

April/May 2023





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HAIKU

Gusts of wind; the rain  
The old lantern gathering  
its cherry blossoms

– Peter Kendall

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THE GARDEN PATH

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS  
Email [marketing@japanesegarden.org](mailto:marketing@japanesegarden.org)



 Christina Sjogren

Dear Members,

Spring has finally arrived! These are the weeks where we prepare the Garden for the many people who will visit in the coming months from all over the world, seeking inner peace or connection with nature, and everything in between.

I'd like to invite each of you to attend our Annual Membership Meeting on April 24th. Each year at this meeting we share updates on the Garden and Japan Institute, elect Trustees to our Board, and enjoy the friendship of fellow members! Special to this year's Membership Meeting will be the dedication of the "Nezu Gate." Previously known as the "Entry Gate" because it served as the main entrance to the Garden before the 2017 expansion, the newly named *Nezu Gate* has been a passageway millions of visitors have stepped through since its construction in the 1960s. This naming will be in honor of Koichi and Mihoko Nezu, founding members of our International Advisory Board. The Nezus have been instrumental in guiding us through the cultural landscape of Japan, and helping us foster relationships in Japan and beyond.

While the Nezus may live across the Pacific, like us, they have a deep understanding of the broader impact of Portland Japanese Garden. The Garden has the power to heal. 60 years after its inception, we've seen Portland Japanese Garden go from the target of intolerant hostility, to one of Portland's most beloved cultural institutions. It is a place that people seek in times of celebration and in times of mourning, and has compelled countless people from all corners of the world to visit. As a result, the Garden continues to connect

people, communities, and cultures and its lessons inspire others to apply the concept of a Japanese garden to bring solace and respite.

As we approach Asian American Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Month in May, I am proud to represent an organization that exposes our visitors to a culture that might otherwise feel foreign. This exposure to cultures, customs, and ideas different than one's own, is critical in attaining a harmonious relationship with each other. As Portland Japanese Garden members, I hope you also find meaning and value in being a part of something bigger than oneself. Through this strong sense of community and shared experiences, we can make a positive social impact.

With gratitude,

Steve Bloom  
Chief Executive Officer



# Member News & Events

## Annual Meeting of the Membership

April 24 / 5:30 - 8:30 pm

Join us for the Annual Membership Meeting on Monday, April 24th. Our CEO, Steve Bloom, will give an annual overview for members and will present about the organization's future. Special to this year's Annual Meeting, the reception will include a ceremony in which our original entry gate will receive its official name: the "Nezu Gate." Our guest speaker is Dr. Joshua Walker, President and CEO of Japan Society.

*This is a member-only event.*

To register, go to [japanesegarden.org/annualmeeting2023](http://japanesegarden.org/annualmeeting2023)

## Kodomo no Hi, Children's Day

May 7

*Kodomo no Hi*, also called Children's Day, is celebrated each year in Japan in early May to celebrate the growth and good fortune of children. Come celebrate the beloved family tradition at Portland Japanese Garden! A range of family-friendly activities will be available for kids of all ages. For more information, go to [japanesegarden.org/childrensday2023](http://japanesegarden.org/childrensday2023)

## Monthly Mindfulness Tours

May 21 / 9:00 am

Starting in May, monthly Mindfulness Tours for members only will return. These intimate tours focus not on meditation, but instead on learning to bring mindful awareness to oneself, and the world around us, through intentional observation and connections. An experienced guide will provide a foundation of the art of contemplative exploration throughout various Garden spaces, and gently guide awareness away from the business of everyday life, back toward the connection to nature and experience of peace. Each tour will also be slightly unique and tailored to the current season. Tours will begin in the Atsuhiko and Ina Goodwin Tateuchi Foundation Courtyard starting at 9:00am, and typically last about 45-60 minutes.


