

The Garden Path

Harmony & Peace

December 2022 / January 2023



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Steve Bloom

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HAIKU

Leafless maple
Light and shadow trace its form
Again in the pond

– Peter Kendall



Christina Sjogren

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Dear Members,

It's that special time of year when the crisp, cool air makes the Garden an even more special, inviting, and invigorating place. As I reflect on the year gone by, my heart is filled with gratitude for all of those who have donated to the end-of-year fundraising campaign. Your support sustains Portland Japanese Garden as a treasured place that opens the hearts and minds of all who step through its gates. Thank you!

We have an exciting year ahead. 2023 marks Portland Japanese Garden's 60th anniversary. *Kanreki*, or the celebration of a person's 60th birthday, is a significant milestone in Japanese culture as it marks a full cycle of the zodiac calendar. Year 60 is seen as the beginning of a new chapter filled with hope and possibilities. To that end, many of you have heard about the story of our foundation, but for those who haven't, I want to share it with you.

In 1963, Portland civic leaders conceived the idea of building a Japanese garden to provide community members with a place of great beauty and serenity, while forging a healing connection to Japan on the heels of World War II. At this time in U.S. history, Japanese gardens were founded across the country to build cultural understanding. Needing no translation, an American could experience Japanese ideals and values firsthand. This endeavor was initially met with resistance and even threats against the gardeners working on the site. Today, Portland Japanese Garden is a cherished Oregon institution with some 500,000 visitors from around the world every year.

This auspicious milestone couldn't come at a more fitting time for the Garden. In 2020, we launched Japan Institute, a sibling organization to Portland Japanese Garden that expanded our programming here in Portland, but also exported our shared ideals and values of Japanese culture to more people in more places. Already, our burgeoning organization has gained a meaningful glimpse of the impact we can make, be it with our presentation of Peace Lanterns to the cities of Nagasaki, Hiroshima, and Tokyo, our internationally-coordinated Peace Symposia in Japan and the United Kingdom, or our acclaimed workshops, cultural demonstrations, and art exhibitions right here at home.

Portland Japanese Garden has witnessed how creating a place for people of different cultures to gather can strengthen and maintain the human experience. In today's complex world, where polarization and violence against diverse communities have increased, the need to share our story, our space, and global cultural initiatives feels stronger than ever. Here's to 60 more years of advancing our mission: *Inspiring Harmony & Peace*.

With gratitude,

Steve Bloom
 Chief Executive Officer



The Return of Member-Only Tours

After a hiatus during the pandemic, free, member-only tours are returning in 2023! Tours are meant to enhance your experience and perhaps even see something new on an old path. Keep an eye on our weekly member e-newsletters for information, reminders, and registrations. Tour information and dates will also be available online at japanesegarden.org/events.

Member-Only Garden Tours

Whether you're a new or longtime member, our volunteer-led tours provide a wealth of information on the cultural, historical, and horticultural information about Portland Japanese Garden.

Tours begin March 2023.

Mindfulness Tours

When we are in nature, our pace slows, a feeling of comfort comes over us, and our bodies relax. Join these special tours that focus on centering ourselves through intentional observation, awareness, and connections. Please note that this is not a meditation tour.

Tours begin in May 2023.

NEW! Seasonal Strolls with the Chief Curator

Learn about seasonal nuances, cultural significance, and a garden's relativity to daily life. Join Portland Japanese Garden's Chief Curator, Sadafumi (Sada) Uchiyama, a fourth-generation Japanese gardener and landscape architect who has played a critical role in the design, maintenance, and vision of the Garden for more than 15 years.

Tours will be in March, August, and November 2023.

