



# **St. Paul – Changsha Sister-City Friendship Garden at Phalen-Keller Regional Park**

## **D5 PPEC Community Input Workshop March 3, 2016**

**Linda Mealey-Lohmann, President of MN China Friendship Garden Society**

**Alice Messer, St. Paul Parks & Rec Senior Architect**

**Weiming Lu, Urban Planner and China Garden Advisor**

**Bill Zajicek, D5 Council & China Garden Advisor**

# Welcome

- Purpose
  - Provide update on St. Paul-Changsha Friendship Garden
  - Receive community input on proposed design elements
- Introductions

# Tonight's Agenda

## Joint Presentation

- History of “China Friendship Garden” project
- Current status of Friendship Garden
- China Garden philosophy & design elements
- Conceptual Images of Friendship Garden

## Small Group Exercise

## Large Group Debriefing/Sharing

## Next Steps

# Anticipate: Small Group Exercise Qs

1. Identify one example of what you most like about the proposed plan (if anything) & why
2. Identify one example of what you would like to improve about the proposed plan (if anything) & why
3. Identify one example of what you dislike (if anything) & why
4. Identify one example of what your group would like to see the proposed Friendship Garden used for



# Proposed Vision



How did we get  
to this point?





美中人民友好協會明州分會

**USCPFA-MN**

US-China Peoples Friendship Association-Minnesota Chapter

友

- National Organization & MN Chapter
- Non-profit established in 1974
- Mission: Dedicated to developing and strengthening **friendship and mutual understanding** between the peoples of the United States and China

→ USCPFA-MN China Garden Committee

Website: [uscpfa-mn.org](http://uscpfa-mn.org)

