP PROGRAMS

NAF WASHINGTON D.C. INTERSHIP PROGRAM

Scholarships for study at George Mason University with internships in Washington, D.C. awarded to two Dutch students from funds raised through the NAF's Ambassadors' Awards Dinner:

[Evanee Giel](#), for an internship at Atlas Network, and [Ivar Jansen](#), for an internship at the Center for the National Interest.

HEERSINK FAMILY GLOBAL HEALTH INTERSHIP FUND

The Heersink Family Global Health internship grant is awarded by the Heersink Family Charitable Foundation for graduates of Maastricht University's Master's in Global Health Program. This grant, in honor of Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands, enables awardees to pursue a global health-related internship in the United States, inspired by Princess Margriet's passionate devotion to public health.

The 2025 grant recipients were [Mirte Menu](#) and [Viola Ferro](#).

PETER GROOTENHUIS LIFE SCIENCES INTERSHIP GRANT

The Peter Grootenhuis Life Sciences Internship Grant seeks to facilitate the transatlantic ambitions of young scientific researchers, specifically those who seek to apply their knowledge towards the advancement of human health by conducting cutting-edge life sciences research. This multi-year grant was gifted by the family of the late Peter Grootenhuis, a Dutch-American medicinal chemist who co-led the development of three FDA-approved drugs for cystic fibrosis.

The 2025 grant was awarded to [Jens van der Hulst](#) for an internship at the University of Georgia's Michael Duncan Lab.

J-1 VISA PROGRAM

The NAF provided J-1 visas, in partnership with CIEE for the following interns and trainees:

[Mannes van de Winkel](#)
HyET NoCarbon USA

[Armin Amiri](#)
Venture University

[Arman Amiri](#)
Venture University

[Dinara Sayfullina](#)
Externa Bio

[Alec Schmitz](#)
Crizit

[Laurens Haffman](#)
Applied Materials

[Thomas Westerhuis](#)
Brigham and Women's Hospital

[Anna Broens](#)
Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii

[Eliza Zantema](#)
Stratevi

[Folkert de Klerk](#)
Applied Materials

[Korneel Somers](#)
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Research Institute

[Jacob Hartog](#)
Empower Aesthetics

[Maurits van Herwijnen](#)
Boskalis

[Francesco Nacchia](#)
Nuvoton

[Joris Henstra](#)
Applied Materials

[Ngoc Nguyen](#)
Galleros Robinsn

[Rafael Nierse](#)
Expedition America

ALUMNI

REPORT FROM THE ALUMNI COMMITTEE

In 2025, the NAF Alumni Committee welcomed new grantees to the Netherlands and United States while continuing to develop our vast alumni network.

In the Netherlands, we hosted our annual NAF Connection Dinner, gathering NAF-Fulbright grantees, loan awardees, USA2Holland interns and other awardees from our various programs for an evening in Amsterdam to meet and network. The annual NAF Connection dinner in Amsterdam is an intimate dinner with over 30 guests joining us for this annual celebration of Dutch-American educational exchange. At the Connection Dinner, current awardees and interns shared their research and they discussed their time in the Netherlands. We also hosted an annual sendoff event for students departing the country after their Fulbright year concluded where all awardees from all NAF programs are again welcome. The year ended with a succession of events, from a guided harbor and canal tour to celebrate the Tall Ships festival, opening night of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, and our annual Halloween Borrel.

In the US, we had a picnic with new grantees in New York and in Boston, a night at the Whitney Museum of American Art with new grantees in New York City, and brought together our community for the annual NAF Connection, with nearly 70 guests joining us for this annual celebration of Dutch-American educational exchange. At the Connection, a panel of students and interns was moderated by NAF Executive Director Caroliene Hermans, as they discussed their reactions to living and interning in the United States and overall appreciation for their experience.

We found additional support with Alumni Community Coordinator Nemi Dupuis, who developed a strategy to build a self-sustaining alumni network with minimal maintenance, enabling alumni to connect, share knowledge, and support each other. Part of this involved growing the NAF Alumni LinkedIn group, from less than 100 members to over 600 members out of the 1,200 recorded NAF alumni.

New and continued initiatives included the dedicated alumni column in the NAF newsletter, which spotlights members of our committee and NAF alumni from years past. We also piloted the peer mentor program for American students, to support their transition from the US to the Netherlands.

Finally, I extend my wholehearted thanks to the members of the Alumni Committee in both the US and the Netherlands for their continued support: Khadija El Ayoubi, Tren Baltussen, Roos Stallinga, Hans Udo, Raychel Bannick, Michel Geijs, Kathy Liu, Natasha Stamler, and new members Jessy Pot and Marouscha de Vries.

STUDENTS & ALUMNI OF THE NAF



Beyond the scientific aspects, this experience broadened my perspective on the world. Having had limited opportunities to travel due to financial constraints, participating in this program allowed me to immerse myself in a different culture and appreciate how diverse and expansive the world truly is. This exposure has been transformative, both personally and professionally, and has contributed to my growth as a more well-rounded individual.

MEIKE VERMEULEN

The Dutch2USA grant was instrumental in completing my PhD research and achieving my career goals. Without this support, I would have been forced to return to the Netherlands prematurely, leaving critical research unfinished. This grant enabled me to develop expertise in limb salvage surgery that isn't readily available in Europe, positioning me competitively for future surgical training positions.

OMAR MOUSSA

Over the course of this internship I have grown professionally by learning to speak up and take the initiative and maintain a pro-active attitude. Over these 5 months I have transitioned into a self-confident young professional, eager to learn and challenge herself while making meaningful contributions to team efforts. On a personal level, moving to the US was both the most exciting and the most daunting step I had ever taken, and I feel very fortunate to have had such a rewarding experience.