Space is limited, so reservations are required. Full details and access to reservations can be found on [japanesegarden.org/events](http://japanesegarden.org/events)

## Transition to Electric Leaf Blowers

Portland Japanese Garden is committed to being a steward of our shared natural environment. In response to member feedback as well as Multnomah County's recent vote to transition our county's leaf-blowers from gas-powered to electric models, the Garden will be making a gradual transition to electric leaf blowers, which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and noise pollution. We may still need to use gas-powered leaf blowers when there is a larger and heavier volume of leaves in autumn.

 Jonathan Ley



 Don Schwartz

## Asian American Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Heritage Month Events

AANHPI Heritage Month is a time to reflect upon and celebrate the remarkable role of the AANHPI community in our nation's history. Founded in 1963 to heal the wounds of World War II, Portland Japanese Garden is proud to represent this community and exist as a place that can continue to inspire harmony and peace.

### Oregon Rises Above Hate Celebration

May 6 / 10:00am

Oregon Rises Above Hate (ORAH), a collection of community leaders who want to defeat anti-Asian hate by harnessing the power of the entire Asian American Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (AANHPI) community and all Oregonians statewide, will be holding a celebration event at Flanders Festival Street in Old Town. Portland Japanese Garden will be there, so make sure to come by! For more information go to [oregonrisesabovehate.com](http://oregonrisesabovehate.com)

### Lecture: Finding Solace in the Soil

May 12 / 3:00 - 4:30pm

Dr. Bonnie J. Clark, a professor at Denver University and Curator for Archeology of the DU Museum of Anthropology will discuss how wrongly incarcerated Japanese Americans transformed the hostile landscape of their Amache, Colorado concentration camp into gardens during World War II. This talk will be held in the Jordan Schnitzer Japanese Arts Learning Center, followed immediately by a book signing. Dr. Clark's book will be available for purchase.

### Free! Music in the Garden

May 17 / 1:15 - 6:15pm

In solidarity with AANHPI Month and in partnership with Oregon Symphony, Portland Japanese Garden will be hosting an afternoon of performances celebrating Asian and Asian American composers, musicians, and culture. This concert will be free to Garden members and the public (with purchase of general admission) and will feature multiple performances throughout the afternoon.

## Mark Your Calendars: Summer Extended Member Hours

May 18 & May 31 / 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Special Extended Hours for members return starting in May! Take advantage of the extended light of summer and enjoy quiet evenings at the Garden. Advance reservations are not required, and member guests are welcome. Details for additional extended hours can be found on our website, [japanesegarden.org/events](http://japanesegarden.org/events).





Asian Pacific Family Club

## The Healing Power of a Garden: Oregon State Penitentiary's Memorial Healing Garden

### The Communal and Individual Endeavor of Healing

In late February, members of Portland Japanese Garden's Garden Department traveled south to Salem, Oregon. In the unadorned part of the state capital they arrived to, brown and gray buildings loom over grassy patches, bare-limbed trees, roads, and parking lots. It was a radical departure from the serene and verdant landscape that Portland Japanese Garden's gardeners tend. They were here to see the Memorial Healing Garden, a nearly 13,000-square-foot plot of land in front of cellblock C at Oregon State Penitentiary (OSP). Beyond this garden's fences is a prison tableau most would imagine from the popular culture they've consumed: large expanses of asphalt, looming towers, and barbed-wired fences. But the garden within is an entirely different story.

With winding paths, pines, raked gravel, a wooden bridge, and a pond filled with koi, it hearkens back to many of the most cherished qualities of Portland Japanese Garden. The Memorial Healing Garden and Portland Japanese Garden share a connection in that they feature the work of Hoichi Kurisu, a world-renowned Japanese landscape expert and Portland Japanese Garden's second Garden Director (1968-73).