# 1988 - Sister City Relationship

## St. Paul - Changsha, Hunan Province



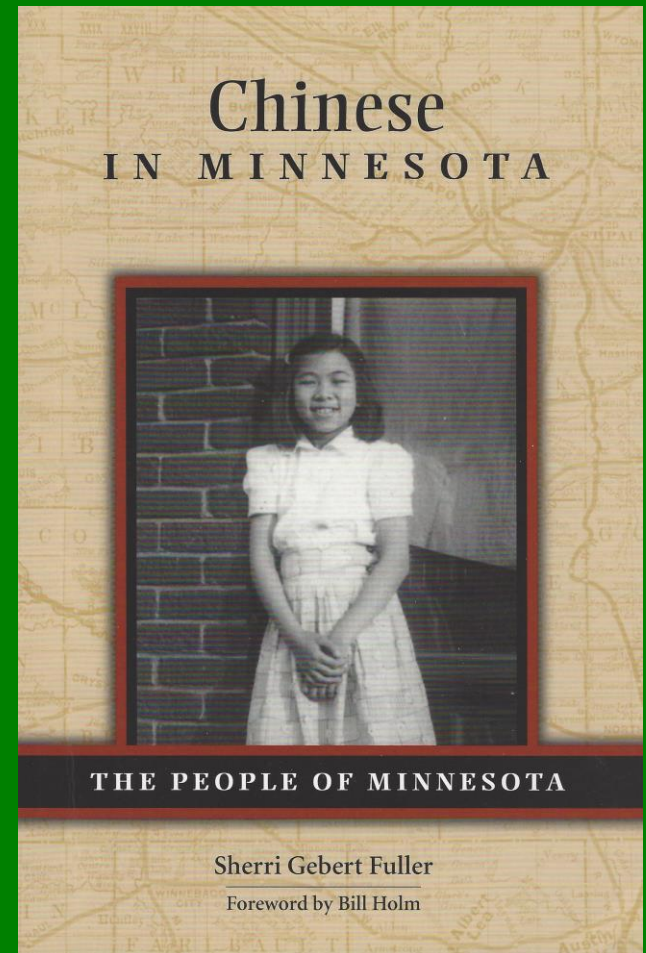


**1988 Mayor Latimer signed sister-city agreement  
With Weiming Lu in Changsha**

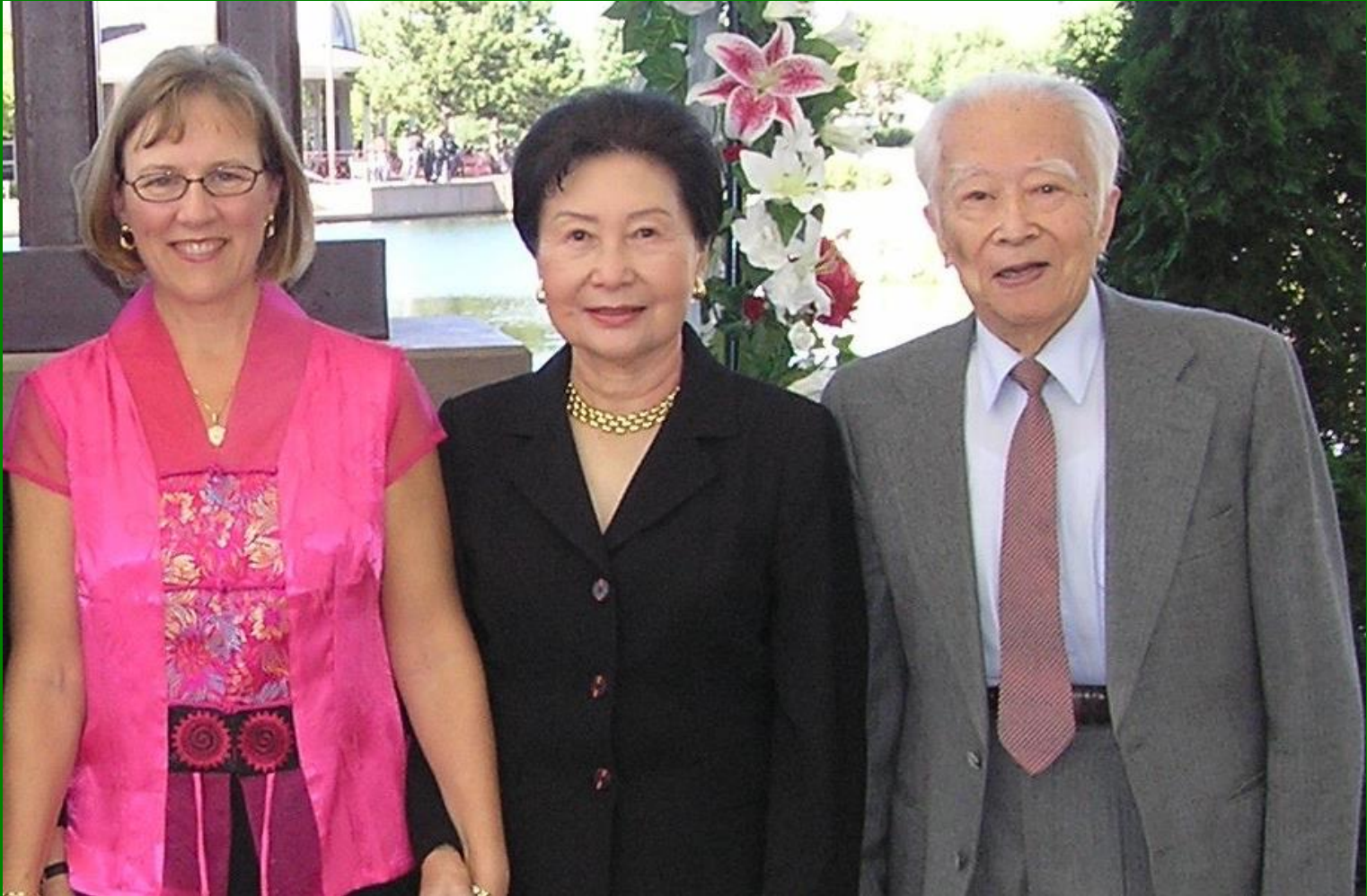


# Chinese in MN

- Chinese first arrived in MN in mid-1870s
- First Chinese scholars enter U of M in 1914
- >2,200 students & scholars at U of M in 2014
- China is MN's 2<sup>nd</sup> largest export market – \$3.2 billion from MN & \$120 billion to China in 2014



# USCPFA-MN → MN China Friendship Garden Society



**Founded 2005**

by Professor C.C. Hsiao & Linda Mealey-Lohmann, with Joyce Hsiao



The Minnesota China  
Friendship Garden Society  
明州中国友好花园协会

## MISSION:

To establish **China Friendship Gardens** in  
Minnesota in order to further  
**promote friendship and understanding**  
between the peoples of  
China and Minnesota.

Website: [www.MNChinaGarden.org](http://www.MNChinaGarden.org)  
Email: [MN.China.Garden@comcast.net](mailto:MN.China.Garden@comcast.net)





**“Meditation” at Phalen Park 2006  
by Changsha Sculptor Lei Yixin**





# Changsha Master Lei Yixin's sculptures

Symbol of Changsha & Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Stone of Hope , D.C.



2011 China Garden Approved as  
part of Phalen Park Master Plan  
following series of community input meetings

Bill Pesek, Parks & Rec, Linda Mealey-Lohmann, Weiming Lu





Advisor Bill Zajicek held  
District 5 Planning Council  
community input  
meeting  
November 2014

# Past Community Input

The following is written input from St. Paul Payne Phalen community members collected at the Nov. 18, 2014, PPELC Meeting

**How would you like to see a China Garden used?**

1. I want a tea house in/near our garden
2. Weddings
3. Life celebrations
4. Reflection
5. School/education field trips
6. Community building
7. Arts organizations
8. Concordia Village
9. Tea Lantern Festival
10. Dragon Festival
11. For anybody who comes by
12. Stone and garden arts incorporated into the features
13. Periodic displays of other art
14. Commission a gift stone from Beijing
15. Zhao Qingquan
16. Minnesota Bonsai Society
17. Have members who create/collect Chinese stones and penjing of all styles have a stone



Representative  
Tim  
Mahoney

\$50,000  
Legacy Funds  
for China Garden  
Conceptual Designs  
2015



CLEAN  
WATER  
LAND &  
LEGACY  
AMENDMENT



Senator  
Fong  
Hawj





## October 2015 Changsha Trip with Mayor Coleman

China Garden Advisors: Romi Slowiak, Bill Zajicek, Brenda Fong, Linda Mealey-Lohmann