ELIZABETH ZANTEMA

(1) The NAF Alumni Committee Netherlands hosting their annual send-off event to American NAF-Fulbright students in May 2025, who had just completed their Fulbright year. (2) Members of the NAF Alumni Committee Netherlands at the annual NAF Connection Dinner in March 2025. L-R: Hans Udo, Roos Stallinga, Khadija El Ayoubi, Sjaña Holloway, and Tren Baltussen (3) Marcelo Malisano Barreto Filho, recipient of the Heersink Family Charitable Foundation Research Fellowship, who did his fellowship at Maastricht University. (4) Dutch2USA interns gathering in Boston. L-R: Dinara Sayfullina, Eliza Zantema, Golshan Akbari, Thomas Westerhuis, Henry, Jacob-Jan Haaksma, Elena Vazquez Alferez, and Johan Diepeveen (May 2025). (5) USA2Holland intern Chayti Biswas in summer 2025. (6) Annual welcome picnic in Boston (Oct. 2025). (7) NAF-supported interns and researchers at the NL Transatlantic Dinner in June 2025. (8) USA2Holland interns Stacy Bediako, Chayti Biswas, and Kutina Cabrera exploring the Netherlands. (9) The 2025-2026 NAF-Fulbright cohort at the annual Fulbright Reception at the Ambassador's Residence in the Hague in September 2025. L-R: Sjaña Holloway (NAF Alumni Committee Chair), Mya Vander Pol, Bella Culotta, Ishita Verma, Mia Rode, Jaela Williams, Aashi Mendpara, Brenna Bruffey, Kristina Ajers, Micah Slater, and Daniela Andrade. Photo by James Owens



CULTURE

CULTURAL GRANTS

REPORT FROM THE CULTURAL COMMITTEE

In 2025, the Cultural Committee of the NAF awarded 42 grants totaling \$140,000 to exhibits, music performances, publications, and more for projects that seek to bridge cultures. From Dutch designer Iris van Herpen's first major New York retrospective at the Brooklyn Museum, to the return of Lucas and Arthur Jussen at Boston's Symphony Hall, the NAF continues to support world-renowned artists as they highlight the value of Dutch-American cultural exchange.

A major milestone in 2025 was the creation of the **NAF Cultural Fund**. Thanks to current and future donors, this fund will allow us to substantially grow the amount of cultural funding the NAF can provide over the next several years, further solidifying the NAF's important and historical role as an enabler of cultural exchange between the Netherlands and the US.

As part of this new Fund, we put into motion the **Otto G. Heldring Cultural Internship Grant** in memory of NAF board member Otto G. Heldring. The grant will start to accept applications in 2026 for students who wish to do a cultural internship in the United States or the Netherlands. This grant is the first of several thematic cultural grants to be announced in the near future, which will be used to fund Dutch-American cultural projects for years to come. I would like to thank Eelco de Jong, Hugo Verdegaal, and Jurjan Wouda Kuipers for all their efforts in helping set up this fund.

My appreciation goes to the members of the Cultural Committee for the many hours they spend reviewing every cultural grant application received: Matthijs de Clercq, Erwin Maas, Mia Mochizuki, Theo Prudon, Roddy Schrock, and Hester Velmans. Special thanks to Karen Archey for her years of contributions to the committee.

Bart-Jan Polman
committee chair

CULTURE



Donald Niedekker answers a question at an event at Porter Square Books, pictured with Jonathan Reeder and Ellen Elias-Bursac during the book tour for the English translation of *Strange and Perfect Account from the Permafrost*. Photo courtesy of Sandorf Passage



Anne Applebaum in conversation at the Forum on European Culture. Photo: Jan Boeve

BOOK TOUR

- U.S. book tour of author Donald Niedekker and translator Jonathan Reeder's ***Strange and Perfect Account from the Permafrost*** in June 2025.

CONFERENCE/LECTURE

- Dr. Shanti Venetiaan's lecture at the De Vries-VanderKooy Memorial Lecture on "**50 Years of independence of Suriname**," held at the University of Michigan in October 2025.
- The participation of **Anne Applebaum** at the Forum on European Culture in June 2025 in Utrecht.

CULTURE

- **Black Arts. Black Pedagogies. Black Futures.**, a program bringing together Black artists, educators, thinkers, and cultural workers to facilitate artistic dialogue, foster collective (un)learning, and share methodologies, organized by Metro54 and The Space for Creative Black Imagination in summer 2025.

DANCE

- A collaboration between **Cinedans** (Amsterdam) and the **San Francisco Dance Film Festival**, featuring reciprocal dance film programs and presentations of dance films from the US and the Netherlands.
- A partnership between **Juilliard Dance and Roger Van der Poel**, a Portuguese-Dutch dancer and educator with the Nederlands Dans Theater.
- Participation of Dutch choreographer **Faizah Grootens** at the Battery Dance Festival in New York City, August 2025.

EXHIBIT

- **From those who worked the land** multimedia sculpture and event with the Jan van Eyck Open House, developed by U.S.-based artist Alexandria Douziech.
- **Iris van Herpen: Sculpting the Senses** exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum from May to December 2026.
- The New York Historical's exhibition **Old Masters and New Amsterdam**, on view from May-August 2026, recognizing the 400th anniversary of New York's Dutch founding and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the American Republic.

CULTURE

EXHIBIT (cont'd)

- Museum of Fine Arts, Boston for the exhibit **Rachel Ruysch: Artist, Naturalist, and Pioneer** from August-December 2025.
- **Marilyn Nance: Spirit Faith Grace Rage** at Kunstinstituut Melly, December 2025-April 2026 in Rotterdam.
- The solo exhibition of **Steve Kado**, curated by Jacob Korczynski, at Manifold Books in Amsterdam from November-December 2025.
- The three-day “**Warehouse Market NYC**” in July 2025, organized by Warehouse (Amsterdam) and Bungee Space NYC and Lunch Hour NYC.
- **Virtual Bridges**, a parallel VR installations in Amsterdam and New York, by Carlos-Shields Davis.
- **Feel Me, Hear Me—Echoes from the Metropole** by Extra Extra at the Performa Biennial in November 2025.
- Landscape designer **Piet Oudolf**'s exhibit at Planting Fields, the Oudolf Garden.