The Memorial Healing Garden is the product of the planning, fundraising, and volunteer work of 200 adults in custody at Oregon State Penitentiary, in collaboration with 75 community supporters and administrative support from the Oregon Department of Corrections. Established in 2019, over \$500,000 in monetary and in-kind donations were privately raised. Similar to how Portland Japanese Garden is not funded with tax dollars, neither was the Memorial Healing Garden.

"The concept of healing gardens for incarcerated populations is inspirational," said Hugo Torii, Garden Curator of Portland Japanese Garden. "I wanted the Garden Department to visit this space to gain more perspective on the impact of gardens. Sometimes to be soaked in wilderness provides a reset for humans. Sometimes a single flower on a dining table can give us a similar effect. Gardens provide something in between. While we're in the midst of the day-to-day maintenance and sustainability of Portland Japanese Garden, I wanted my team to experience this impact on a personal level, away from familiar ground."

Just as Portland Japanese Garden's maintenance is maintained through a combination of longtime practitioners and beginners, the Memorial Healing Garden was created through a combination of experts and newcomers: Kurisu and the adults in custody who have joined and lead OSP's Asian Pacific Family Club (APFC).

A key figure in the construction of the Memorial Healing Garden was Toshio Takanobu, former President of the APFC and an individual whose sentence was commuted by former Oregon Governor Kate Brown. Governor Brown specifically referenced his work in the garden when explaining her decision. For Takanobu, it was a transformative experience.

"The overall experience [at OSP] and especially at the Healing Garden made me recognize more about humility and value community and understand how to be in service—helping others while also helping yourself," Takanobu shared while discussing his future. "I'm pursuing certification in welding to add more skills and maybe potentially I can utilize these skills in creating sculptures that aligns with Japanese gardens. The other thing that I'm doing is I'm enrolled in a certified recovery mentor specialist program. They will give me certification credentials to be a 'peer support mentor.' Those past three years at OSP that's all we have been learning to do—utilizing the Healing Garden as peer support, helping guys from mental health units and the ones transitioning to the general population."

"Being connected to nature heals us," reflects Torii. "I hope to continue to explore and experience the potential of gardens and garden spaces for years to come."

To read the full article go to [japanesegarden.org/OSP](http://japanesegarden.org/OSP)

Asian Pacific Family Club







## A Reminder of Peace and Reconciliation

Portland Japanese  
Garden's First Garden  
Director Shares Experiences

Over the course of 60 years, Portland Japanese Garden's landscape has been overseen by eight Garden Directors and two Garden Curators. The first Garden Director was Kinya Hira (1964-69) who worked directly with the Garden's original designer, Professor Takuma Tono of Tokyo Agricultural University. Hira's time in Portland was a combination of triumphs and tragedies. Living on our grounds in a small trailer with his dog Hana, Hira worked tirelessly day and night to help create the Garden we all know and love today. However, his tenure was fraught with verbal abuse and physical attacks, a searing kind of racism that has been diminished in Portland, thanks in part to Hira's work to create a place where people from different cultures could come together and learn from each other. On the next page, we have a letter Hira wrote in 2017, something we turn to often when thinking about those early years in Portland Japanese Garden.



Above, upper: Garden Director Kinya Hira, seen in 2010. Jonathan Ley  
Above, lower: Kinya Hira (l) seen in front of the Tea House during its construction.  
 William 'Robbie' Robinson  
Opposite, upper left: Kinya Hira. City of Portland (OR) Archives, A2011-002.188  
Opposite, upper right: Hira building the Flat Garden. William 'Robbie' Robinson  
Opposite, lower right: Garden Director Kinya Hira (R) looks at his successor, Hoichi Kurisu, as they work on the inner path of the Flat Garden. William 'Robbie' Robinson



### A letter from Kinya Hira:

"Portland Japanese Garden may mean different things to different people. For some visitors, it may be a place to relax and learn about the Japanese culture, or a place of fond memories with a sweetheart. For some directors, the Garden may be like their precious child who they cared for and proudly watched grow into a beautiful princess.