China Garden Advisors  
at famous Changsha Aiwan Pavilion





Changsha Yanghu Wetlands Park signed Sister Park Agreement with Phalen Park



Traveled to  
苗族 Villages  
near Changsha  
to Conduct Research





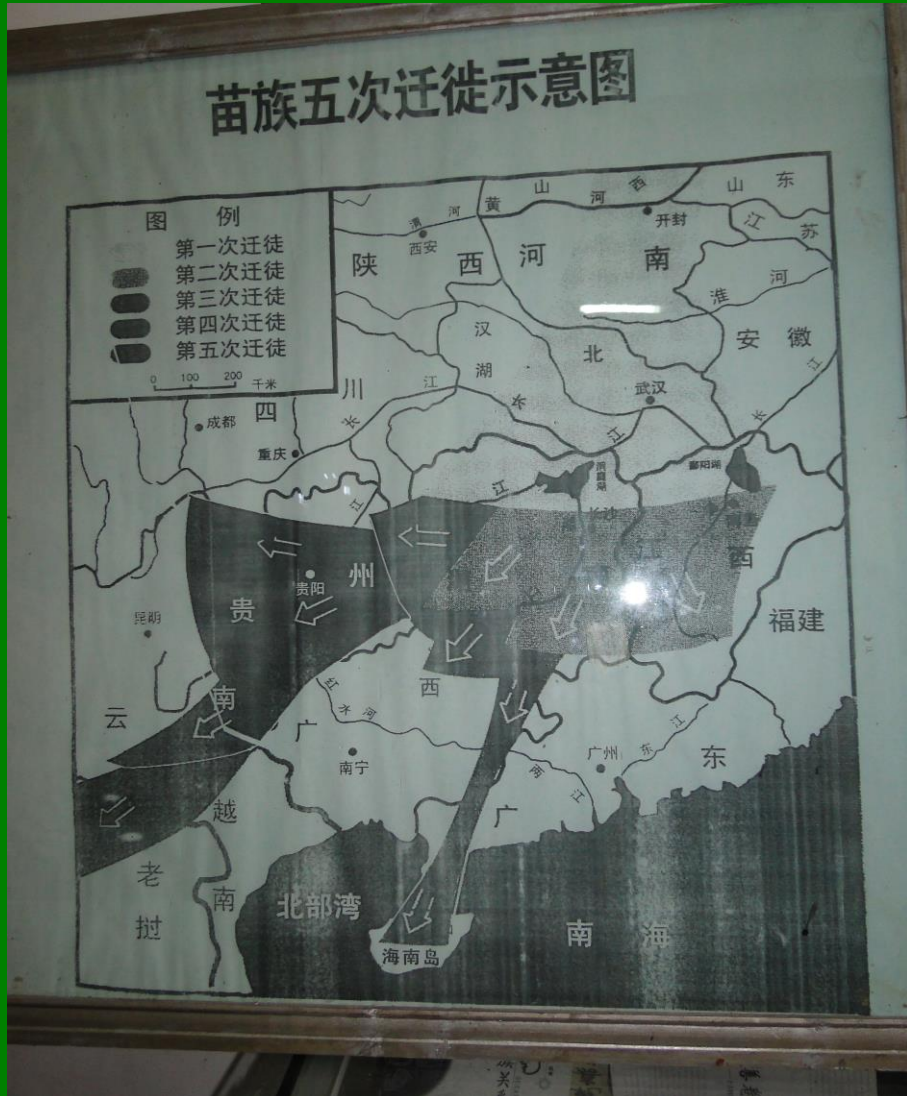
# Changsha area is Ancestral Home to MN Hmong



1.5 million 苗族 near Changsha  
@ 9 million 苗族 in China



# 苗族 History Museum



## 5 Waves of 苗族 movement from Southern China



## Famous Female苗族 Leader



# Feng Huang (Phoenix) 苗族 Ancient City





# Traveled to 苗族 Country Villages







Changsha Architects in MN  
Site visit in November 2015





Changsha Architects  
Jennifer Junfang FAN & Jon Youhua WEN









Carole Hyder, International Feng Shui Expert





**Tour of Hmong Village  
with Senator Hawj  
&  
Met Hmong Business  
Leaders**





# Meetings with St. Paul Parks & Rec

Mike Hahm, Alice Messer, Bryan Murphy

Bill Pesek, Weiming Lu, Linda Mealey-Lohmann, Bill Zajicek, Romi Slowiak



# Architects Meet with Mayor Coleman

November 2015



# Why Phalen Park?







# Rebuilt Historic Stone Arch Bridge

est \$1.4 million





# Restored Historic Waterfall

Est \$600,000





New  
Limestone  
Rock  
Sitting Areas  
&  
Fishing Piers  
along  
Water  
Channel





“Meditation”