Marilyn Nance at the opening of Spirit Faith Grace Rage at Kunstinstituut Melly. Photo: Aad Hoogendoorn

FILM

- For American director Dwayne LeBlanc to present **You Do Not Exist** at the 55th International Film Festival Rotterdam and Eye Filmmuseum in Amsterdam.
- **Dutch film programming** at the New York International Children's Film Festival 2026.
- Screening of **Oema foe Sranan (Women of Suriname)** at the Third Horizon Film Festival in Miami, Florida in May 2025.

HISTORY

- For The Black Liberators in The Netherlands Foundation to revitalize its key platform, **BlackLiberators.nl**, highlighting the overlooked role of African American soldiers in the liberation of Europe.
- The **NYC Quadricentennial Gala Celebrations** at The Mount Vernon Hotel Museum & Garden in Manhattan in September 2025.



Day 1 of Warehouse Market New York Edition, which focused on labor hours, while days 2 and 3 focused on material costs and retail price, to encourage conversations around value, sustainability, and independent practice. Photo: Sinclair Li

MUSIC

- Performances of **Heavy Hearts** in Utrecht, The Hague, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam in September 2025 by medium.
- Performance by **Maaïke den Dunnen** at the Made in New York Jazz Gala in May 2025.
- Violinist **Tosca Opdam**'s performance on June 18 in New York City aboard The Clipper.
- Performance by wind quintet **OUT Ensemble** at World Pride in Amsterdam in summer 2026.
- **Lucas and Arthur Jussen**'s performance at Boston's Symphony Hall in spring 2026.
- **Endzeit and Field Records**' 10-day concert workshop tour in the US.
- **AMSTERDAM: Exploration and Freedoms in Early Manhattan**, performed by Tenet Vocal Artists and Amsterdam-based ensemble Caecilia-Concert in New York City in May 2026.
- Participation of American ensembles **Attacca Quartet** and **PubliQuartet** at the String Quartet Biennale Amsterdam.
- Release tour of new album "**Echo The Sun**" in Netherlands and the US by the Philippe Lemm Trio.
- **Musicians of Ma'alwyck**'s Dutch concert series in upstate New York in October 2025.
- **Alternating Lunes** (led by Lesle Smucker) performance in November/December 2025 in Amsterdam and The Hague.
- **Penicillium chrysogenum: Making the Inaudible Audible** in January 2026 in The Hague, led by Anna-Louise Walton.
- **Ear to the Earth Ensemble**'s performance of Verwilderd at Gaudeamus Festival in September 2025 in Utrecht.

PERFORMING ARTS

- **For Real** at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in November 2025.
- Dance theatre performance of **Room in Our House** in Syracuse, New York in early 2026.



Alternating Lunes, an interdisciplinary performance composed and performed by Dutch and American collaborators, featuring violinist/composer Leslee Smucker, sound artist/composer Siamak Anvari, and trombonist/sound artist Kevin Toksöz Fairbairn. Photo: Siamak Anvari



Ear to the Earth Ensemble performing at Gaudeamus. Photo: Gaudeamus Muziekweek 2025 and Paulus van Dorsten

PUBLICATION

- The Dutch-English edition of **Anna Maria van Schurman: Two Devotional Poems**, by Albert J. Gootjes & John L. Thompson.
- First monographic book "**Horse Book**" by the Dutch-American artist Sands Murray-Wassink, to be published late 2025 by DssB, initiated by Amsterdam-based designer Sabo Day and Richmond-based designer and researcher Rosen Eveleigh.
- **Boekie Woekie** (Amsterdam) exhibition at the Center for Book Arts in New York City from October-December 2025.

RESIDENCY

- **Living Atlas: A Sensorial Navigation Through Color, Code, and Collage** developed by Nabuurs&VanDoorn, a Dutch conceptual art duo, during their residency at 18th Street Arts Center in Los Angeles.
- Filmmaker and curator Courtney Stephens' residency at Foundation WET in Rotterdam, including the live performance lecture **Terra Femme**.

FRIENDS FUNDS

Many Netherlands-based cultural, educational, and charitable institutions seek to expand their impact by raising funds in the United States. However, a primary barrier is that donations made by U.S. taxpayers directly to Dutch organizations are not eligible for U.S. tax deductions. The Netherlands-America Foundation (NAF) addresses this by providing a legal framework that enables tax-efficient fundraising partnerships.

Through the Friends Fund Program, U.S. donors can enjoy income and gift tax deductions, while Dutch organizations can focus on their core missions without establishing their own U.S. charitable entities. This structure ensures regulatory compliance and reduces expenses related to accounting, auditing, legal counsel, and annual tax filings.

In 2025, NAF Friends Funds completed its 13th year, expanding by adding four new organizations. By year-end, the established Friends Funds included:

1. Anne Frank House
2. ARQ National Psychotrauma
3. Beautiful Distress Foundation
4. Leiden University Medical Center
5. Carnegie Foundation Peace Palace
6. Craft In Focus Festival
7. Delft Aerospace Rocket Engineering (DARE)
8. Embassy of the Free Mind (Stichting Het Wereldhart)
9. Erasmus University
10. Frans Hals Museum
11. Fulbright Commission The Netherlands
12. Global Henia Relief Foundation
13. Health [E] Foundation
14. Henry Hudson 500 Foundation
15. International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam
16. International Advertising and Design Database
17. International Film Festival Rotterdam
18. International Statistical Institute
19. Jewish Heritage Network
20. John Adams Institute
21. Landmerk Foundation
22. Leo Smit Foundation
23. Maastricht University Fund
24. Museum De Lakenhal
25. National Museum Boerhaave
26. Naturalis Biodiversity Center
27. Nederlands Dans Theater
28. Netherlands Bach Society
29. New Holland Foundation
30. Royal Conservatoire Fund
31. The Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra
32. Sheltersuit
33. Stichting Erasmus Trustfonds
34. Stichting Figura Nova Foundation
35. Stichting Rijksmuseum Van Oudheden
36. Stichting Vrienden van de Oude of Pelgrimsvader Kerk
37. Strijkkwartet Biennale Amsterdam
38. Teylers Museum
39. The Mara Foundation
40. The Ocean Cleanup
41. Technical University of Delft
42. University of Amsterdam
43. University of Groningen
44. University of Leiden
45. University of Twente
46. University of Utrecht
47. Vereniging Rembrandt
48. Viola Viola

CHAPTERS

NAF ATLANTA

March: (1) Dutch Day on the Hill at the Georgia Capitol, Atlanta with Consulate General, Dutch Chamber of Commerce in Atlanta, GA legislators and businesses. On this day, the formal handover of Chairmanship also occurred. Outgoing Chair Miranda Reshaw (2022-2025) and incoming Chair Yvonne David. (2) Annual Signature Fundraising Event. Bike ride at Big Creek Greenway, Alpharetta. Lunch and raffle at Cherry Street Brewpub Halcyon.

