

THE ROTCH-JONES-DUFF HOUSE & GARDEN MUSEUM



Special Events &
WEDDINGS

2026-2027 SEASON



Our history, your love story.

Discover history and elegance at the Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum.

Experience New Bedford history when you step into our beautifully-preserved mansion, built for William Rotch Jr. in 1834 at the height of his success in the whaling industry.

The exterior remains true to its origins, designed in a Greek Revival style which offers a timeless atmosphere.

Our lush gardens feature a 19th-century wooden lattice pergola, formal boxwood rose parterre garden, boxwood specimen garden, and a tranquil woodland shade garden. Amidst apple and pear trees, hydrangea, dogwoods, and heritage trees, you'll find a piece of history.



The Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization with a mission to enliven New Bedford's history, engage our communities, and enrich cultural understanding through stewardship, education, and entertainment.

What's included in YOUR WEDDING

RENTAL PACKAGE?

- Exclusive use of our grounds, gardens, patio and balcony, including our parterre rose garden, boxwood specimen garden, tranquil woodland shade garden, apple and pear trees, hydrangeas, dogwoods, and 19th-century wooden lattice pergola.
- A charming canopy tent over the patio from May through October.
- Vendor coordination and day-of support provided by our dedicated events team.
- A private wedding suite located on the ground floor of the house, as well as three ground-floor guest restrooms.
- Guest access to the historic 1834 Greek Revival whaling mansion for self-guided museum tours throughout your event.
- Our furniture inventory, which includes tables in a variety of shapes and sizes and 200 sleek black vinyl chairs.
- Ample set-up and breakdown time included in your contract.
- Elegant photo opportunities inside the mansion and throughout the grounds.
- A one-year dual membership to the museum as our special gift to you.
- A one-hour rehearsal facilitated by our coordinators prior to your special day.



Ceremony & Reception 5 hour rental

The full wedding experience.
Full access to the grounds for your special day.

<i>guest count</i>	Sunday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Weekdays 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.	Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
1-50	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$3,500
51-100	\$3,500	\$2,500	\$4,000
101-150	\$4,000	\$3,000	\$4,500
151-200	\$4,500	\$3,500	\$5,000
201-250	\$5,000	\$4,000	\$5,500



Wedding Reception

3 hour rental

Cheers to love with dinner & dancing under the canopied patio.

<i>guests</i>	Sunday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Weekday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.	Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
1-50	\$1,800	\$1,200	\$2,100
51-100	\$2,100	\$1,500	\$2,400
101-150	\$2,400	\$1,800	\$2,700
151-200	\$2,700	\$2,100	\$3,000
201-250	\$3,300	\$2,400	\$3,300

Garden Ceremony

2 hour rental

Exchange your vows in the historic garden, with time for photos with your favorite people.

<i>guests</i>	Sunday 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.	Weekday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.	Friday & Saturday 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.
1-50	\$1,200	\$800	\$1,400
51-100	\$1,400	\$1,000	\$1,600
101-150	\$1,600	\$1,200	\$1,800
151-200	\$1,800	\$1,400	\$2,000
201-250	\$2,000	\$1,600	\$2,200

Private Events

Hourly Venue Fee Schedule



Outdoor Rental

CANOPY TENTED PATIO

HOURLY RATES



Photo credit: Maggie by the Millimeter

<i>guests</i>	Monday-Thursday <i>morning</i>	Monday-Thursday <i>evening</i>	Friday & Saturday	Sunday
1-50	\$175	\$350	\$650	\$550
51-100	\$250	\$450	\$750	\$650
101-150	\$350	\$550	\$850	\$750
151-200	\$450	\$650	\$950	\$850
200-250	\$550	\$750	\$1,050	\$950

Host a private TEA PARTY FOR ANY OCCASION.



FOR TEA EVENT INQUIRIES, E-MAIL FUNCTIONS@RJDMUSEUM.ORG.
Photo credit: Maggie by the Millimeter

Indoor Rental

DOUBLE PARLORS

HOURLY RATES

	Monday & Tuesday <i>morning</i>	Monday-Thursday <i>evening</i>	Friday & Saturday <i>evening</i>	Sunday
48 guest maximum	\$100	\$200	\$300	\$250

The museum is available for private rentals on Wednesdays through Saturdays after 4 pm, on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9 am – 10 pm, and on Sundays from 9 pm – 8 pm from Indigenous Peoples’ Day through Memorial Day.