Inclement Weather

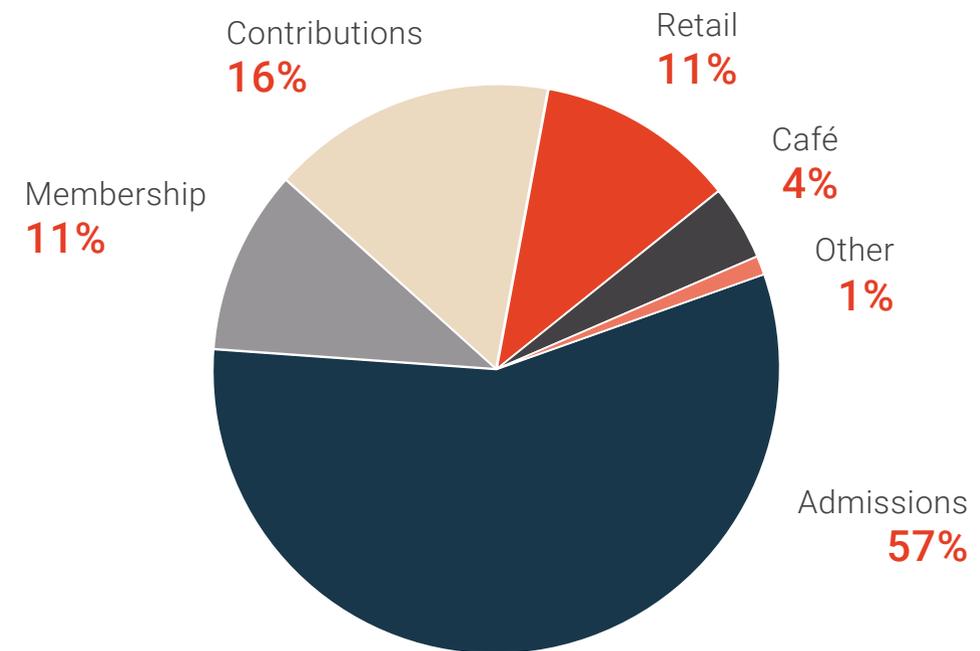
Throughout winter, the Garden may close due to ice and snow. Our website, japanesegarden.org, will always be updated with the latest information. Please check for information before visiting during periods of inclement weather. Stay safe out there!

2022 By the Numbers

Through the support of our community, we continue to exist as a space to provide respite from the challenges of our busy, modern lives: a place that allows one to be inspired by harmony & peace.

2022 Sources of Net Operating Revenue

Captures January 2022 - December 2022 projections (given the month has not ended yet)



Community Fun Facts

- 23,658** Members
- 250** Golden Crane Recognition Society Members
(Households and Corporate Partners)
- 147** Cultural programs conducted
- 167** Active volunteers
- 952** Total tours given
(private/school tours + public tours, during period of Jan-Oct)
- 15** Languages spoken by our volunteers
(Dutch, English, French, German, Hindi, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Telugu, Thai, Ukrainian, Urdu)

The Year in Festivals 2023

Celebrating Japanese Culture at Portland Japanese Garden

Experience a year of Japanese celebrations with Portland Japanese Garden’s annual cultural festivals. Details for each event as well as registration information will be available closer to each event date and announced in our weekly newsletter.



O-Shogatsu New Year's Celebrations

O-Shogatsu is the most important time of the year in Japan. At Portland Japanese Garden, we celebrate New Year’s twice, once for members-only, and again for a public festival celebration. The Garden will be decorated with traditional arrangements of pine, bamboo, and plum – the “three friends of winter” – either affixed to pillars (called *sho-chiku-bai* / 松竹梅) or in plantings at gates (called *kadomatsu* / 門松). These small decorative displays are where the *toshigami* are said to bring good health and prosperity for the coming year.

New Year’s Day, Members-Only

January 1, 2023
10am - 2pm

We invite members and guests to join us on this special day to start the new year with a peaceful, contemplative stroll through Portland Japanese Garden. The Umami Café will be serving complimentary festival-style green tea. Last admission is 2pm, and members have until 3pm to enjoy the Garden.

O-Shogatsu Festival

January 8, 2023
10:30 am – 3:30 pm

Join us to celebrate the start to the new year with a family-friendly celebration. Activities include the exciting *shishimai*, or lion dance, presentations of a *hatsugama*, the first tea ceremony of the year, New Year’s *shodo*, or calligraphy, and *koto* music.



Hina Matsuri, The Doll Festival

March 5, 2023

The Doll Festival is a special time to pray for the growth and happiness of girls. It is also called *Momo no Sekku*, or “Peach Blossom Festival.” Visitors can appreciate a traditional display of dolls representing the Emperor and Empress with members of the Imperial Court. The event will also feature storytelling, songs, and an *ikebana* workshop for young Garden guests.