April: King's Day Celebration at the Consulate in Atlanta

June: Participated in The Georgia Caribbean American Heritage Coalition at City Hall, Atlanta

September: (1) Prinsjesdag (Dutch Budget Day)—prepared a lesson plan and hands-on activities for the students at De Molenwiek, the Dutch language and culture school. (2) Prinsjesdag Panel Discussion with Jaap Veerman (C) and Britt van den Berg (DKH) at the Consulate.

December: Participated in Xebia's Bikes and Trikes event. We assembled kids' bicycles and tricycles to be donated for the holiday season.

— YVONNE DAVID, *CHAIR*



(1) Handover of the Chairmanship from Miranda Reshaw to Yvonne David (2) Prinsjesdag—Jaap Veerman, Dutch Consul General in Atlanta, and Britt van den Berg, Dienst van het Koninklijke Huis (3) Bike event at Cherry Street Brewpub

NAF HOUSTON

In 2025, we refined our strategy to align more closely with the national NAF organization. Our focus for the coming years will be on internships and Dutch-American business networking.

Houston remains the Energy Capital of the world which provides an incredible business environment for young and ambitious students. Likewise, international-oriented students from one of the many acclaimed higher education institutions in Houston are interested in a unique experience in one of the key cities in the Netherlands, like Rotterdam, the Hague, Tilburg or Amsterdam, to name a few. Our goal is to develop and facilitate a two-way internship program.

We have worked in 2025 to set up the chapter to execute on this vision. The conversations with the University of Houston-Downtown have been very positive and we hope will result in a formal cooperation program in 2026.

Furthermore, we will continue our business networking by organizing a few high quality networking events. In 2025, we focused on recruiting a new Chapter Committee and 2026 will have us focused on delivering the first interns.

— RALF VAN DER VEN, *CHAIR*

CHAPTERS

NAF NETHERLANDS

In 2025, the Netherlands Chapter of the Netherland-America Foundation continued to strengthen transatlantic ties through educational, cultural, and business-focused initiatives.

The year began on 14 March with the traditional NAF Connection Dinner at Le Grand George in Amsterdam, where US Fellows-in-Residence and Dutch2USA Intern graduates shared their experiences and insights, underlining the impact of the NAF's programmes on both sides of the Atlantic.

On 15 May, the NAF Alumni Committee hosted the Sendoff Reception to bid farewell to students and interns departing for the United States, celebrating their achievements and ambitions.

The highlight of the year was our signature NL NAF Transatlantic Dinner on 27 June, themed "Intercontinental Innovation". This theme reflects our commitment to fostering a culture of innovation, creativity, and enterprise, and signals the NAF's ongoing investment in its mission to help talented individuals and organisations in both countries forge new connections and deepen existing ones. Earlier that day, a business round table, "Unlocking the US Market: A Comprehensive Guide to Successful Expansion", offered C-suite executives and business leaders from the biotech, pharma, medtech, life sciences, and tech sectors practical guidance on entering the US market.

During the Transatlantic Dinner, we proudly presented the 2025 Adams Van Berckel Award to Belinda Vermeer of the Vermeer Foundation, recognising her outstanding contribution to the transatlantic community. Guests also enjoyed performances by the Jazz Orchestra of the Royal Concertgebouw (JOC).

After the summer break, the NAF resumed its program in a cultural spirit by attending the Opening Night of the Concertgebouw Orchestra in September 2025.

— SABINE VAN SUIJDAM, CHAIR

NAF NEW ENGLAND

March 11: NAF New England hosts the book launch of Russell Shorto's *Taking Manhattan* at the Harvard Book Store in Cambridge, Massachusetts

May 4: NAF New England organizes a special event with the Handel and Haydn Society to attend Beethoven, Mozart + The Bear at the Boston Symphony Hall

May 5: Official launch of the NAF NE Marketing Network—a new initiative bringing together senior leaders from Dutch companies, as well as Dutch-speaking business leaders, innovators and thought leaders based in New England

June 1: Special MFA Tour for the Dutch community

June 19: Business Roundtable on innovation, policy and emerging trends with Dutch policymakers and business leaders

June 24: Inaugural meeting of NAF NE Marketing Network on the Clipper at Boston Harbor

September 19: (1) Business Roundtable at Foley Hoag's Boston headquarters, bringing together leaders from the Dutch and Massachusetts governments, the Netherlands' Embassy, the Consul General in New York, industry leaders from the innovation ecosystem for an exchange on R&D, innovation, and transatlantic collaboration (2) Gala Dinner at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. Leaders from biotechnology, pharma, tech, academia, and venture capital, alongside distinguished dignitaries from the Netherlands, Curaçao, Aruba, and Massachusetts witnessed signing of the Massachusetts-Netherlands Program of Cooperation in Life Sciences & Health

November 9: Rachel Ruysch exhibition visit at the MFA with students at the Dutch school "De Bonte Leeuw"

NAF NE company visits: MMID (April 2), MIT (April 10), Oblox (June 4), ProDrive (November 11), and Sartorius (December 11)