Changsha  
Sculptor  
Master Lei Yixin





# PHALEN PARK'S ANNUAL DRAGON FESTIVAL

July 9-10, 2016

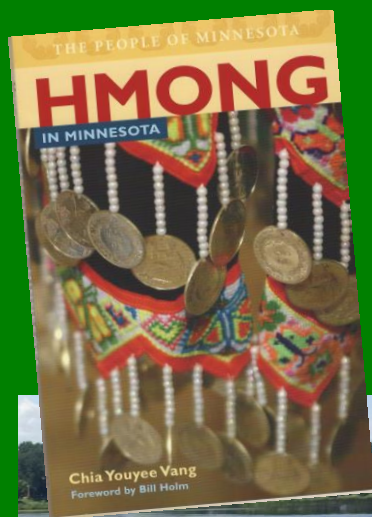


July 11, 2015  
DRAGON BOAT RACE



Phalen Park, St. Paul, MN





# Phalen Park - Home to large Minnesota Hmong Community



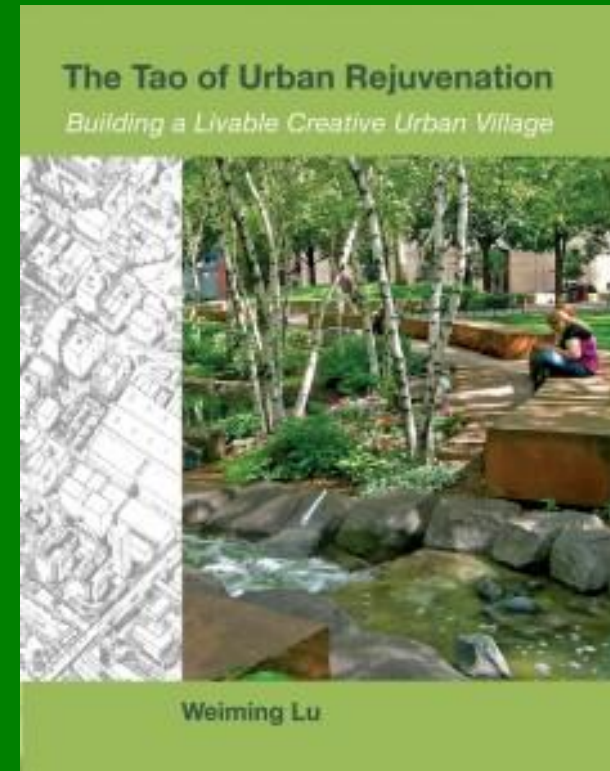
More than 66,000 Hmong live in MN (2010 Census)



# China Garden Basic Principles, Philosophy & Elements

## Weiming Lu, China Garden Society Advisor

- Internationally recognized urban planner & designer
- President of Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation in St. Paul
  - Mears Park
  - Bruce Vento Sanctuary
- Worked with Hmong American Partnership
- Author, “The Tao of Urban Rejuvenation”  
& “Shan Shui Spirit in Chinese Garden”
- Member of /National Committee for US-China Relations





