
To the Finance and Audit Committee
West Michigan Horticultural Society, Inc.
d.b.a. Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park
Grand Rapids, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of West Michigan Horticultural Society d.b.a. Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park (Meijer Gardens) for the year ended September 30, 2020, and have issued our report thereon dated February 15, 2021. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under U.S. generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information to you during a conversation held with management on November 24, 2020 and a Board of Director representative on December 4, 2020. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Our Responsibility under U.S. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

As stated in our engagement letter dated September 30, 2020, our responsibility, as described by professional standards, is to express an opinion about whether the financial statements prepared by management with your oversight are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit of the financial statements does not relieve you or management of your responsibilities.

Planned Scope and Timing of the Audit

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit involved judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. Our audit included obtaining an understanding of the entity and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures.

We performed the audit according to the planned scope and timing as previously communicated to management.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by Meijer Gardens are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. As described in Note 2, Meijer Gardens adopted new accounting guidance related to revenue recognition by adopting FASB Accounting Standards Update No. 2018-08, Not-for-Profit Entities (Topic 958): Clarifying the Scope and Accounting Guidance for Contributions Received and Contributions Made for the year ended September 30, 2020. The adoption of the new standard did not have a significant effect on the financial statements. We noted no transactions entered into by the Organization during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. We noted no material transactions in the financial statements in a different period than when the transaction occurred, with the exception of the transaction identified in the attached schedule.

Accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management's knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimate affecting the financial statements was:

Meijer Gardens holds investment securities and a beneficial interest in the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities or beneficial interests will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the amounts reported in the statement of financial position. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

Certain financial statement disclosures are particularly sensitive because of their significance to financial statement users. Note 13 to the financial statements discusses that Meijer Gardens obtained funding under the Paycheck Protection Program of the CARES Act, and the related accounting treatment. Note 14 to the financial statements describes the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and uncertainties surrounding the financial impact to the Meijer Gardens.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no significant difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are clearly trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. There is a schedule attached to this letter that includes one uncorrected misstatement related to the financial statements. This entry provides for the 2020 impact of the 2019 uncorrected misstatement. Management has determined that the effect of the uncorrected misstatement is immaterial to the financial statements as a whole. The misstatement detected was not a result of a material weakness or significant deficiency in internal controls. Rather, it represents a timing difference with respect to the recognition of an estate gift.

Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor's report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated February 15, 2021.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to Meijer Gardens’ financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as Meijer Gardens’ auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Finance and Audit Committee, Board of Directors, and management of Meijer Gardens’ and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Beene Garter LLP

February 15, 2021
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Client: **22450.10010 - Frederik Meijer
 Gardens & Sculpture Park
 2020 AUD - Frederik Meijer**
 Engagement: **Gardens**
 Period Ending: **9/30/2020**
 Trial Balance: **TB.01 - Trial Balance**
 Workpaper: **TB.04 - Proposed JE Report**

Account	Description	W/P Ref	Debit	Credit
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Proposed JE # 3001

TB.05

To pass on recording the Harvey Lemmen Estate Gift in FY2019 by removing it from FY2020.

00-120-420050	ESTATE GIFTS		4,000,000.00	
00-120-300000	NET ASSETS			4,000,000.00
Total			<u>4,000,000.00</u>	<u>4,000,000.00</u>