

Fact Sheet

A look inside the Portland Japanese Garden

Address:

611 SW Kingston Ave
Portland, Oregon 97208

Website: japanesegarden.org

Phone: 503.223.1321

Email: info@japanesegarden.org

Hours:

Summer Public Hours (March 13 - Sept. 30):

- Monday: Noon - 7 p.m.
- Tuesday - Sunday: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Winter Public Hours (Oct. 1 - March 12)

- Monday: Noon - 4 p.m.
- Tuesday - Sunday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Key Personnel:

Stephen Bloom, *Chief Executive Officer*

Sadafumi Uchiyama, *Garden Curator*

Diane Durston, *Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art & Education*

Cynthia Johnson Haruyama, *Deputy Director*

Cathy Rudd, *Board of Trustees President*

Dorie Vollum, *Board of Trustees President-Elect and Cultural Crossing Campaign Co-Chair*

Quick Facts:

- Year Established: 1963
- Total Annual Attendance: 356,000 in 2016 (up 20% from 2015)
- Total Acreage: 8 public gardens spread over 12 acres
- Total Volunteer Hours: 7,226 in 2016
- Total Members: 11,000
- Total Staff: 83 regular employees, including eight full-time gardeners
- Total Operating Budget: \$9.5 million

Pricing:

Adults: \$14.95

Seniors (65+): \$12.95

College Students (with ID): \$11.95

Youth (6 - 17): \$10.45

Children 5 and under: free

Photos, Videos & Logos:

- [Click here](#) for Photos of the Garden in every season
- [Click here](#) for Photos of Cultural Programming & Art Exhibitions
- [Click here](#) for Videos & B-roll
- [Click here](#) for Logos

Media Inquiries:

Erica Heartquist | heartquist@japanesegarden.org | 503.542.9339

About the Portland Japanese Garden

For more than 50 years, the Portland Japanese Garden has been a haven of serenity and tranquility, nestled in the scenic West Hills of Portland, OR. It is considered the most authentic Japanese garden outside of Japan and one of the foremost Japanese cultural organizations in North America. As a top visitor destination in Oregon, the Portland Japanese Garden originally served 30,000 annual visitors. The Garden now welcomes more than 350,000 guests per year, a number that continues to grow year-over-year.

The Garden was established with five distinct garden styles, each of which share a sense of peace, harmony and tranquility:

- *Flat Garden (hira-niwa)*: In a garden such as this one, the designer worked to balance the relationship between the flat planes (the ground) and the volume of stones and clipped shrubbery and trees to create a sense of depth of space;
- *Strolling Pond Garden (chisen kaiyu shiki teien)*: This garden consists of Upper and Lower Ponds connected by an enticing stream. The Upper Pond features a Moon Bridge, while the Lower Pond has a zig-zag (yatsubashi) bridge through beds of iris against the backdrop of a stunning waterfall;
- *Tea Garden (cha-niwa or roji)*: A Japanese tea garden is a place for quiet reflection on the beauty of nature and the art of living in harmony with one another and with all things;
- *Natural Garden (zoki no niwa)*: The Natural Garden was created to be an environment that encourages visitors to rest, relax, and reflect on the very essence and brevity of life; and
- *Sand and Stone Garden (karesansui)*: Gardens of raked sand (or gravel) and stone are referred to as karesansui (literally, “dry landscape”) gardens.

With the 2017 Cultural Village expansion, the Garden introduced three new gardens, designed to immediately immerse visitors in the experience and demonstrate a wider array of Japanese garden styles and techniques, including:

- *Entry Garden*: a water garden of cascading ponds that continues along a zigzagged walk up a terraced stone pathway through Japanese maples, Pacific Northwest native plants and towering Douglas Firs.
- *Tsubo-niwa*: known otherwise as “courtyard garden,” this garden style originated throughout Japan in the Heian period. These garden vignettes provide organic relief in the small open spaces between buildings.
- *Ellie M. Hill Bonsai Terrace*

The *Bill de Weese Chabana Research Garden* will grow native Japanese flowers as seasonal centerpieces for *chado* (tea ceremony), furthering the Garden’s education focus. This research garden, housed on a steep terrain, is the first of its kind in North America.

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A Global Center for Culture, Art, and Education

Under the leadership of Diane Durston, Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art, and Education, the Portland Japanese Garden has endeavored to be not only a place of beauty and tranquility but also of learning. For many visitors, the Portland Japanese Garden is the closest they will ever come to experiencing the land and culture of Japan. The Garden is a living “classroom” that offers tremendous opportunities for experiential learning to all who enter its gates.

The Portland Japanese Garden has expanded its programming to host traditional Japanese festivals, artist demonstrations, art exhibitions, and classes throughout the year.

At the heart of the Garden’s programming is its celebrated *Art in the Garden* series. Each year, this series presents the work of Japanese artists – or those inspired by Japanese design or traditions – to explore the ideas and aesthetics integral to the fabric of life in Japan.

In 2017

The Portland Japanese Garden will host three major exhibitions this year, each featuring related lectures, demonstrations, and activities:

- *Hosokawa Morihiro: the Art of Life, A Rebirth in Clay* (April 2 – May 21) – A celebration of tea culture in the art and life of Hosokawa Morihiro, former Prime Minister of Japan.
- *KABUKI: A Revolution in Color and Design* (July 29 – September 3) – An exploration of Japan’s most flamboyant and fanciful performance art through elaborate costumes.
- *Mirrors of the Mind: The Noh Masks of Otsuki Koukun* (October 14 – December 3) – A look into the elusive world of Noh with hand-carved masks by Otsuki Koukun and elegant brocade costumes from the traditional silk looks of Orinasu-kan in Kyoto.

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