— BHARAT TEWARIE, CHAIR



(1) Sept. 19: Signing of the Massachusetts-Netherlands Program of Cooperation in Life Sciences & Health, by the NAF. L-R: Ben Linville-Engler, Belinda Termeer, Kim Tran, Ellen Steinmann-Richter, Ahmed Dadou, Jurjan Wouda Kuipers, Bharat Tewarie (2) Sept. 19: Netherland-America Foundation New England Gala at the MFA. L-R: Bharat Tewarie, Renu Tewarie, Erasmus Zulema, Shruthi Tewarie, Ahmed Dadou, Carlson Manuel, Jurjan Wouda Kuipers, Christine Del Favero, Melvin Dabian, Wilbert Kragten (3) May 5: Launch NAF New England Marketing Network. L-R: Wilbert Kragten, Nathalie Van Doorne, Bharat Tewarie, Ahmed Dadou

CHAPTERS

NAF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



(1) Rafael Nierse, NAF Dutch2USA Internship Program recipient at the Dutch American Heritage Day Celebration in San Diego
(2) NAF SoCal Team and Dutch American Heritage Day Celebration attendees at Timken Museum of Art



In November 2025, the Southern California Chapter of the NAF celebrated Dutch American Heritage Day at the Timken Museum of Art in Balboa Park. Surrounded by the Timken's Dutch and Flemish collection, including a work by Rembrandt, the setting offered a meaningful space to honor shared heritage. Guests enjoyed a docent-led tour of Dutch Golden Age masterpieces, exploring the history and artistry of the collection.

The program featured remarks from Honorary Consul Henk Hanseelaar, who spoke about the local Dutch community, and Huib Stad, who shared insights on Dutch innovation and growing collaborations ahead of LA28. NAF Dutch2USA Grant Recipient Rafael Nierse reflected on the transformative impact of international exchange, while Timken Museum Executive Director Megan Pogue highlighted the significance of the museum's Dutch art. The Dutch School Southern California also shared its mission of preserving language and culture for the next generation. NAF SoCal Chapter President Marcel van Zweeden expressed gratitude to attendees, spoke about the NAF's impactful programs, and emphasized how community support strengthens cultural, educational, and professional exchange between the two countries.

— MARCEL VAN ZWEEDEN, CHAIR

NAF WASHINGTON, D.C.

As we do every year, the Washington, DC chapter hosted its signature Ambassadors' Awards dinner. This year's awardees were Mark Heine, CEO of Fugro, and Hanneke Faber, CEO of Logitech. We also hosted and sponsored various other events on topics ranging from Dutch-speaking slaves in New York state to the Dutch general election. Perhaps most importantly, we welcomed another cohort of summer interns to DC.

— STAN VEUGER, CHAIR



(1) Russell Shorto discussing his latest book, *Taking Manhattan: The Extraordinary Events That Created New York and Shaped America* (W.W. Norton) at the Ambassador's residence (March 19, 2025) (2) Stan Veuger moderating a discussion at the American Enterprise Institute during the discussion *The Netherlands Goes to the Polls—Again*, speaking with Matthias Matthijs of the Council on Foreign Relations (October 31, 2025)

SIGNATURE EVENTS

NL TRANSATLANTIC DINNER

Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam

June 27, 2025

REPORT FROM THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The highlight of the year was our signature NL NAF Transatlantic Dinner on 27 June, themed "Intercontinental Innovation". This theme reflects our commitment to fostering a culture of innovation, creativity, and enterprise, and signals NAF's ongoing investment in its mission to help talented individuals and organisations in both countries forge new connections and deepen existing ones. The evening brought together a diverse community of alumni, corporate partners, policymakers, and friends of the NAF, creating a unique setting for dialogue and collaboration across sectors and generations.

Earlier that day, a business round table, "Unlocking the US Market: A Comprehensive Guide to Successful Expansion", offered C-suite executives and business leaders from the biotech, pharma, med-tech, life sciences, and tech sectors practical guidance on entering the US market. Experts shared concrete strategies, best practices, and lessons learned, making it an unmissable opportunity for Dutch companies with transatlantic ambitions.

During the Transatlantic Dinner itself, we proudly presented the 2025 Adams Van Berckel Award to Belinda Vermeer of the Vermeer Foundation, recognising her outstanding contribution to the transatlantic community. Guests also enjoyed performances by the Jazz Orchestra of the Royal Concertgebouw (JOC), adding a rich cultural dimension to the evening. A silent auction enabled attendees to directly support our scholarship and exchange programmes, while several USA2Holland and Fulbright students shared their personal experiences with the audience, powerfully illustrating the human impact of NAF's work and the lasting value of the transatlantic ties we help to build.

Sabine van Suijdam
chair, organizing committee



(1) USA2Holland interns and NAF leadership (2) Guests at the NL NAF Transatlantic Dinner (3) Presenting the Adams Van Berckel Award to Belinda Vermeer of the Vermeer Foundation (4) Panelists participating in our business roundtable (5) Dinner at Sofitel Legend The Grand Amsterdam. Photos by Ingrid de Reuver

SIGNATURE EVENTS

AMBASSADORS' AWARDS DINNER

The Willard InterContinental, Washington, D.C.

May 14, 2025

REPORT FROM THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The 2025 Ambassadors' Awards Dinner was held at The Willard InterContinental in Washington, D.C., honoring Hanneke Faber, CEO of Logitech, an internationally recognized electronics company, and Mark Heine, CEO of Fugro, the Dutch engineering firm and world leader in geo-data solutions. Andrew Enschedé and Wendy Gowdey served as Committee Co-Chairs.

Prior to the dinner, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands convened a thematic program on "Future-Proof Infrastructure" in collaboration with 2025 Freddy Heineken Award recipient Mark Heine. The discussion addressed critical infrastructure sectors—including transportation, coastal protection, ports, subsea cables, and energy systems such as LNG, nuclear, and transmission networks.

As energy production and domestic manufacturing expand in the United States, resilient and sustainable infrastructure remains essential to supporting economic growth, national competitiveness, and environmental stewardship. Participants emphasized the need to prepare for population growth, rising energy demand, and increasing climate-related risks. The program underscored the importance of strong public-private partnerships in designing, financing, and implementing these large-scale initiatives. Following Mr. Heine's remarks, a distinguished panel of public- and private-sector leaders engaged in discussion, with opening and closing remarks delivered by Members of Congress.