Kodomo no Hi, Children’s Day

May 7, 2023

Children’s Day is observed in Japan as a day to honor all children in the hopes that they will grow up healthy and strong. Cloth carp streamers, or *koinobori*, are flown to bring good fortune to children. Come to the Garden with your family to listen to *taiko* music performed by children, participate in a scavenger hunt, and create origami projects.

Tanabata, The Star Festival

July 2, 2023

The Star Festival commemorates the one day a year the star-crossed lovers Vega, the Weaver Star and Altair, the Cowherder Star meet in the sky. Visitors can write a wish to add to the colorful display of *tanzaku*, or wish strips, hanging from bamboo in the Garden’s Crumpacker Family Bamboo Allee. Visitors can also hear the *Tanabata* story and listen to a *taiko* performance.



O-Bon, The Spirit Festival

August 12 & 13, 2023

O-Bon, the Spirit Festival, is an important Buddhist festival to honor ancestors and pray for the souls of the departed. The souls of the ancestors are believed to return to the world from beyond. The Garden’s O-Bon event features *sutra* chanting, name reading, and the quiet reverence of *toro nagashi* (lantern floating). **This event is reserved for our members only.**

Bon-Odori, Summer Festival

August 26, 2023

A highlight of summer festivals in Japan is the *bon-odori* (盆踊り / Bon dance). Each region in Japan has their own version of the dance, as well as different music. In Japanese Buddhist tradition, dancing is a way to welcome the spirits of our ancestors and the celebrate life. Dancers circle the *yagura*, a high wooden bandstand for the musicians and singers. Come to learn the dance, see people dressed in *yukata*, and to hear and feel the sound of *taiko* drums.

O-Tsukimi, Moonviewing

September 28, 29, & 30, 2023

During Moonviewing, people gather to appreciate the moon’s beauty and pray for good fortune and an abundant harvest. At this festival, one of the most beloved at the Garden, guests anticipate the moonrise with a cup of tea and an opportunity to compose haiku as *shakuhachi* and *koto* music wafts through the air.





Preserving the Art of Japanese Gardening

Portland Japanese Garden's Professional Gardener Work Exchange Program

Portland Japanese Garden has been hailed as the most beautiful and authentic Japanese garden in the world outside of Japan. Unlike any other Japanese garden in North America, Portland Japanese Garden has been continually overseen by a succession of Japan-trained garden craftspeople. The skills and aesthetic vision of these craftsmen has ensured that its gardens remain authentically Japanese in their design and maintenance. Today, both accomplished and beginner-level Japanese garden professionals look to Portland Japanese Garden as a source for training, wisdom, and cultural context that they have never had access to before.

Adding to the dynamism and educational offerings of the Garden is a professional gardener work exchange program that promotes and encourages passionate practitioners from around the world to learn from each other as well as gardening experts from Japan.

“By learning and working together in a bigger team,” Hugo Torii, Garden Curator of Portland Japanese Garden notes, “we seek to share the appreciation of the Garden and strive to help the sustainability of Japanese gardens all over the world.”

Though some version of the program had existed prior to his tenure as Garden Curator, Torii decided to refresh it in 2022. This year has seen two participants, including a gardener from Lake Sacajawea Park's Japanese garden in Longview, Washington, and most recently, the lead horticulturist of the Richard & Helen DeVos Japanese Garden at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Ethan Cote.

Working with a team is something Cote is familiar with in his work. Still, he was deeply impressed with the collaborative spirit of the gardening department at Portland Japanese Garden. “It’s really apparent that everyone really cares about being here and cares about learning,” Cote said. “There’s a huge element of teamwork that’s really inspiring. It’s been cool to be a part of that.”

Upon the conclusion of his time in Portland, Cote had nothing but positive things to say about the experience. “This is, hands down, one of the best places to learn from, outside of Japan,” he shared. “It’s so important to learn from your fellow gardeners. I think you can read all the books in the world and watch all the videos or webinars, but getting hands on experience is really invaluable.”

To read the full article, see: japanesegarden.org/gardener-exchange

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Ethan Cote



Cote works together with the gardeners on maintenance projects within the garden spaces.