# Blend in with Nature



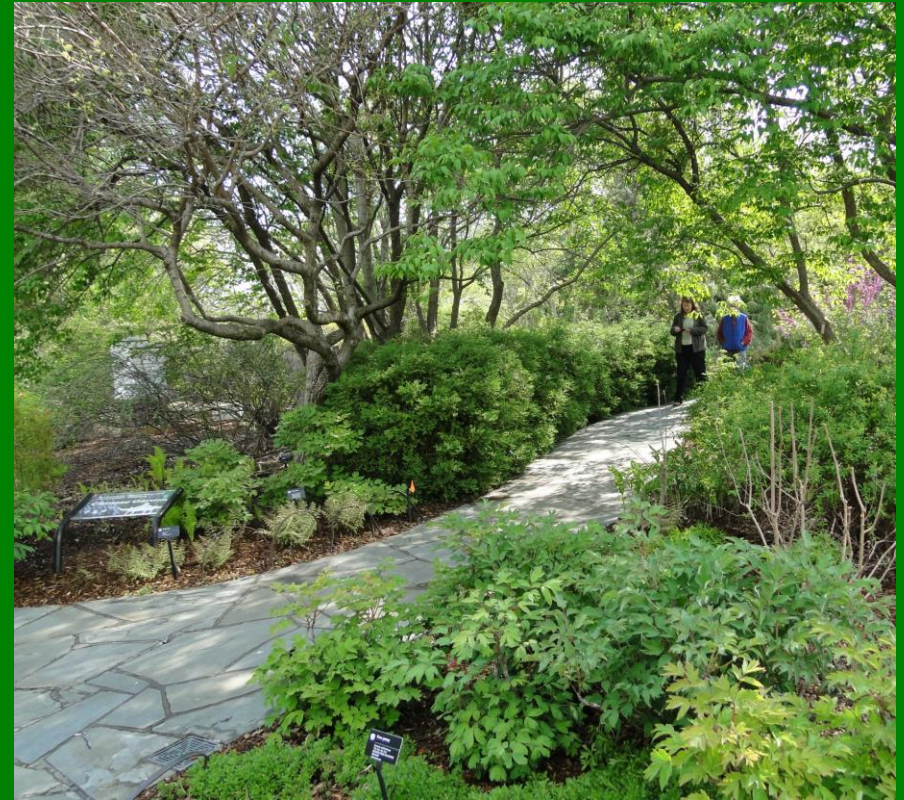


# Artistic Rocks





# Decorative Scenic Pathways





# Water





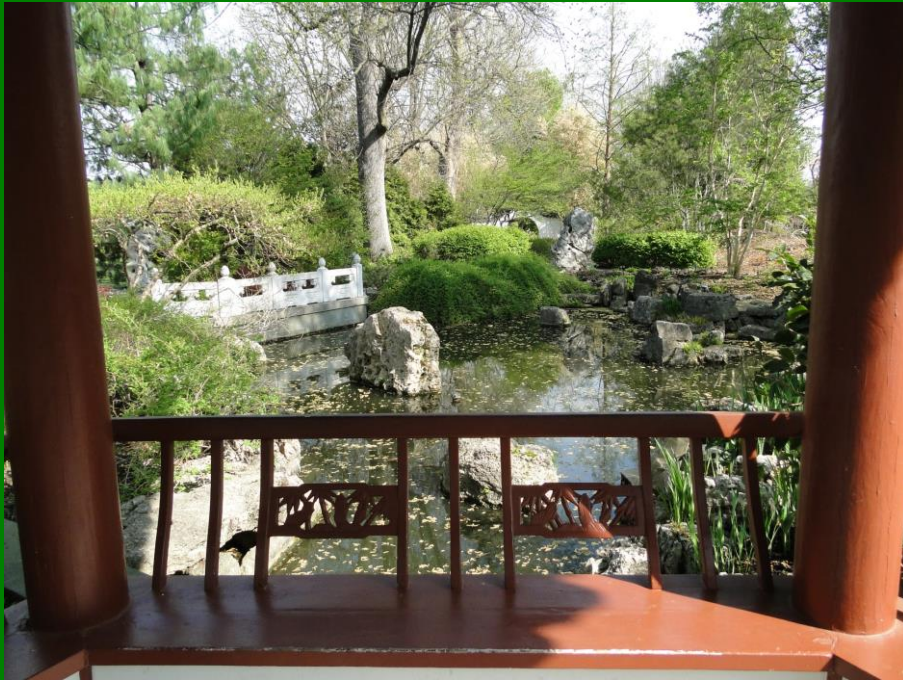
# Vegetation



**Willow trees frame site**



# “Borrowed” or “Framed” Views



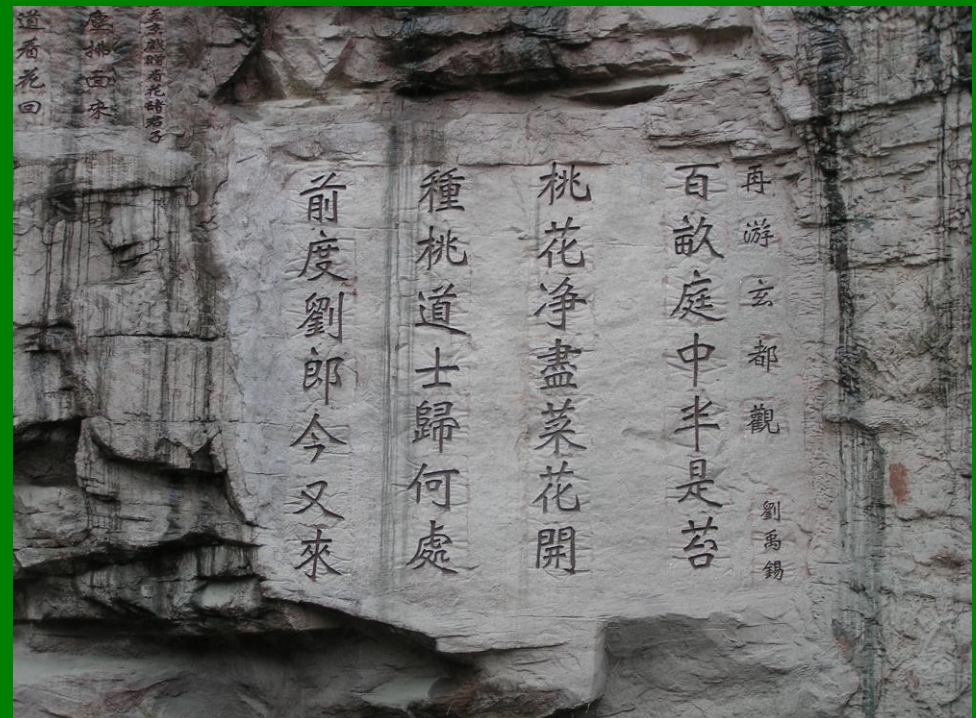


# Architectural Structures - Changsha Style

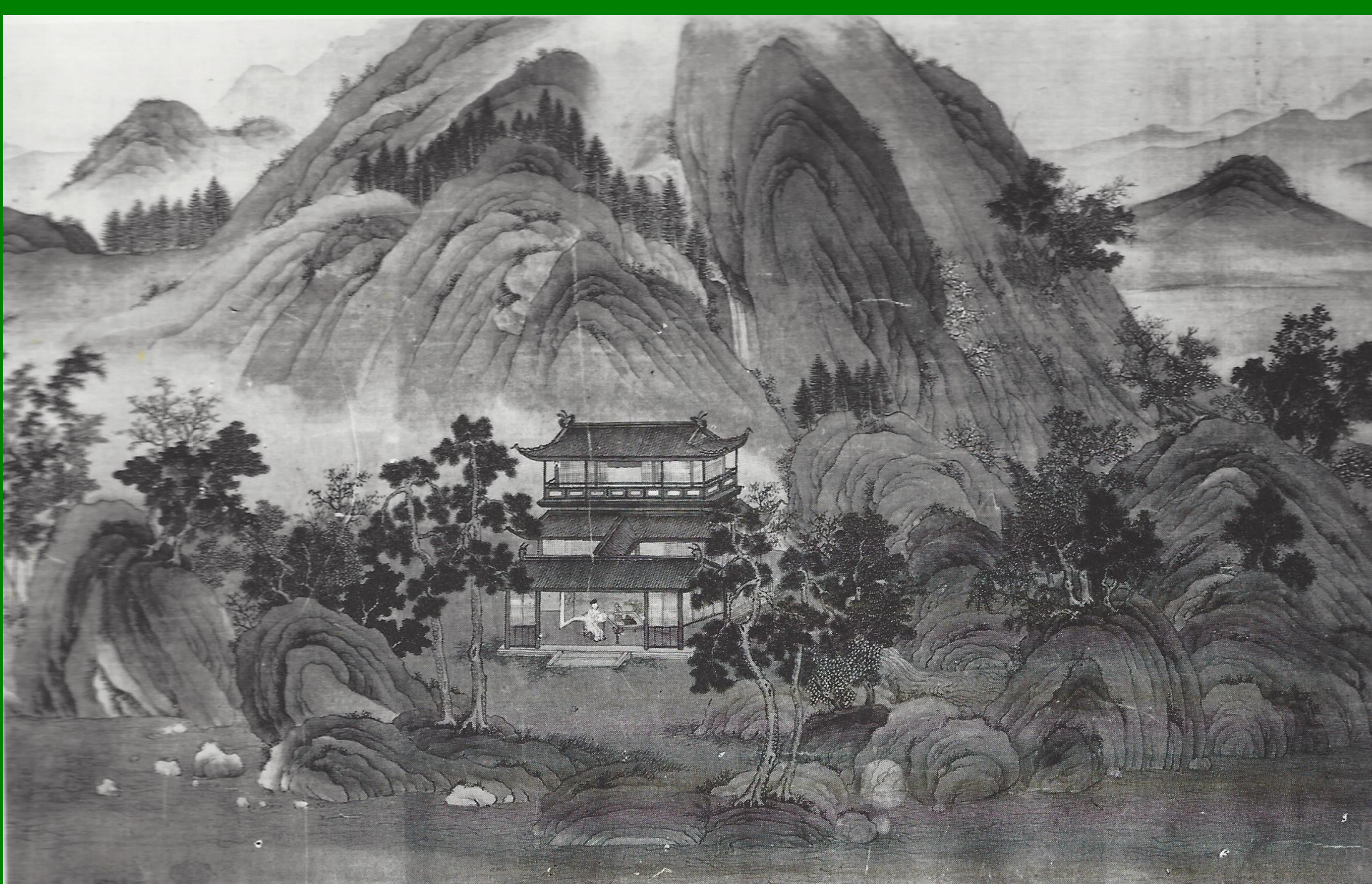




# Poetry & Calligraphy







**A place for arts and culture, contemplation,  
community gatherings, and school field trips**

# Proposed Conceptual Designs





**China Garden Site - Phalen Park - Now**





**China Garden Site - Phalen Park - Now**





China Garden Site - Phalen Park





# **PHALEN REGIONAL PARK** **ST. PAUL - CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
 GARDEN SOCIETY & USCFFA - MN



HUNAN JIANKE  
 LANDSCAPE CO. LTD.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MARCH 2016



# Garden location and design organization



Meditation sculpture by Master Lei Yixin.



The arch bridge frames views to Meditation sculpture.

**MASTERPLAN**

The China Friendship Garden at Phalen Regional Park will be a living symbol of the peace and friendship that exists between Saint Paul and its sister city Changsha, China (since 1988). The garden will honor the many contributions by the Chinese in Minnesota since the 1870s, integrate Chinese garden design principles within the natural setting of Phalen Regional Park, and be a bridge between the Minnesota Hmong and the Hmong ancestral home of Changsha, China. A strong visual connection to the Meditation sculpture by Master Lei was critical to the development of the garden plan. Several interconnected loop trails allow visitors to experience the garden from a number of vantage points.