The Ambassadors' Awards Dinner immediately followed the seminar. In partnership with the Netherlands Embassy, the NAF presented both the Heineken Award and the Ambassadors' Awards. The evening also celebrated scholarship recipients preparing for future leadership and recognized the continued efforts of Holland on the Hill in strengthening transatlantic relations.

The NAF looks forward to continuing its valued partnership with the Embassy in hosting the Ambassadors' Awards Dinner in the years ahead.

Wendy Gowdey
co-chair, organizing committee



(1) L-R: Josephine (Fien) Bertrams, Senior Vice President, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Heineken, USA, H.E. Birgitta Tazelaar, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States, and Freddy Heineken Honoree—Mark Heine, CEO, Fugro. (2) L-R: Wendy Gowdey, Co-Chair, Dinner Organizing Committee, Caroliene Hermans, NAF Executive Director, H.E. Birgitta Tazelaar, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States, Freddy Heineken Honoree—Mark Heine, CEO, Fugro, Ambassadors' Award Honoree, Hanneke Faber, CEO, Logitech and Jurjan Wouda Kuipers, NAF Chair. (3) L-R: Ambassadors' Award Honoree, Hanneke Faber, CEO, Logitech and Timothy M. Broas, Ambassador, U.S. Department of State, The Hague, Netherlands (Ret.) Senior Counsel, Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, Board Member, The NAF. Photos by Donna Parry

SIGNATURE EVENTS

NAF BALL

Cipriani 42nd Street, New York City

November 21, 2025

REPORT FROM THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

In 2025, the NAF Ball was held at a new venue, Cipriani 42nd Street, in the heart of Manhattan. Against a backdrop of complex global and political challenges, the Ball committee was tasked to find a theme that was neutral, while reflecting the spirit of collaboration that defines the Netherlands–America relationship.

Under the leadership of Ball Chair Andrew Enschedé, the theme “Champions of Friendship” was selected to honor the power of sport to bring nations together and to reflect the enduring friendship between the United States and the Netherlands. This theme highlighted how shared values—teamwork, excellence, resilience, and mutual respect—passes borders and generations.

The evening prior to the Ball, we hosted a thematic seminar titled “Speed, Excellence & Exchange.” The program featured Olympic champions Eric Heiden, Dan Jansen, and Marianne Timmer, who together hold nine Olympic gold medals. They shared personal stories of triumph and setback, discipline and the spirit of international respect. The seminar set the tone for the Ball by reinforcing the values celebrated throughout the weekend.

The Ball itself welcomed Their Highnesses Prince Pieter-Christiaan and Princess Anita of Orange Nassau, representing longstanding Patrons Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet of the Netherlands and Professor Pieter van Vollenhoven. Their continued engagement over many decades has played an important role in raising awareness for the NAF’s mission and strengthening transatlantic ties.

The evening was further supported by valued longtime partners, including KLM, Heineken, and DM Equities. Heineken once again made possible one of the most memorable highlights of the evening: Freddy’s Heineken Night Club.

A special artistic moment was delivered by countertenor John Holiday, widely regarded as one of the finest countertenors of his generation. His performance added a special dimension to the evening.

Despite the challenges the organizing team worked exceptionally well together, resulting in strong attendance and an engaging program. The generosity and commitment of NAF’s donors made it possible to continue supporting educational and cultural grants that create life changing opportunities for young fellows, interns, and artists.

Looking ahead, the NAF remains committed to strengthening donor relationships throughout the year to sustain momentum and further enhance fundraising efforts—not only for the Ball, but across the broader portfolio of NAF programs and events.

Yvette van Loon
vice chair, NAF Ball

SIGNATURE EVENTS

NAF BALL



1

(1) L-R: His Excellency Ahmed Dadou (Consul General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in New York) and Ms. Imane Tahiri, Mr. Mark Singleton and Her Excellency Birgitta Tazelaar (Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United States), His Highness Prince Pieter-Christiaan and Her Highness Princess Anita of Orange-Nassau, Mr. Emile Gregoire and Her Excellency Ambassador Lise Gregoire-van Haaren (Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations), Jurjan Wouda Kuipers (NAF Chair) and Caroliene Hermans (NAF Executive Director) (2) L-R: Boaz Hulsman (Vice President Commercial North America, KLM) His Highness Prince Pieter-Christiaan of Orange-Nassau and Steven Shelton. (3) L-R: Olympic Champions, Eric Heiden, Marianne Timmer and Dan Jansen (4) Dancing at the Ball with Hans Duyf (Ambassador-at-Large in the Netherlands) and The Gerard Carelli Band. (5) John Holiday, Jr. (Countertenor, NAF Ball guest entertainer). (6) Always a lively dance floor at the NAF Ball (7) The Nightclub at Freddy's Heineken Bar. Photos by Richard Koek



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SIGNATURE EVENTS

NAF NEW ENGLAND BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Foley Hoag, Boston, MA
September 19, 2025

REPORT FROM THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



L-R: Martijn Bons (EY), Ahmed Dadou (Consul-General Kingdom of the Netherlands), Belinda Termeer (President Termeer Institute), Shrutih Tewarie (Gold Sponsor), Bharat Tewarie (Chair NAF New England), Prof Christian Kaeser (Siemens)

On September 19, The Netherland-America Foundation (NAF) New England hosted the 2025 Business Roundtable at Foley Hoag's Boston headquarters, bringing together leaders from the Dutch and Massachusetts governments, the Netherlands' Embassy, the Consul General in New York, industry leaders, and representatives of the broader innovation ecosystem for an afternoon of exchange on R&D, innovation, and transatlantic collaboration.