Peace Lantern dedication ceremony in Hiroshima, Japan. Left to right: Kazutaka Yamamoto (President, Japan-America Society of Hiroshima), Soukei Ueda (Grand Master, Ueda Soko School of Tea), Jyunkichi Sasaki (Chairperson, Hiroshima City Council), Kenichi Susume (Hiroshima Deputy Mayor), Steve Bloom (Japan Institute & Portland Japanese Garden CEO), Elizabeth Steiner Hayward (Oregon State Senator), Consul General Richard Mei (U.S. Consulate in Osaka-Kobe).

The Light and Hope of Peacemaking

Reflecting on the Inaugural Peace Symposium in Tokyo

On September 21, 2022 the United Nations' International Day of Peace, Japan Institute of Portland Japanese Garden held its inaugural Peace Symposium, *"Peacemaking at the Intersection of Culture, Art, and Nature"* in Tokyo, Japan. Hosted by the International House of Japan, the symposium explored how public spaces can make transformative social impacts, using Portland Japanese Garden as a case study.

Among the highlights of the day were remarks from Her Imperial Highness, Princess Tsuguko. Princess Tsuguko, who has been working for the Japan Committee for UNICEF for nearly a decade, underscored the critical need for people to engage in conversations around peace.

"Various races, religions, and customs may differ, but the 'garden' is found in all civilizations,"

Princess Tsuguko remarked. "Gardens are rarely completed in a single generation. Almost all of them rely on the natural environment and the continued activities of future generations. I hope this Symposium will be an opportunity to revisit the value of Japanese gardens and how they are a space for learning about both nature and peace."

Following these remarks were two panel discussions: *"Japanese Gardens – Transforming Global Cultural Landscapes"* and *"Re-imagining Peace at the Intersection of Culture, Art, and Nature."*

"We chatted about what the immersion of these fields can mean for global peace and we learned that despite these disciplines having many similarities and likeminded goals, their leaders don't often talk to each other," noted Portland Japanese Garden's Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, Aki Nakanishi. "That's what makes Japan Institute so valuable. We were the catalyst for this conversation. The result was staggering. A lot of people came up to the panelists with a gleam in their eyes, saying this conversation should have been held years ago."



As part of the program in Tokyo, Japan Institute presented a Peace Lantern - a symbol of peace and friendship - to cities that profoundly understand and represent the need for peace: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Tokyo.

These Peace Lanterns are masterfully rendered replicas, inspired by an original, which Portland received from Mayor Ryōzō Hiranuma of Yokohama in the years following World War II, when the world was still reeling from this tragic global conflict. The Peace Lantern broadcast a hopeful message of a more harmonious future and has been seen as an important step in the re-building of the relationship between Portland and Japan.

The Peace Lantern in Hiroshima is located on a green belt that runs parallel to the city's Peace Memorial Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Peace Lanterns in Nagasaki and Tokyo are located at Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum Square, and The International House of Japan (I-House), respectively. Now, a piece of Portland sits in these global spaces of peace.

This month, the team travels across the Atlantic to London for the second Peace Symposium of 2022. "It's going to be very different," suggested Hugo Torii, Garden Curator of Portland Japanese Garden. "We're now going beyond the relationship between the U.S. and Japan. By incorporating the perspective of a new nation in the United Kingdom, we're emphasizing the idea that gardens are a place to make peace around the world."

"There's a lot to worry about in the world right now," noted Steve Bloom, CEO of Japan Institute of Portland Japanese Garden. "But there's nothing but hope and light in the work that we're doing. To continue to engage and to support this through creating peace is admirable and is something we should all strive for, so I commend the people who are already supporting this because it's good work for all of us."

To read the full article, go to japanesegarden.org/TokyoPeaceSymposium2022



Left: Panelists Masayuki Wakui, Mami Kataoka, Junya Ishigami, with moderator Akihito Nakanishi, Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, Portland Japanese Garden. Right: Her Imperial Highness Princess Tsuguko gives remarks at the Tokyo Peace Symposium.



Ken Katsurayama



Sasaki showing a finished glass art at Bullseye Glass Co.

© Hanmi Meyer



© Quincy Woo

Above: Sasaki firing glass art at Bullseye Glass Co.'s studio.
Below: Sasaki carefully places plant material between two sheets of glass.

