Groundbreaking ceremony for St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden at Dragon Festival

By Greg Maykl

The groundbreaking ceremony for the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden was held on July 4, 2018, at the St. Paul River Park. The garden, located along the St. Paul River, will feature Chinese and American elements, including a pagoda, a tea house, and a bamboo grove. The garden is a joint project of the Chinese and American communities and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

During the ceremony, representatives from both cities spoke about the importance of the project. "This garden will serve as a symbol of friendship and cultural exchange," said St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter. "We are excited to welcome our Chinese friends and to share our American values with them through this beautiful garden." 

Changsha Mayor Liu Hongmin echoed Carter's sentiments, saying, "The garden will be a place where people can come together to celebrate our shared values and to learn from each other." 

The garden is part of a larger effort to improve the St. Paul River Park, which is undergoing a major renovation. "This garden is just the beginning," said Carter. "We are committed to making the River Park a thriving community space for all," he added.

The garden is expected to attract visitors from both cities and serve as a hub for cultural events and community gatherings. "We hope the garden will be a source of pride for both communities," said Liu. "It will be a beautiful addition to the River Park and a reminder of the importance of friendship and cooperation." 

The garden is just one of many projects that the two cities have undertaken to strengthen their relationship. "We have a long history of cooperation," said Liu. "We are proud to be able to work together on this project and to continue to strengthen our friendship." 

The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by representatives from both cities, including St. Paul City Councilmember Dan Thielke, St. Paul City Manager Mike Zanoni, and Changsha City Councilmember Li Qing. The ceremony was followed by a reception at the St. Paul City Hall, where guests were able to learn more about the project and enjoy Chinese food and music.

The garden is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year, with an opening ceremony planned for a later date. "We are looking forward to the opening of the garden," said Carter. "It will be a beautiful addition to the River Park and a reminder of the importance of friendship and cooperation."