Photo credit: Dunnright Photo

Photography & Filming

\$175 per hour PHOTOGRAPHY BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum welcomes photography both in its historic gardens and inside the museum under specific guidelines.

The property is ideal for portraiture for personal events such as engagements, family portraits, maternity sessions, proms, graduations, Quinceañeras, weddings, and similar occasions.



Submit photography session requests, including pertinent details, to functions@rjdmuseum.org at least one week prior to the desired date. Photography bookings are complete upon receipt of a signed contract and payment. All photography must be scheduled in advance with the Functions Coordinator or Museum Director. Photography must not be commercial in nature.

Flash photography inside the museum must be pre-approved. Items inside the museum cannot be touched, moved, or used as props. On-site assistance will be provided by museum staff.



\$250 per hour FILMING MONDAY & TUESDAY ONLY

The museum and grounds are available for professional projects, such as film, television, advertisements, documentaries, and digital content creation. All filming and commercial photography requests are subject to approval. To submit a request, email functions@rjdmuseum.org with project details, including proposed dates, timelines, and scope of work. All filming and commercial photography must be scheduled in advance with the Functions Coordinator or Museum Director.

Drone photography is permitted with the proper licensing and under appropriate conditions, subject to staff approval.

The Rotch-Jones-Duff House and Garden Museum reserves the right to photograph or film visitors on its grounds or in its museum. These images may be used for promotional purposes, including publications, marketing, and media. If you prefer not to have your image used, contact functions@rjdmuseum.org with the relevant details. By visiting the museum or participating in its events, you agree to this policy.

Photo credit: Scene from the short film "Sweet Freedom", written and directed by Alyssa Botelho.

Special Events & Weddings

POLICY & VENUE AMENITIES

2025-2026 SEASON

Thank you for choosing us for your event! We are committed to assisting you with your planning needs. A successful event relies on clear communication, so please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions.

Outdoor Venue: One (1) acre property with several hundred square feet of open lawn and ornamental gardens. A 19th century pergola ideal for ceremonies. 1,600 ft² patio, tented from May through October.

Indoor Venue: Historic Greek Revival mansion built in 1834, featuring original mahogany and walnut woodwork, New Bedford Pairpoint glass chandeliers, original artwork and period furniture, and Christmas decorations on the first floor in December.

Garden Blooming Schedule:

- May: Forsythia
- June: Dogwood
- July-August: Hydrangea, Rambling Roses
- June-September: Roses

Outdoor Seating Capacity:

- Up to 250 in rows or at tables on the lawn
- Up to 100 for dining and dancing on the patio
- Up to 110 for dining on the patio
- Up to 150 for cocktail setting on the patio
- Up to 170 seated in rows on the patio

Indoor Seating Capacity:

- Up to 40 seated at tables in the parlors
- Up to 50 seated in rows of chairs in the parlors
- Up to 50 standing cocktail-style on the first floor

Furniture:

- Ten (10) 5' round tables
- Four (4) 4' round tables
- Eleven (11) 3' round tables
- Five (5) 32" round high-top tables
- Four (4) 6' rectangular tables
- Six (6) 8' rectangular tables
- One (1) 4' rectangular table
- One (1) 4' square table
- Up to 200 black folding chairs

Parking:

- Street parking available on three sides of the property and throughout the neighborhood
- Parking available in the curved driveway for food trucks or decorative vehicles.

Dressing & Restrooms:

- One dressing area in the main building
- The Coach House, available as a dressing area or caterers' space for an additional fee
- Three ground-floor restrooms
- One first-floor restroom

Accessibility: Full access on the patio and first floor of the mansion, and limited access in some garden areas

Kitchen Access: Kitchen space on the ground floor. Additional catering preparatory space subject to approval and additional fee in the Coach House

Mansion Access: Available during garden events for guest visitation.

Catering:

- All food must come from a licensed caterer or restaurant or a commercially licensed kitchen.
- Caterers must be properly licensed and insured.
- Caterers are responsible for trash removal, providing their own bins.
- Vendors must adhere to all rules listed on the RJD Food & Beverage Caterer Guidelines.