Making the Ephemeral Timeless

Japan Institute's first Artist-in-Residence prepares for her exhibition at Portland Japanese Garden in March

In the balmy days of summer's end, artist Rui Sasaki strode Portland Japanese Garden with gardeners and a garbage can in tow. Stuffed with plant trimmings, the can's contents might have otherwise been left for a compost pile. Now, the needles from a mugo pine, limbs of a dancing peacock maple, leaves of a sword fern, and more, will live on to tell a new story through fired glass. If there is anyone who can use glass to transform the ephemeral into the timeless, it is Rui Sasaki, Japan Institute's first Artist-in-Residence.

Earlier this year, the Japan Institute of Portland Japanese Garden announced that the internationally-acclaimed Sasaki had been selected as the organization's very first artist-in-residence. Over two separate journeys east from her homebase of Kanazawa, Japan, Sasaki will be collecting Portland Japanese Garden's plant life for a 2023 exhibition – "*Works in Glass by Rui Sasaki*" on show from March 18 – June 12, 2023.

How is the art created? Sasaki places the plant cuttings between panes of glass and then fires it in a kiln at an impossibly hot 1490°F. The leaves, roots, and stems burn, but an impression is left almost like a fossil in stone. "I call it portable intimacy," says Sasaki. "It is so important to bring back any memories or intimacy from wherever

I travel. I always bring physical objects back home, but I can't bring back plants [to Japan]. I want to make something out of glass and bring it back home so I can always have something from Portland."

Japan Institute, established in 2020 as a sibling organization of Portland Japanese Garden, includes a Global Center for Culture and Art among its three programming centers.

A key feature of this center is an artist-in-residency program. When the Garden's Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, & Education, Aki Nakanishi, offered Sasaki the opportunity to be the Japan Institute's first artist-in-residence, she was surprised. "It's such an honor to be the first artist-in-residence," Sasaki shared. "When I heard it from Aki I asked, 'What? Are you sure it's okay? Making me the first person?'"

Sasaki's captivating work belies her humility. It also exemplifies her interest and curiosity in the natural world around her. Japan Institute's vision of creating deliberate connections between nature

and art was appealing to Sasaki. "[Aki] said the Japan Institute will have a training center for gardeners and facilities for artists so culture, nature, and art can mix together," Sasaki recalled. "It's a great idea—everything should be connected together. No other institute has that kind of system, it's a fantastic idea...I like to collaborate with more than just artists. People in different professions give me so much inspiration, and a different perspective."

Sasaki will be back in Portland this December to complete the second leg of her residency.

For a full version of this article, please see japanesegarden.org/WorksinGlass.



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Japan Institute's Programs Coming to Life at Portland Japanese Garden

Japan Institute is the global cultural initiative of Portland Japanese Garden. This sibling organization was created to expand on our programmatic offerings, both at the Garden and more broadly around the world. Rui Sasaki's artist-in-residence & art exhibition is an example where Japan Institute's program (the artist-in-residency) brings a unique experience to Portland Japanese Garden (art exhibition). We look forward to being able to share additional ways that Japan Institute advances our mission of *Inspiring Harmony & Peace* at Portland Japanese Garden!



To see this list online, go to japanesegarden.com/support-your-garden
For corrections, contact development@japanesegarden.org

Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from August 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022.

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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 Lisa Christy, Chief External Affairs Officer at (503) 328-0050 or lchristy@japanesegarden.org.

📷 Julia Taylor

📷 Katya Gimro



📷 Julia Taylor



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 Lisa Christy, Chief External Affairs Officer at (503) 328-0050 or lchristy@japanesegarden.org.

Ruth Anderson & Michael Beebe
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 Drs. Mayho & Calvin Tanabe
 Bruce & Susan Winthrop
 Carmen Wong
 Anonymous (4)

Path for Peace Campaign for Japan Institute

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

\$1,000,000+

Jenny Herman
 State of Oregon
 Travers & Vasek Polak
 Drs. Mayho & Calvin Tanabe
 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
 Robert & Debb Zagunis

Sally C. Gibson
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Memorials and Honoraria
 August 1, 2022 – September 30, 2022

GIFT IN MEMORY OF BRUCE BRENN

Tom Crouse & Kay Enokido

GIFT IN MEMORY OF CHERYL "CHARLIE" ROGERS

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Talena VanSword

GIFT IN HONOR OF TSURU TUENGE

Sharon Franks

GIFT IN MEMORY OF DAVID E. LOU

Kathy Lou

📷 Tyler Quinn



His Excellency, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the United States of America, Koji Tomita looks out at the Flat Garden.