That is when I asked myself, "What does the Garden mean to me?" As the first director, what does this Garden symbolize to me personally? And I have concluded that to me, this Garden is a reminder of peace and reconciliation. A symbol that the City of Portland has the heart to forgive and accept foreign cultures. These are the virtues that this great nation was built upon.

At first, I was hesitant to tell this story. But I am 80 years old now. I feel it's my duty to be honest about what happened in the early 1960s. It was 1964 when I first came to this beautiful city of Portland with Professor Tono. And not too many people know that there was harsh opposition in the beginning. During the initial phase of the construction, hate groups gathered at the site, and chanted racial slurs at me. I was even hospitalized one time when I attempted to stop a group vandalizing the garden. When I confronted them, I quickly understood that this anger came from the war. I remember one man yelling, "you killed my father." That's when I realized that this Garden, to some, may have reminded them of their loved ones who were lost in the war.

And who can blame them? It had only been 20 years since that horrible war. Both sides lost precious families and loved ones in that war. And now, just because the government says so, we must be friends again? That is just too much to ask of a human. And now, we are building a Japanese garden on American soil? Of course there will be opposition.

However, as weeks turned into months, the sentiment started to shift. Little by little, people would support me and the Garden. They started to see and understand what I was trying to do here. The people of Portland found something in their hearts to forgive and accept; to let go of the anger and begin to reach out. I remember one time when the same hate mob came to the site, my supporters actually fought them off, protecting me and the Garden. For the first time in America, I didn't feel alone, I felt accepted by the people of Portland."

To read the rest of Hira-san's letter, go to [japanesegarden.org/hira](http://japanesegarden.org/hira)  
For a collection of stories on our history, go to [japanesegarden.org/60-years](http://japanesegarden.org/60-years)

### 60th Anniversary Special Story

As part of our 60th anniversary, we'll be highlighting a different element of our history in every issue of *The Garden Path* in 2023!







L-R: Former Consul General of the Consular Office of Japan in Portland, Masaki Shiga, Chief Curator Sadafumi Uchiyama, Curator Emerita Diane Durston, and CEO Steve Bloom at a 2022 event in the Garden celebrating Uchiyama and Durston's awards. © Nina Johnson

## Portland Japanese Garden Leaders Feted with High Honors from Japanese Governmental and Cultural Organizations

### Curator Emerita, Chief Curator, and CEO Recognized

Portland Japanese Garden's ascendency from an idea to becoming the most beautiful and authentic Japanese garden outside of Japan and preeminent Japanese cultural organization in North America is due in large part to it having been under the stewardship of a succession of experts and leaders. These individuals have been routinely recognized for their efforts by the Japanese government and prestigious Japanese cultural organizations and elevate the Garden to world-class standards.



### Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays: Diane Durston, Curator Emerita

Diane Durston, who served Portland Japanese Garden as its Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education from 2007 to 2018, is a world-renowned expert on Japanese culture, and highly regarded author of several books about Kyoto and more. Now the Garden's Curator Emerita after her 2018 retirement, Durston was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays. This award was established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji and is among the highest honors conferred to civilians. The Consular Office of Japan in Portland shared that Durston was chosen "in recognition of her contributions to the introduction of Japanese culture in the United States, and to the promotion of mutual understanding between Japan and the United States."

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### Foreign Minister's Commendation: Sadafumi Uchiyama, Chief Curator

Sadafumi (Sada) Uchiyama, Chief Curator of Portland Japanese Garden and Director of the International Japanese Garden Training Center at Japan Institute, is a fourth-generation Japanese gardener who is a multiple award-winning landscape architect, and acclaimed practitioner whose work has influenced the design of gardens across the United States. Uchiyama was awarded the Foreign Minister's Commendation from the Foreign Ministry of Japan. The Consular Office wrote that this honor is given to individuals "who have made particularly remarkable achievements in various fields of international relations, and who have contributed significantly to the promotion of friendly relations between Japan and other countries."

