

# GARDEN NEWS

Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society Newsletter



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Let's start the year with hope and strength with our New Year Matching Gift Challenge— Help us to complete Phase I and unlock \$1 million in state funds for Phase II. **ANYSIZE DONATION IS WELCOMED!**



After a year unlike anything we have experienced in recent history, we have been unable to raise funds from individuals as we would expect to fulfill our commitment to unlock \$1 million in state funds for Phase II. For that to happen, though we celebrated the Grand Opening of Liu Ming Yuan—Lub Vaj Phooj Ywg in July 2019, we still need your support to complete Phase I, funds are needed to complete area around the West Entrance Archway and Plaza, for landscaping and poetry rocks, plants, trees, and various pathways.

Walk-through of the Phalen Regional Park China Garden concept, click the link below to view it.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3hbHqT9il4&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3hbHqT9il4&feature=emb_logo)

## DOUBLE THE IMPACT OF YOUR DONATION!

### EASY TO DONATE



- ◆ Complete Donor Form and send with check to address below
- ◆ <http://mnchinagarden.org/donation-option/>



- ◆ PayPal or Credit Card (fees apply)
- ◆ Scan QR code -OR- go to:
- ◆ <https://tinyurl.com/Donatechinagarden>



- ◆ Make check payable to MCFGS
- ◆ 1492 E. Shore Drive, St. Paul, MN 55106



- ◆ PayPal Personal Account: Send as "Gift" - no fees!



### Donor Wall Categories

\$200,000+
\$100,000 - \$99,999
\$50,000 - \$99,999
\$25,000 - \$49,999
\$10,000 - \$24,999
\$5,000 - \$9,999
\$1,000 - \$4,999

## News from Liu Ming Yuan (Saint Paul – Changsha China Friendship Garden)

This project started so long ago as most entirely new things must: from a seed to a tree, or a chrysalis to a moth.

First with a simple vision: that Minnesota should have a China Garden as well as the many Japanese Gardens; then slowly building support over nearly a decade; and finally, with funding for the design of a China Garden at one of St. Paul's understated Regional Parks - Phalen Regional Park, the garden took form. The pace then rapidly picked up both here in St. Paul and in our Chinese sister city, Changsha. Mutual gifts were proposed: Peanuts sculptures from St. Paul and a replica of a famous pavilion from Changsha. In a rush at the end of 2017, funding from a couple of hundred donors made possible a commitment from St. Paul Dept. of Parks and Recreation to initiate construction. Once started, it became clear that the estimates for construction were too low. The garden site is in the middle of an island, making access difficult for both equipment and materials. Twelve Chinese artisans from our architectural company, Hunan Jianke, sat waiting for the material containers to arrive while one of the five was detained at the Canadian border. And the list goes on.

One cannot draw a straight path for a project such as this. While we struggled to complete funding for Phase I of the garden ~ a garden with a Hmong Heritage Wall, the Xiang Jiang Pavilion, plazas, and rock work, and the West Archway Gate ~ the funding for Phase II has been growing, primarily through legacy and bonding monies, but also in private restricted funds totaling nearly \$1,000,000 which now lay awaiting the completion of the Phase I. We have a garden largely without plants and a promissory note due to the City of Saint Paul, which advanced funds to the Dept. of Parks and Rec for the installation of the West Archway Gate and other features. We must close the books on this Note before we can conclude Phase I.

Please help us complete this Phase making a donation that will be matched by the Founders, Board, and Advisors of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society up to \$78,850. By matching the \$ 78,850, you will free 12 times that amount for Phase II (\$78,850 \* 12 = \$946,000).

William Zajceck, President MCFGS

**Each month we will feature some of our Groundbreakers. Thank you for your support!**

**Donation Over \$200,000:** The Warpeha Davis Family (1st Donor - in 2005)!

**Donation \$100,000-\$199,999:** C.C. Hsiao & Joyce Yuan Hsiao (2nd Donor - in 2005)!

**Donation \$50,000-\$99,999:** Bill Zajicek & Romi Slowiak

**Donation \$10,000-\$49,999:** Albert Hsiao, Caroline Hsiao Van & Douglas Van, Linda Mealey-Lohmann

**Donation \$5,000-\$9,999:** Jing Li & Chen Zhou, Hmong American Partnership

**Donation \$1,000-\$4,999:** Dr. Kou Bliaxa & Song Ly Vang, Drs. C.Y. & Sylvia Chang Pan, Gang Chen & Laura Li, Ruzhao Cheng & Jun Xiao, Chia Chang Chu-Yang-Heu, Ying & Yang Chu-Yang-Heu, Dennis Mingda Cui, Haitao Cui & Gang Yin, Larry Minglang Cui, Dr. Yang Dao Fund, Lilian Jiarun Esch, Sophia Meixiao Esch, Pang Doua & Pa Heu Fang, Nou Ya Fang & Kou Her, Shen Fei & George Kimball, Feng-Sklaney Family, Ying & Agnes Fok, Brenda Ming & David Sim Fong

**Donation \$1-\$999:** Li Ding & Lei K. Jiang, Christine Van & Martin Matsui, Doug Watnemo, Zhejiang Folks Association of MN, Linda & Victor Chao, Dong Chen, Paul Cheng, Manne & John Cheung, Fallon Fan & George Chan, Shuffang Guan & Junren Liu, Bingwen Hao, Qingsong Ji & Jiangfeng Lu, Mei Jiang

**Garden Updates or Opportunities:**

IMPORTANT DATES:

**LUNAR NEW YEAR: February 12, 2021**

**WE NEED YOUR HELP — YOU CAN CHOOSE TO:**

1. Contribute to completing and paying off expenses for PHASE I.
2. Then PHASE II can begin: the Hmong Plaza, Moon Gate with Donor Wall, Moon Bridge - contribute to this.
3. Leave a Legacy: Volunteer.

Be part of the garden, we have volunteer opportunities, please contact us.

**Make a donation:**

<http://mnchinagarden.org/donation-options/>

**Individuals who make donations of \$1,000 or more will have their name on the website and Garden Donor Wall as GROUNDREAKERS!**

**Garden Symbols on Xiang Jiang Pavilion**

Petal Lotus: noble and unsullied, arises from muddy depths



蝶恋花 “Butterflies Love Flowers”: **Butterflies surrounding flowers and buds.** Butterflies have one partner for life and symbolize loyalty, love and happiness; symbol of summer

**Garden Stories:**



*Hmong Visitors at Liu Ming Yuan*

*High School Field Trip in 2020*



**The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society—2021 Board of Directors**

Bill Zajicek (President), Chen Zhou (Vice-President), Linda Mealey-Lohmann (Secretary), Ken Lau (Treasurer), N. Walter Graff, Barbara Harrison, Snowdon Herr, Joyce C.Y. Yuan Hsiao, Romi Slowiak, Mary Warpeha, Joanie Xuejiao Zhang, Wang-Yu Vu (Newsletter Editor)

**Please reach out to us:**

Email: [mcfqs@mnchinagarden.org](mailto:mcfqs@mnchinagarden.org)

Website: <http://mnchinagarden.org>

Facebook Pages: Minnesota China Friendship Garden | Friends of St. Paul-Changsha Friendship Garden at Phalen Park

Instagram: [mnchinafriendshipgarden](https://www.instagram.com/mnchinafriendshipgarden)