Photo by Jonathan Ley

A Year in Photos

Whether it was engaging with more local community organizations, bringing Japan Institute programs to life, or reinstating our beloved cultural programs and hosting special guests from around the globe - 2022 was a year filled with exciting opportunities.

Multnomah County Judge Chanpone Sinlapasai, U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai and U.S. Representative Suzanne Bonamici graced the Garden with a visit for a private event honoring Asian American women.



Celebrating the purchase of the Japan Institute campus.

Photo by Nina Johnson



Weeping cherry in the Flat Garden after a surprise snow storm in April 2022



Children's Day festival in May 2022



Visitors from Inhotim Brazil take a tour of the garden spaces with Portland Japanese Garden Chief Curator, Sadafumi Uchiyama.

Photo by Nina Johnson.



CEO, Steve Bloom, giving the keynote speech at the American Public Gardens Association conference in Portland.

Photo by Jonathan Ley



Portland Japanese Garden hosted a meditation event for Black Men's Wellness on Juneteenth and Father's Day.



Oregon Governor Kate Brown gives opening remarks at The Alliance Working in America conference at Portland Japanese Garden.

Photo by Nina Johnson

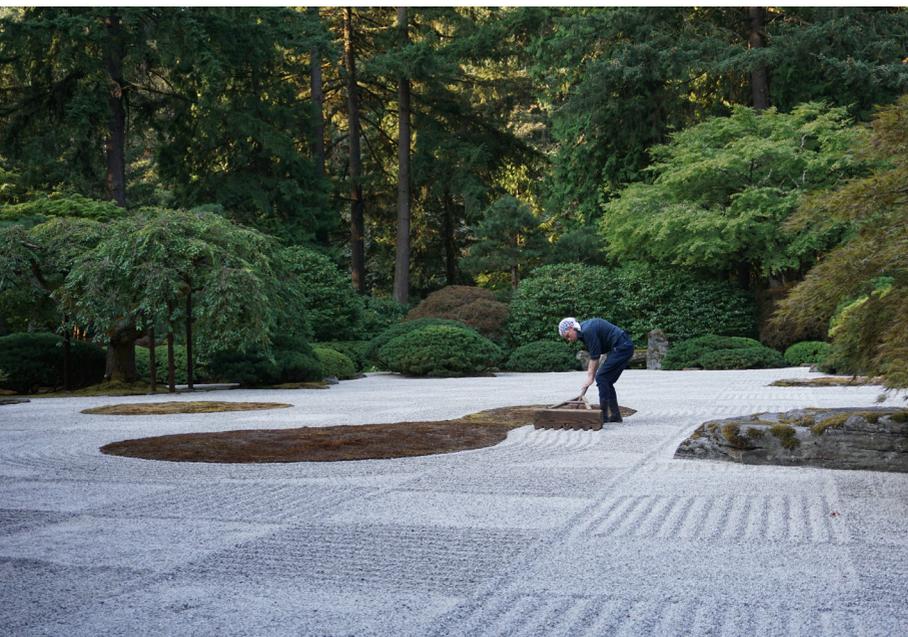


Mt Hood Overlook at sunset, with Jun Kaneko's Dango sculpture in the foreground. Photo by Jonathon Vandersloot



Artist Jun Kaneko at the opening reception for the exhibition Garden of Resonance.

Photo by Nina Johnson



The Flat Garden sand raked in a special checkered pattern for Moonviewing Festival



Mt. Hood framed by vibrant fall colors at the Garden.

Photo by Jesse Brackenbury

DID YOU KNOW...?

In celebration of our 60th anniversary, we'll share a historical fun fact every issue in 2023!

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In the years following World War II, when the world was still reeling from the tragic global conflict, Mayor Ryōzō Hiranuma of Yokohama gifted a Peace Lantern to the city of Portland. In 1967 the Peace Lantern was placed permanently in Portland Japanese Garden. The lantern broadcasts a hopeful message - "Casting the Light of Everlasting Peace" - and has been seen as an important step in the re-building of the relationship between Portland and Japan.



Official Winery of Portland Japanese Garden



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