This garden can be developed in three phases including:

- Phase 1 - Main Pavilion and Dry Stream Bed Estimated Cost - \$2 million
- Phase 2 - Hmong Culture Plaza Estimated Cost - \$2 million
- Phase 3 - Lakeside Pavilion Estimated Cost - \$3 million

## PHALEN REGIONAL PARK ST. PAUL - CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
GARDEN SOCIETY & USCFA - MN



HUNAN JIANKE  
LANDSCAPE CO LTD



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MARCH 2016



Bird's Eye View of Garden - View to the west



The five elements of Chinese Garden design (vegetation, artistic rocks, water, scenic pathways, and architecture) are reflected in the concept drawings.

# **PHALEN REGIONAL PARK ST. PAUL - CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
GARDEN SOCIETY & USCPIA - MN



HUNAN JANKE  
LANDSCAPE CO. LTD.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MARCH 2018



## Main Pavilion and Dry Stream Bed - Phase 1



The main pavilion is a replica of the original Aiwan Pavilion in Changsha, China. The pavilion is situated to visually connect the China Friendship Garden to the "Meditation" sculpture.

Total estimated phase cost: \$2 million

**PHALEN REGIONAL PARK**  
**ST. PAUL - CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
GARDEN SOCIETY & USOPFA - MN



HUNAN JIANKE  
LANDSCAPE CO LTD



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MARCH 2016



## Hmong Culture Plaza - Phase 2



Saint Paul is home to one of the largest Hmong populations, which claims Changsha, China as its ancestral home. The "path of the Hmong immigrant" is the focus of the Hmong cultural Plaza.

Total estimated phase cost: \$2 million

**PHALEN REGIONAL PARK**  
**ST. PAUL - CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
GARDEN SOCIETY & USOPFA - MN



HUNAN JANKE  
LANDSCAPE CO. LTD.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MARCH 2016



## Lakeside Pavilion - Phase 3



The pavilion will stretch along the lakeshore offering views of the Phalen Channel and restored stone bridge. It is located between existing willow trees offering a peaceful location to experience Phalen Regional Park.

Total estimated phase cost \$3 million

**PHALEN REGIONAL PARK**  
**ST. PAUL - CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
GARDEN SOCIETY & USCFFA - MN



HUNAN JIANKE  
LANDSCAPE CO LTD



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MARCH 2018





The lakeside pavilion includes a waterside patio, zigzag veranda, and indoor classroom. Park visitors can practice Tai Chi on the outside patio, fish from the shoreline, or take a class inside the pavilion.

# **PHALEN REGIONAL PARK CHINA GARDEN** JANUARY 2016



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
GARDEN SOCIETY & USCFFA - MN



HUNAN JIANKE  
LANDSCAPE CO. LTD.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION





The China Friendship Garden will be breathtaking all year round.

**PHALEN REGIONAL PARK  
ST. PAUL - CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
GARDEN SOCIETY & USCPIA - MN



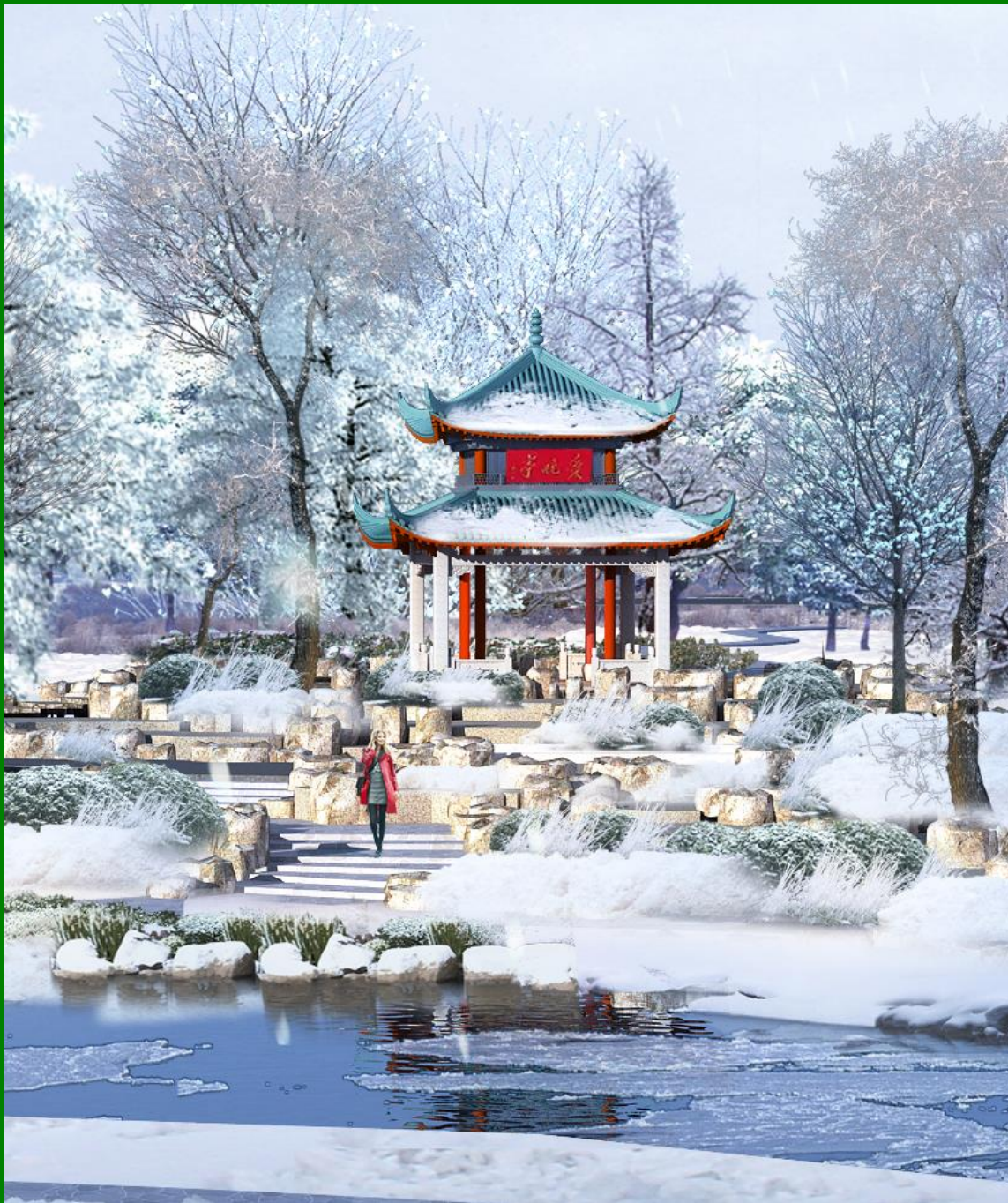
HUNAN JIANKE  
LANDSCAPE CO. LTD.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MARCH 2016