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### Kaneko Kentaro Award: Steve Bloom, CEO

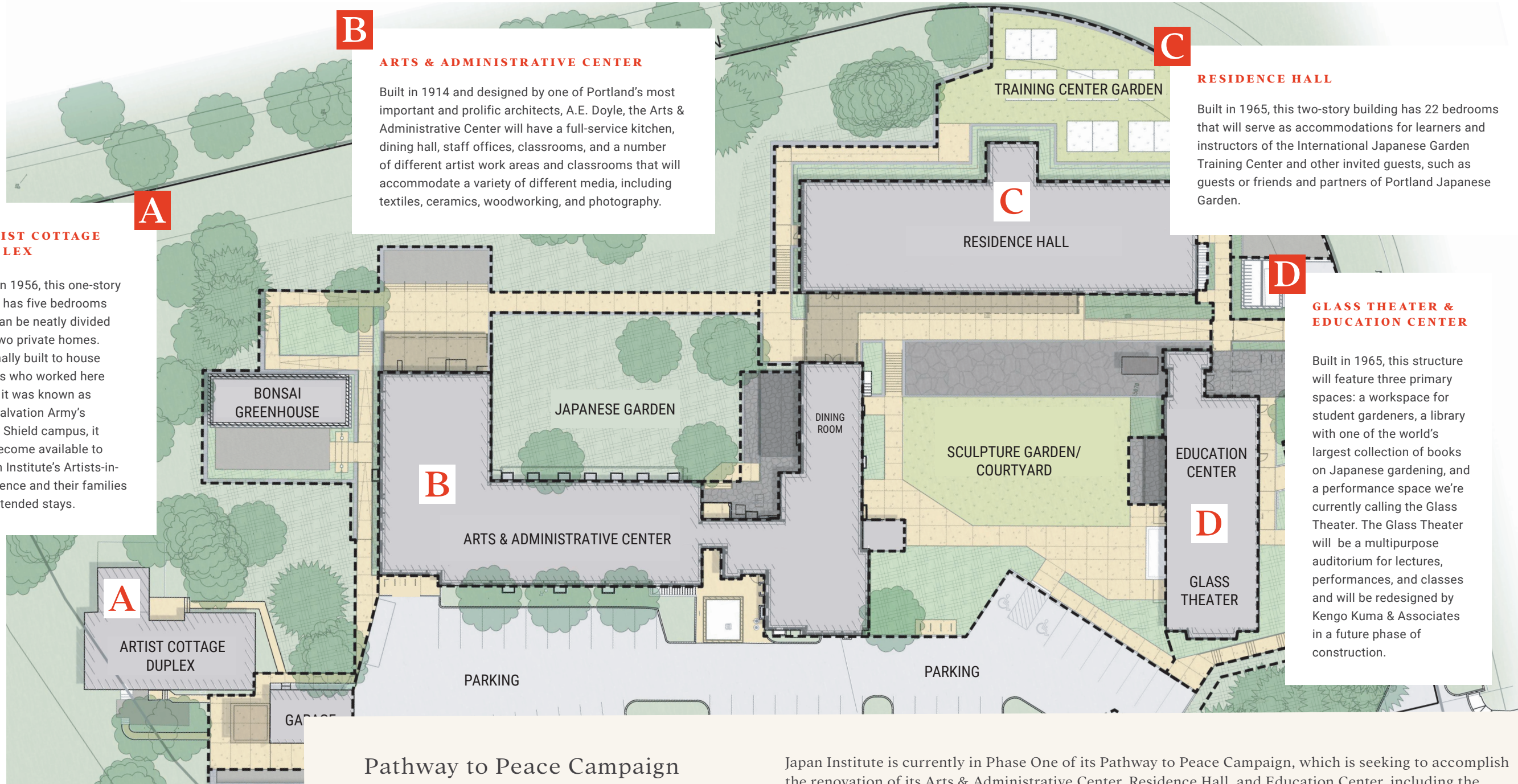
Steve Bloom, CEO of Portland Japanese Garden since 2005 and CEO of Japan Institute since its establishment in 2020, has been awarded by multiple Japanese and American institutions and is a sought-out expert on nonprofit leadership. Bloom was presented with the Kaneko Kentaro Award. The honor, referred to as the Kaneko Award, was established by the America-Japan Society in 2017 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of its founding. The America-Japan Society cheered Bloom writing he has, "served selflessly and impartially in other non-profit, academic, and sister city/friendship city exchanges" and "has made a significant contribution to building the status of Japanese garden culture in the world."

