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THE MINNESOTA CHINA FRIENDSHIP GARDEN SOCIETY

明州中國友好花園協會

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

MCFGS ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES

Before you read our report, I would like to describe two anecdotal stories that are daily occurrences at the garden. It's these happenings that in my mind begin to describe the real value of this garden. One is a young African American women stopping at the Hmong Plaza on her bicycle, unloading a small sound box and spending the next 25 minutes doing her own personal dance routine, then, on her way to work I assume. The other was a conversation the Outreach Chair had with an Eastside funder and when asked if she had seen the garden she replied, 'she and her daughter visit often and her daughter thinks it's a local Disney World'.

By Bill Zajicek, Co-President



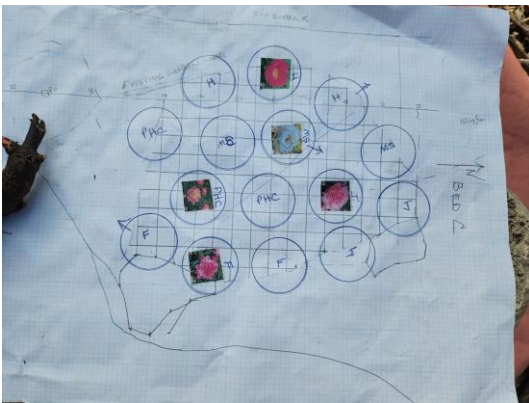
Construction of the Garden:

- The Xiang Jiang Pavilion roof was replaced in 2025. The new roof is an aluminum/magnesium bi-metal that should last 30 to 40 years.
- Work continues on the Hmong Plaza Art Sculptures: the two Qeej, which are scheduled for Spring 2027 & the Hmong Necklace or Xauv which will form the center piece of the Hmong Plaza. We are still seeking funding to complete the Xauv.
- Design completed on the Lake Side Entry to the Xiang Jiang Pavilion and design started on the Phalen Lake Moon viewing platform, both features of Phase II.



The Liu Ming Yuan Ornamental Garden:

- Our Peony Festival resulted in a significant increase in this ornamental garden with the addition of 24 peonies. Liu Ming Yuan is very likely the largest public display of peonies in the city. Nearly 20 different varieties and over 40 actual plants.
- There were also over another 300 plants added in 2025 with over 350 volunteer hours, plus a class of nearly 100 from the Saint Paul's "Open World Learning School," who divided into manageable class groups and took turns planting the Xiang Jiang Mountain Stream.





Events:

- **4th Annual Dumpling Feast** in February. A fabulous Chinese New Year Event with attendance of over 200.
- **1st Annual Peony Festival** on May 17. It turned out to be the last day of winter with a high in the low 50's and overcast but nevertheless enjoyed by nearly 800 attendees. A diverse series of performances along with interludes by a resident Peony expert answering anyone's questions on Peonies. Held in honor of Joyce Hsiao whose favorite flower was the Peony; in China "the Queen of Flowers".
- **5th Annual Mid-Autumn Festival** in September; with over 40 performance groups and an estimated attendance of over 2,000, celebrating the harvest moon, it was another event that brought Asian Culture to the general public on the East Side of St. Paul.



Outreach:

There were over 20 different docent tours conducted in 2025. Approximately 500 individuals attending overall including six different schools Field Trips and two Chinese Delegations.



Programing:

Continuing with a major MN Humanities Center Grant for developing middle school curriculum using the China Garden cultural stories in collaboration with several local St. Paul Eastside Schools and developing an interactive Arc-GIS map of the garden and its elements.



Restructuring Organization:

We are working with a local consultant familiar with non-profit transition issues to hire a CEO, first staff member of The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society. The scope of the effort involved in the Garden Society's present undertakings, Garden III phase Development, upkeep, Events, Outreach, & Programing is exceeding the ability of a volunteer organization to manage. We have leveraged our volunteers with contractors help in several areas but that still leaves the job of supervising the contractors up to a volunteer in the organization. To complete the development of the garden as defined by its 3-phase development plan and to maintain it requires a different organizational model for long term sustainability.

MCFGS 2025 FINANCIAL REPORT

Financials:

P&L Summary for 2025:

Income:

Programing Grants:	\$ 14,644
Admin & Devel Grants:	\$ 20,103
Donations	\$ 21,930
Other (Events, Interest, Misc.)	\$ 5,965

Total: **\$ 62,642**

Expenses:

Basic Operating:	\$ 4,234
Fundraising, Tech & Contractors:	\$ 32,618
Depreciation:	\$ 607
Garden Plantins and upkeep:	\$ 5,680
Programing/Events:	\$ 7,205
Total Expenses:	\$ 50,344

Net Income: **\$ 12,298**

Balance Sheet for 2025:

Assets

Current	\$138,492
Fixed	\$ 607
Other – Restricted	\$148,491
Total Assets:	\$287,590

Liabilities & Equity

Liabilities:

Current – grants in advance	\$ 53,441
Restricted – Funds in advance	\$ 11,392
Total:	\$ 64,833

Equity:

Opening Balance	\$102,708
Retained Earnings	\$107,751
Net Income	\$ 12,298
Total:	\$222,757
Total Liabilities & Equity:	\$287,590

#MNChinaGarden

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