The program featured a dynamic series of sessions, including:

- Ashley Stolba (Commonwealth of Massachusetts) on Massachusetts' leadership in key and emerging technologies
- Chelsea Schiller (Venture Well & Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health (ARPA-H) Investor Catalyst Hub) on accelerating transformative health solutions through public-private partnerships
- Christian Kaeser (Siemens) & Martijn Bons (EY) on R&D tax incentives and their impact on business decisions
- Mary Kathryn Kennard & Kirby Sexton (Arcadis) on recruitment, retention, and the importance of "a pretty place" in attracting and retaining talent

Bharat Tewarie
chair, New England Dinner



L-R: NAF New England Business Roundtable Sept 19, 2025, Panelists Erik Huestis (Gold Sponsor), Jurjan Wouda Kuipers (Chair NAF), Christian Kaeser (Siemens), Martijn Bons (EY), Chelsea Schiller (ARPA-H), Dana Krueger (Russell Reynolds Associates), Bharat Tewarie (Chair NAF New England), Kirby Sexton (Arcadis), Florian Darmstadt (Rödl USA), Shrutih Tewarie (Gold Sponsor), Mary Kathryn Kennard (Arcadis), Ellen Steinmann-Richter (Counselor for Innovation, Science & Technology)

- Ellen Steinmann-Richter (Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in the USA) on the 3% R&D imperative for the Dutch economy
- Florian Darmstadt (RÖDL USA) on tax, talent, and the transatlantic link
- Shrutih Tewarie Chemburkar (Gold Sponsor Foley Hoag LLP) on navigating international trade laws to protect and scale global R&D
- Dana Krueger (Russell Reynolds Associates) on why the smartest R&D strategies start with people, not money
- Barry O'Brien (J.P. Morgan) on supporting startups and scale-ups to shape the innovation economy

Moderated by Erik Huestis (Gold Sponsor Foley Hoag LLP) and Bharat Tewarie (Chair, NAF New England), the roundtable highlighted how policy, tax, talent, and capital all play a role in shaping where and how innovation thrives.

We are grateful to our Gold Sponsor Foley Hoag LLP for hosting us in their stunning Seaport offices and to all the speakers and participants for sharing their insights.

The Netherland-America Foundation is proud to continue its mission of building bridges between the Netherlands and the United States through exchange in business, education, and culture.

SIGNATURE EVENTS

NAF NEW ENGLAND SIGNATURE GALA 2025

Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA
September 19, 2025

REPORT FROM THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Sept 19th : Netherland-America Foundation (NAF)
New England Gala at the MFA



L-R: Laurence Groot Bruinderink, Pauke Corstens, Siu-Li Khoe, Jos Krijnen,
Bharat Tewarie, Chair, Wilbert Kragten, Nathalie van Doorne,
Christine Del Favero, Louis Engelbert, Adrian van Alphen



L-R: Caroliene Hermans (Executive Director NAF), Belinda Termeer
(President Termeer Institute), Shruti Tewarie (Gold Sponsor)

On September 19, the NAF New England community gathered for a truly unforgettable evening at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. Surrounded by breathtaking masterpieces, attendees experienced an inspiring night that fostered networking, connection, and celebration within one of Boston's most iconic cultural landmarks.

The event began with a vibrant reception, bringing together leaders from business, government, academia, and the arts. Guests mingled as they enjoyed the beautiful museum setting, setting the tone for a memorable evening. An extraordinary dinner followed, served within the museum's galleries and enveloped by world-class art.

A highlight of the night was the signing of the Massachusetts-Netherlands Program of Cooperation in Life Sciences & Health. Distinguished representatives and special guests witnessed this momentous occasion, further strengthening the partnership between Massachusetts and the Netherlands in this vital sector.

The evening also featured a successful silent auction, as part of raising funds to support the NAF's mission and student exchange programs. Guests had the unique opportunity to enjoy private, after-hours tours of the MFA's collections, expertly guided by Christopher D.M. Atkins and Antien Knaap.

This evening would not have been possible without the dedication of our wonderful team of volunteers: Renu Tewarie, TT Wensveen, José Wendel, Sjoerd Vink, Marie Verdonck, Onno V., and the tireless work of our Gala Event Team: Bharat Tewarie, Christine Del Favero, Pauke Corstens, Nathalie van Doorne, Wilbert Kragten, Jeroen Jacob Vos, SPHR, GRP, Jos Krijnen, Adrian van Alphen, Louis Engelbert, Priyal Modi.

We are also grateful to our sponsors, Foley Hoag LLP, RÖDL USA, TMS Global N.V., Webby Central, Hugo Verdegaal, North Star Family Foundation, for making this evening possible and for their continued support of The Netherland-America Foundation's mission.

Together, we continue to strengthen the transatlantic bridge between the Netherlands and the United States - supporting opportunities in business, education and culture for the next generation of leaders.

Bharat Tewarie
chair, New England Dinner

LEGACY CIRCLE

REPORT FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Inspired by the large estate gift by NAF member Johannes van de Pol, our NAF Board member Ottho Heldring put forward the idea for the creation of the Legacy Circle. Until that moment, NAF members had left estate gifts to the NAF upon their passing, and their generosity had never crystallized into a recognized donor group. Ottho laid out his proposition at the fall 2024 Heritage Lunch in New York. He envisaged the creation of a group of NAF members formally and in writing, pledging to include the NAF in their estate planning. More importantly, Ottho volunteered to be the first member of this Legacy Circle with the intent to inspire others to follow his leadership.

Upon his passing in the summer of 2025, Ottho left an estate gift of \$50,000 to the NAF. The NAF Board decided to apply the funds to the establishment of a scholarship in his name, the Ottho G. Heldring Cultural Internship Grant. To this date, five additional NAF members have followed Ottho's lead and entered into a pledge agreement to leave an estate gift to the NAF upon their passing. This agreement is a simple confirmation of intent to will part of a NAF member's estate to the organization.

The Board hopes that more NAF members will follow Ottho's lead and include the NAF in their estate planning. Please contact Executive Director Caroliene Hermans should you be interested to pursue membership in this Legacy Circle.

Members of the NAF's Legacy Circle:

- Northstar Family Foundation
- Ottho Heldring
- Dick Spikerman
- Erik Stapper
- Jan Willem van Bergen Henegouwen
- Hugo Verdegaaal

Hugo Verdegaaal
committee chair

FINANCIALS

COMMENTS ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The NAF is in a solid financial condition, despite certain financial setbacks in 2025. The Reserves of the Foundation were significantly strengthened due to another year of favorable investment results. The unrestricted revenues covered our unrestricted expenses, except for spending on our cultural programs. However, the gap narrowed this year to a modest \$47k.