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# Looking Ahead to the Japan Institute Campus

Japan Institute's physical campus near Forest Park is currently in its design-build process in collaboration with our architect on record, CIDA, a woman-owned architecture and design firm. The team for the project includes Precision Construction, Walker Macy, and Kengo Kuma & Associates. Japan Institute hopes to open its campus in the second half of 2025. Below is a concept map made by landscape architecture firm, Walker Macy, that will help illustrate how this incredible space will come to life when all phases of its build-out have been completed.



**B**  
**ARTS & ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER**  
 Built in 1914 and designed by one of Portland's most important and prolific architects, A.E. Doyle, the Arts & Administrative Center will have a full-service kitchen, dining hall, staff offices, classrooms, and a number of different artist work areas and classrooms that will accommodate a variety of different media, including textiles, ceramics, woodworking, and photography.

**C**  
**RESIDENCE HALL**  
 Built in 1965, this two-story building has 22 bedrooms that will serve as accommodations for learners and instructors of the International Japanese Garden Training Center and other invited guests, such as guests or friends and partners of Portland Japanese Garden.

**A**  
**ARTIST COTTAGE DUPLEX**  
 Built in 1956, this one-story home has five bedrooms and can be neatly divided into two private homes. Originally built to house nurses who worked here when it was known as The Salvation Army's White Shield campus, it will become available to Japan Institute's Artists-in-Residence and their families for extended stays.

**D**  
**GLASS THEATER & EDUCATION CENTER**  
 Built in 1965, this structure will feature three primary spaces: a workspace for student gardeners, a library with one of the world's largest collection of books on Japanese gardening, and a performance space we're currently calling the Glass Theater. The Glass Theater will be a multipurpose auditorium for lectures, performances, and classes and will be redesigned by Kengo Kuma & Associates in a future phase of construction.

## Pathway to Peace Campaign

Japan Institute is currently in Phase One of its Pathway to Peace Campaign, which is seeking to accomplish the renovation of its Arts & Administrative Center, Residence Hall, and Education Center, including the creation of purpose-built classroom for teaching Japanese art forms. This phase also includes construction of a workspace for the International Japanese Garden Training Center, parking expansion, and laying groundwork for future improvements including a bonsai greenhouse and sculpture garden. The purchase of the property along with the renovation and programming for Japan Institute is made possible by generous Garden donors and fundraising is still ongoing, with \$17.5 million raised toward our goal of \$30 million. You can support Japan Institute by reaching out to our Director of Philanthropy, Claire Eisenfeld, at [ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org](mailto:ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org) or (503) 542-0281.







David M. Cobb



To see this list online, go to [japanesegarden.com/support-your-garden](http://japanesegarden.com/support-your-garden)  
For corrections, contact [development@japanesegarden.org](mailto:development@japanesegarden.org)

Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from December 1, 2021 through January 31, 2023

Global Ambassadors, our members and donors residing more than 120 miles from Portland, Oregon, are recognized with a globe icon next to their name. 🌐

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Portland Japanese Garden

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Thank you



If you would like to make a donation or have any questions about the Golden Crane Society, please contact Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Philanthropy, at (503) 542-0281 or [ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org](mailto:ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org).