Beverage Catering:

- Bartenders must be licensed and insured.
- If there is a bartender present, all alcohol must be served through their organization.
- Clients are permitted to provide their own alcohol, to be served by a bartender, pending bartender's approval.
- Bartenders must manage their trash, providing their own bins.
- Vendors must adhere to all the rules listed on the RJD Food & Beverage Caterer Guidelines.

Insurance:

- Proof of general liability insurance is required.
- Proof of liquor liability insurance is required, if not using licensed bartenders.

Event Planning & Arrangements:

- Provide all vendor information, seating charts, decoration plans, day-of itinerary, dance floor arrangements, and wedding party processional information.
- Coordinate vendor arrangements and deliveries with the Functions Coordinator.
- All items not listed as provided by the venue are the client's responsibility.

Venue Policies

Timing:

- Events must start after 9 AM and end by 10 PM Monday-Saturday and by 8 PM on Sundays.
- Musicians and DJs must begin no earlier than 11 AM and finish no later than 10 PM.
- Event contracts include one hour of set-up time for 2-hour events, two hours of set-up time for 3+ hour events, and one hour of clean-up time for all events. Additional time may incur extra charges.

Museum:

- Touching, handling, and sitting on museum furniture is prohibited.
- Touching and moving museum items is prohibited.
- Events staff will be available to assist with adjusting signage, window shades, and museum items.
- Food and drink are permitted only on the first floor.
- Red beverages are prohibited.

Prohibited Items:

- Incendiary devices (candles, sparklers, fireworks).
- Pets, except for service animals and those involved in the ceremony.
- Staking into the ground or attaching to trees.
- Scattering flower petals or organic materials.
- Painting of any sort in the vicinity of the house.
- Scattering glitter, confetti, and other small items that cannot be easily removed.
- Butterfly or bird releases.
- Popping balloons on site.
- Smoking on site.
- Consuming alcohol off-site on public property.

Accommodations:

- Rain accommodation for all parts of the event to be held under the tented patio.
- Rental deliveries may be stored on-site; coordinate delivery and pick-up with the events staff.
- Clients' decor items may be stored on-site for 48 hours prior to and 48 hours after events.

Optional Rental Additions

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • 40" Flat Screen TV with HDMI | \$100 per day |
| • Wired Microphone & Speaker | \$150 per day |
| • 1 hour Guided Docent Tour | \$150 per docent/hour |
| • 1 hour Guided Rosarian Tour | \$150 per hour |
| • Four (4) Patio Heaters | \$30 fuel charge/heater |
| • Coach House | \$450 per day |
| • Extra Wedding Photo Time | \$175 per hour |
| • Extra Wedding Set-up Time | \$250 per hour |
| • Extra Wedding Hours | See hourly rental rates |

