

The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society

2023-2024 Annual Report by MCFGS President Bill Zajicek and Treasurer Sue Klevan

MCFGS Major Accomplishments:

Use of the Garden:

- Docent Tours provided to over a dozen schools and other organizations with approximately 700 individuals involved in the tours in 2024.



University of Minnesota Women's Club



We As One Summer Camp Tour

Festivals:

- Celebration of the 35th Anniversary for the St. Paul - Changsha Sister City Relationship in 2023; attendance ~ 300
- Celebration of the Hmong Plaza Opening (minus Art Sculptures) in 2024
- Sponsoring the 3rd Mid-Autumn Festival at Picnic Island in Phalen Park in 2023
- Sponsoring the 4th Mid-Autumn Festival in Liu Ming Yuan using the new Plaza in 2024
 - Attendance of over 3000
 - Included over 60 Performances
 - Held a four-language poetry contest with awards on the theme of friendship



2023 35th Anniversary Celebration



2024 Hmong Plaza Opening Ceremony

Construction:

- Initiated Construction of Hmong Plaza
 - Stage 1 of Hmong Plaza completed in 2024
 - Estimated cost for the Plaza is \$ 1.2 MM plus \$.5 MM for Art Sculptures
 - Funding provided by State Legacy Amendment, Bonding, St. Paul Year Around Star, Metro Arts Couns, and private Donations
 - Still seeking \$ 150K for Hmong Art Sculptures
 - Applied for and received Legacy Amendment funding for \$ 450,000 for budget short fall on Hmong Plaza
- Volunteers contributed over 500 hours at Planting events and general upkeep of the garden. Over 100 individuals participated in 2023 and 2024. Hundreds of plants and trees planted in 2023 and 2024.
- Setting of the Garden Naming Stone; Cost \$ 15,000



Hmong Plaza Construction 2023 to 2024



Volunteers in the Garden



Naming Stone set in place

Organizational Progress:

- Transition from a 12-member board to a 15-member board.
- Signing of Development Agreement between MCFGs and St. Paul Parks & Recreation for Phase II of the St. Paul – Changsha China Friendship Garden.

Financial Summary	for 2023	for 2024
Income:		
Programing/Event Grants:	\$ 14,217	\$ 22,699
Admin & Devel Grants:	\$ 18,200	\$ 27,000
Donations and Misc:	\$ 13,966	\$ 43,290
Total:	\$ 54,195	\$ 92,988
Expenses:		
Basic Operating:	\$ 2,758	\$ 3,334
Fundraising, Tech & Contractors:	\$ 12,699	\$ 22,318
Depreciation:	\$ 607	\$ 0
Garden maintenance:	\$ 1,710	\$ 3,028
Garden Construction:	\$ 111,710	\$ 0
Programing/Events:	\$ 18,624	\$ 24,301
Total:	\$ 146,396	\$ 52,982
Net Income:	\$ -92,201	\$ 40,006
End Balance:	\$ 186,259	\$ 222,791