David M. Cobb







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PHOENIX  
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SOCIETY



Members of the Phoenix Legacy Society have named the Garden as the ultimate beneficiary of a planned gift. We are grateful to the following people for letting us know of their plans to support the Garden in this enduring way.

If you would like to include the Garden in your estate plans, or if you have already done so and would allow us to list you as a Legacy Society Member, please contact Claire Eisenfeld, Director of Philanthropy, at (503) 542-0281 or [ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org](mailto:ceisenfeld@japanesegarden.org).

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Recognizing all those who have made a gift in support of our Path to Peace Campaign for Japan Institute, helping us be a leading global voice for cultural understanding, in pursuit of a more peaceful, sustainable world.

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January 1, 2023 – February 28, 2023

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Margaret Murtagh



Japan Institute Artist-in-Residence Rui Sasaki stands next to her work in the Pavilion Gallery. This piece is part of an exhibition at the Garden titled, Subtle Intimacy: Here and There. The exhibition is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts.

Jonathan Ley



The Zig Zag Bridge blanketed in snow after the late February 2023 winter storm.

Caleb Hendrickson



Chief Curator Sadafumi Uchiyama gives Portland Japanese Garden members a tour in early March.

Portland Japanese Garden



Special Programs Manager Yuki Wallen assists a young ikebana workshop participant during the Garden's 2023 Hina Matsuri celebration.

Portland Japanese Garden

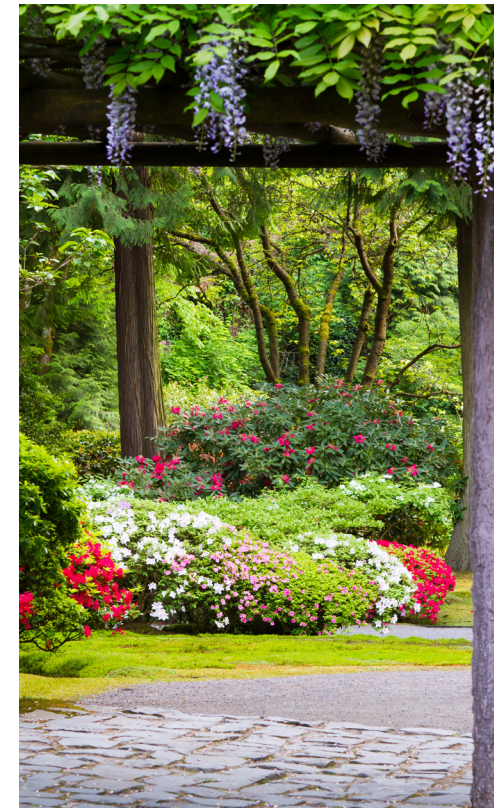


Members of Portland Japanese Garden's Garden Department and other colleagues alongside the Asian Pacific Family Club in the Memorial Healing Garden at Oregon State Penitentiary.

Asian Pacific Family Club

A reminder of what's to come: Looking through the Wisteria Arbor into the Strolling Pond Garden during spring of years past.

Chris Bidleman



The Natural Garden's recently restored machiai. This project was made possible through the generous support of 250 donors, a matching grant from the Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and Dorothy Piacentini.

Portland Japanese Garden



Shiitake and Hijiki Ochazuke, a savory dish available now at the Umami Café.

Aaron Lee



**60TH ANNIVERSARY FUN FACT | DID YOU KNOW...?**

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The eighteen-foot Sapporo Pagoda Lantern in Portland Japanese Garden's Strolling Pond Garden was sent overseas from Sapporo, Japan in 1963. Because Portland Japanese Garden still needed time to prepare a concrete base for this two-ton lantern, it was first displayed at Portland Art Museum from March 16th to March 29th, 1964. Portland Art Museum will be the venue we celebrate our 60th Anniversary Gala on October 21st, 2023!



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