photo credits
STYLED SHOOT ‘24

Aldo's House of Formals
Groom's Suit
@Aldos_Formals

All The Glam
Hair Styling
@AllTheGlam

Allison Barrett Photography
Photographer
@Allison_B_Photo

Artisan Bake Shop
Cake & Pastries
@ArtisanBakeshop

Brown Suga Stationary
Stationary
@BrownSugaStationery

Brushed by Syd
Make-Up Artist
@SydTess

Earth & Sun Co.
Videographer
@EarthAndSunCo_

Halcyon Heroine
Florist
@HalcyonHeroine

Peak Event Services
Event Rentals & Tents
@PeakEventServices



Styles by Shannen
Signage
@StylesByShannen

Smoke & Pickles
Food Catering
@SmokeAndPickles

Una Weddings
Event Coordinator
@UnaWeddings

Ve'Lace Bridal
Bridal Gown
@VeLaceBridal

Vow & Forever Co.
Content Creator
@VowAndForeverWeddingCo

The Wandering Pour
Bar Services
@TheWanderingPour

Southcoast, MA & RI
VENDOR
DIRECTORY
2025-2027 SEASON



Vendor Directory

Catering- Cakes

Artisan Bake Shop
(508) 763-4905
artisanbakeshop.com

Sugarttarius Bake Shoppe
(508) 264-1605
IG @Sugattarius

Catering- Food

D&D Catering
(508) 997-8229
DandDCaterers.com

Lilly's Tea Room | Tea Catering
(928) 208-0287
therescuecafe@gmail.com

On The Go Catering
(508) 758-9922
OntheGoTakeout.com

Russell Morin Catering & Events
(508) 226-6600
Morins.com

Smoke & Pickles Catering Co.
sally@smokeandpickles.com
SmokeandPickles.com



Catering- Food Trucks

Anzio's Brick Oven Pizza
(508) 466-8227
anziosbrickovenpizza.com

Ellie's Sweet Treats
(781) 534-9805
elliestreats.com

Friskie Fries
(401) 228-2660
friskiefries.com

Traveler's Ale House
(774) 510-5103
travelersalehouse.com

Catering- Spirits

OCD Beverage Catering
(774) 473-7286

The Wandering Pour
(508) 496-9712
TheWanderingPour.com

Event Planner

Events by Amy Melody
(774) 360-0753
EventsbyAmyMelody.com

Events by Angel
(774) 328-9839
EventsbyAngel.com

Una Weddings | Courtney Rezendes
UnaWeddings.com
IG: @unaweddings

Florist

Between the Roses Florist
(774) 213-5223
betweentherosesflorist.com

The Dirt Empress
(401) 203-5654
thedirtempress.com

Florist (cont.)



Halcyon Heroine
@halcyonheroine
halcyonheroine.com

Touch of Grace
(508) 858-5270
touchofgraceflorist.com

Hospitality

60 Mechanics (Cobblestone) Lane
(310) 691-3498
masterofVR@gmail.com

New Bedford Harbor Hotel
(508) 999-1292
newbedfordharborhotels.com

New Bedford Mills
(508) 840-0382
newbedfordmills.com

The Whale House
(617) 320-3953
thewhalehousenb.com

Fairfield Inn & Suites
(774) 634-2000

This vendor directory is being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only.
They do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by the Rotch-Jones-Duff House & Garden Museum.

Vendor Directory



The Look

Aldo's House of Formals | Suits
401-946-2889, by appointment only
aldoshouseofformals.com

All The Glam | Hair & Makeup
(508) 488-7838
alltheglambridal.com

Brushed by Syd | Makeup Artist
(401) 215-7651
brushedbysyd.com

Ve'Lace Bridal | Bridal Dresses
(508) 966-0091, by appointment only
velacebridal.com

Music & Entertainment

Brianna Viera | Voice, Violin, & Cello
(508) 525-5933
likethecheeze321@aol.com

B Sharp Entertainment | DJ & Pianist
(508) 822-4545
southcoastdj.com

Music of Our Lives | DJ & Vocals
(508) 858-8231
JordanPaiva.com

New Bedford Symphony Orchestra
(508) 994-2900
nbsymphony.org

Wicked Weezy Entertainment
(508) 525-5933
likethecheeze321@aol.com

Officiants

Rayana Grace
Justice of the Peace, MA
(508) 717-5774
rayanagracejp@gmail.com

Steve Martins
Justice of the Peace, MA & RI
(774) 930-9823
bristolcountyjp.com

Photo & Video

Allison Barrett Photography
(860) 707-5518
allisonbarrettphotography.com

Earth & Sun Co. | Videographer
(401) 954-1652
earthandsun.co

KNWN Ent. | Photo & Video
@KNWNEnt
knwnent.com/weddings

Maggie by the Millimeter
IG: @maggiebythemillimeter
maggiebythemillimeter.com

Miranda Photo Co.
IG: @mirandaphotoco
mirandaphotoco.com

Photo Dunn Right
IG: @photodunnright
photodunnright@gmail.com

Shelynne Marie Photography
(508) 951-2572
shelynnemariephotography.com



Signs, Stationary, & Social

Brown Suga Stationary
(774) 305-1764
IG: @BrownSugaStationary

Styles by Shannen | Signage
IG: @StylesbyShennen
etsy.com/shop/stylesbyshannen

Vow & Forever Co. | Content Creator
IG: @VowandForeverWeddingCo
vowandforeverweddingco.com



Tents & Event Rentals

Chase Canopy
(508) 758-2055
chasecanopy.com

PEAK Event Services
(833) 888-PEAK
peakeventservices.com

Pranzi Catering & Events
(401) 383-3631
pranzi.com

Sperry Tents | Seacoast
(603) 570-4857
sperrytentsseacoast.com

Transportation

Flying Lady Chauffeur | Classic Car Rental
(774) 377-5811
flyingladychauffeur.com

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[rjdmuseum.org](#)



[functions@rjdmuseum.org](#)