Winter  
Beauty



# Video



Phase 1a

Fundraising Goal for  
Main Pavilion base  
and immediately  
surrounding plaza





# Phase 1b Rock Garden & Arched Bridge

## Fundraising Goal: \$1.7 million





# Phase 2 Hmong Cultural Plaza

## Fundraising Goal: \$2 million

Hmong Culture Plaza - Phase 2



Saint Paul is home to one of the largest Hmong populations, which claims Changsha, China as its ancestral home. The "path of the Hmong immigrant" is the focus of the Hmong cultural Plaza.

Total estimated phase cost \$2 million

**PHALEN REGIONAL PARK**  
**ST. PAUL - CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
GARDEN SOCIETY & USCFA - MN



HUNAN JIANKE  
LANDSCAPE CO LTD



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MARCH 2016



# Phase 3 Lakeside Pavilion

## Fundraising Goal: \$2 million

Lakeside Pavilion - Phase 3



The pavilion will stretch along the lakeshore offering views of the Phalen Channel and restored stone bridge. It is located between existing willow trees offering a peaceful location to experience Phalen Regional Park.

Total estimated phase cost: \$3 million

**PHALEN REGIONAL PARK**  
**ST. PAUL - CHANGSHA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN**



MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP  
GARDEN SOCIETY & USCIFA - MN



HUNAN JIANKE  
LANDSCAPE CO. LTD.



CITY OF SAINT PAUL PARKS AND RECREATION  
DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

MARCH 2018



# Small Group Exercise

- Create small groups
- Introduce yourselves
- Decide who will take notes on comments
- Decide who will summarize comments to large group
- Discuss questions and try to reach consensus
- 5 minutes per question
- Write response on post-it and put on wall
- At end, share responses with large group



# Question 1

Identify one example of what you **most like** about the proposed plan (if anything) & why

## Question 2

Identify one example of what you would like to improve about the proposed plan (if anything) & why



## Question 3

Identify one example of  
what you dislike (if anything)  
& why

## Question 4

Identify one example of what your group would like to see the proposed Friendship Garden used for



# Recap & Next Steps

# Sister City Friendship Gift

- Gift from people of St. Paul to City of Changsha to be installed at Yanghu Park (sister park)
- \$30,000 Goal
- Peanuts Statues





# HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

## Phase 1a & 1b

- Like “Friends of St. Paul-Changsha Friendship Garden at Phalen Park” on Facebook - get updates
- Seeking Volunteers:
  - Fundraising
  - Marketing
  - Social Media
  - Future gardeners & tour guides
- Visit website: [MNChinaGarden.org](http://MNChinaGarden.org)



# HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

## Phase 2 Hmong Cultural Plaza

- Hosting Hmong Community Input Meeting
- Seeking Hmong Community Input & Expertise
  - What design?
  - Cultural Symbols?
  - History Boards?
  - Pieces of Art?
  - Programming ideas?
  - Involvement of schools?
- Seeking Volunteers for Advisory Group
- Seeking Volunteers to begin Fundraising now



A photograph of a traditional Chinese garden. In the foreground, a calm pond reflects the surrounding greenery. The middle ground is filled with dense, lush green trees and foliage. In the background, a traditional Chinese pavilion with a green tiled roof and red walls is visible, nestled among the trees. Several people can be seen walking along a path on the left side of the pond.

**Volunteer or Make Donation:**  
Website: [www.MNChinaGarden.org](http://www.MNChinaGarden.org)  
Email: [MN.China.Garden@comcast.net](mailto:MN.China.Garden@comcast.net)