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

The Board designated funds held under the Friends Fund program received a \$5.8M inflow at the end of the year, which distorts the year-end Balance Sheet. In the first quarter of 2026 a grant was awarded which caused an outflow of the same amount, so that the 2026 financials will show this decrease. Given the size of these two transactions, the financials for both years are affected and a footnote in the audited statements addresses the concentration.

The student loan portfolio increased from \$0.4M to \$0.5M and is in good standing.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The normal operations were steady, resulting in a decreasing shortfall of the "unrestricted" income covering spending on our activities. Compared to 2025 budget, the significant deficit in our "Special events income" was partially compensated by higher contributions and grants income. Of note is that the Supporting Services of running the office and our programs decreased by \$20k to \$837k. This is also reflected in a healthy program expense ratio of 85%.

Interest and dividends showed a modest improvement by \$55k to \$238k.

Friends Fund revenues ballooned to \$9.4M, of which a significant amount has been disbursed in the first quarter of 2026 through grant allocations. The Friends Funds program generated \$49k in administrative fees to compensate for the administrative execution of the program.

The internship programs continue to build in both volume and monetary impact, in particular the Dekker-Padget program, including Dutch2USA. Post Balance Sheet closing a joint venture agreement was signed with the Golden Fleece Foundation, ensuring a sound long term funding basis to allow the Dutch2USA program to grow.

The event income results in 2025 were disappointing for the New York NAF Ball and the Washington DC Ambassadors' Awards dinner, while the New England and Netherlands events reported positive net incomes meeting budget. The total net result was \$461k, down \$133k compared to the prior year. All efforts are being made to reverse this trend for 2026.

Program administrative fees totaled \$255k, which support the general office expenses of the various programs.

Investment returns improved by \$327k to \$856k, aided by a favorable market and a larger base of investments.

FINANCIALS

SUMMARY STATEMENTS

FINANCIAL POSITION

(as of December 31, 2025)

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$8,716,483
Investments	7,360,887
Contributions Receivable	343,686
Student Loans Receivable, net	512,196
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	40,937
Property and Equipment, Net	49,290
Operating Lease (Right-of-Use Assets)	191,600
TOTAL ASSETS	\$17,215,079

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$197,239
Deferred Revenue	0
Operating Lease Liabilities	192,019
Custodial Accounts	19,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES	408,258

NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions:	
• Operations	411,715
• Board Designated:	
– Friends Fund	7,077,599
– Funds Held for Long-Term Investment	6,405,212
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	13,894,526
Total Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	2,912,295
TOTAL NET ASSETS	16,806,821

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS **\$17,215,079**

ACTIVITIES

(Year ended December 31, 2025 and 2024)

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

	2025	2024
Contributions, Grants and Other Gifts	\$10,278,585	\$5,249,029
In-kind Contributions	132,012	128,080
Special Events Income	651,256	799,434
Interest and Dividends	237,576	182,176
Student Loan Interest (on overdue loans)	1,376	5,083
Other	71,558	114,818
Bad Debt Recovery	0	0
Foreign Exchange Gain (Loss)	57,842	(10,658)
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE	\$11,430,205	\$6,467,962

EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Educational Program Grants and Expenses	\$1,192,889	\$1,104,609
Cultural and Historical Grants and Expenses	2,592,112	3,187,665
Student Fellowships and Expenses	491,845	486,947
Internship Program	602,884	612,683
TOTAL PROGRAM SERVICES	4,879,730	5,391,904

SUPPORTING SERVICES

Management and General	358,548	350,517
Fundraising	478,733	506,616
TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES	837,281	857,133

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$5,717,011** **\$6,249,037**

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS **\$5,713,194** **\$218,925**

Net Gains from Investments 855,549 528,534

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS **\$6,568,743** **\$747,459**

Net Assets: Beginning of Year 10,238,078 9,490,619

NET ASSETS END OF YEAR **\$16,806,821** **\$10,238,078**

The financial data presented is a summary of the financial statements of the Foundation, which were audited by SAX LLP, Certified Public Accountants. Copies of their reports are available from the office of the Foundation upon request or on our website.

CONTRIBUTORS

INDIVIDUALS

\$25,000-\$60,000

Otto Heldring
Mary Etta Schneider
Maarten van Hengel
Hugo Verdegaal

\$10,000-\$25,000

Daniel Adams
Ruulke Bagijn
Andrew Enschedé
Erik Harssema
Fay Hartog-Levin
Loek Hermans
Jan Joosten
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Philip Viergutz
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Northstar Family Foundation

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Heineken

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(as of December 31, 2025)

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Nancy Voorhees
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Hans Duijf
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2025 New England Gala

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Christine Del Favero
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Louis Engelbert
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Siu-Li Khoe
Wilbert Kragten
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Piñar Ozcan
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Cadform, *Graphic Designer (NAF Ball,
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Ambassadors' Awards Dinner)*
Darya Baliuk and Greg Ethridge, *YPTC,
Accounting*
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SAX LLP, *Auditors*

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As the Foundation is also recognized by the Dutch tax authorities as *algemeen nut beogende instelling* (ANBI), contributions to the **Netherland-America Foundation** made by a Dutch-resident individual may be eligible for a full deduction against the individual's Dutch personal income tax, at the maximum Box 1 rate of 52%. Normally, gifts made by Dutch residents would only be tax deductible if made to a Dutch resident charitable organization. An exception is made, however, for gifts made to certain non-Dutch charitable organizations that are specifically designated as qualifying foreign organizations by the Dutch Under-Secretary of Finance. In a 2003 Ministerial Decree, the **Netherland-America Foundation** was listed as one of only 19 qualifying foreign organizations. Certain Dutch statutory rules limiting the deductibility will have to be observed.

Candid, the world's largest source of information on non-profit organizations, has given the NAF its Platinum Seal of Transparency in 2025.

Charity Navigator, America's premier charity evaluator, gave the NAF a 4-star rating—their highest—for *"its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances, demonstrating to the public it is worthy of their trust."*



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