



THE GARDEN PATH

FEBRUARY 2016 • VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 2

ART IN THE GARDEN 2016 | TSUNAGU: CONNECTING TO THE ARCHITECTURE OF KENGO KUMA

A glass wall, angled to gently capture raindrops. A ceramic roof covered in tiny succulents that reach toward the sun. Cedar shingles that ruffle when touched by a light breeze. These subtle elements have come to be a trademark for world-renowned architect Kengo Kuma, whose design was selected for the Portland Japanese Garden's Cultural Crossing expansion project. Considered one of the "most Japanese" contemporary architects from Japan, Mr. Kuma is known for his sensitivity to the environment, modest designs, and awareness of Japanese tradition. In February, a month-long exhibition called Tsunagu: *Connecting to the Architecture of Kengo Kuma* explores the concepts of Mr. Kuma's work, focusing specifically on his design for the Garden.



Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art & Education. The Tsunagu exhibition is designed to be enjoyed by people of all backgrounds. Mr. Bognar says, "Kengo Kuma's work is felt on a fundamental level, so we're putting several 'layers' into the exhibition so the experience is immersive. It will be rewarding for those just visiting, for those wanting to understand key concepts, and for those who really want to get into the details."

Kengo Kuma's work, modest and understated, can be seen around the world—from the Tokyo 2020 Olympics main stadium, to the Victoria & Albert Museum in Scotland. Join us for this special exploration of Mr. Kuma's concepts, inspiration, and design.

This exhibition is made possible with the support of the following:



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Stephen & Melissa Babson and the Autzen Foundation.

TSUNAGU REFERS TO A CONNECTION (BETWEEN PEOPLE AND NATURE, AS WELL AS BETWEEN SPACES), TO CONTINUITY (WITH THE SITE), AND TO LOOKING FORWARD (A LINK TOWARD THE NEXT GENERATION AND THE FUTURE)"

—BALAZS BOGNAR, GUEST CURATOR

Mr. Kuma was attracted to the Garden's beauty from his first visit. His personal aesthetic—drawing on Japanese tradition—is perfectly aligned with the Garden's guiding principles. "I saw the design for the Portland Japanese Garden's Cultural Crossing as a metaphorical bridge. It is an architectural and cultural link that binds the U.S. and Japan.

Tsunagu is the first exhibition in the United States to probe the philosophy of Mr. Kuma. It is guest curated by Balazs Bognar, Design Director at Kengo Kuma & Associates in collaboration with Diane Durston, the



Dear Garden Members,

In less than a month, the Garden will reopen, and we are all eager to return! I've heard from many people about how much they've missed visiting the Garden. And I've heard more than once, "Will it be worth it?" The Cultural Crossing expansion is no small undertaking and there is

still much to do as construction continues through 2016 even after we reopen next month. But when we see the final results at the official Grand Opening in 2017, I assure you it will indeed be worth it.

Over these past five months, I've periodically stood in the middle of the construction site to assess our progress. Every time, I've been humbled and amazed by how this long languishing piece of land is being transformed. What was once a space defined by cracked cement will soon be a bustling cultural center where visitors can be transported to another world to sip, nibble, socialize, learn, discover, and shop. Kengo Kuma's elegant architecture will be complemented by Sadafumi Uchiyama's beautiful landscape design. When it's finally completed next year, there will be something for everyone to look forward to.

Cheryl Ching, our Chief Operations Officer, and her team are particularly excited to move the Welcome Gate down the hill in 2017. An easy-to-find welcome center surrounded by bamboo and cascading ponds will begin a complete serene visitor experience for both first time guests and familiar friends.

Walking up the zig-zag path, the first building you'll see is our new tea café, floating above the hillside. This past December, Garden Gift Store Manager Ashley McQuade and I spent some time in Japan learning the intricacies of providing an authentic tea café experience. Ashley will be overseeing our tea café operations and is sure to bring the same elegance to it that she's brought to our gift store.



As part of our immersion, we had tea at the Nezu Museum's tea café, also designed by Kengo Kuma.

Part of our education included an immersive day with the owners of the Jugetsudo tea company in Tokyo. Jugetsudo's owner, Keita Maruyama, walked Ashley and I through the steps of pairing world class Japanese tea with traditional gracious, attentive service, and delicious edible delights. Done right, our own tea café will engage all five senses while finding the spirit of Japanese culture. When I think about the Garden offering this unique experience, it underlines the meaning of *Cultural Crossing*; this will truly transport you to another world.



Artist rendering of the new Cultural Crossing tea café by Kengo Kuma

At the heart of the expansion project is the Cultural Village, a place of learning and discovery, with year-round programming to continue our mission of promoting Japanese garden arts and culture. When construction is complete in 2017, the Cultural Village will give us much needed new classrooms and exhibition spaces, and operate in the same way that our Pavilion once did—as a home for exhibitions, demonstrations, lectures and workshops. Diane Durston, the Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Culture, Art & Education is already hard at work planning these magnificent spaces with more robust programming for you in 2017!

All of this construction paves the way toward a haven of serenity. At the end of this road awaits the Garden itself, sitting in quiet beauty. With distractions removed, there you will be free to stroll without interruption, unplug, and recharge. The Garden will remain your special place to find peace, solace, and joy.

As I've said many times before, Cultural Crossing is a once-in-a-lifetime legacy we are giving to future generations. The countdown to 2017 has begun, but until then, we eagerly await your return in March!

Best,

TSUNAGU: GATEWAY MEMBER AND GOLDEN CRANE SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE

February 2-3, 2016

5:30-8pm

Center for Architecture, 403 NW 11th Ave, Portland OR

Complimentary tickets available at japanesegarden.com/events

Space is limited, reservations required

We are honored to invite our Gateway Members, Volunteers, and Golden Crane Society to enjoy light refreshments while previewing *Tsunagu: Connecting to the Architecture of Kengo Kuma* before it opens to the public. The month-long exhibition, held at the Center for Architecture in Portland, is the first major opportunity to formally introduce Kengo Kuma's ideas to the public by focusing on his design for the Japanese Garden's Cultural Crossing expansion project.

TSUNAGU: CONNECTING TO THE ARCHITECTURE OF KENGO KUMA

February 4-29, 2016

Open Daily 10-5pm

Extended Hours on Fridays until 7pm

Center for Architecture

403 NW 11th Ave, Portland, OR

LECTURE: TSUNAGU, KENGO KUMA'S ARCHITECTURE OF RELATIONSHIPS (SOLD OUT)

February 6, 2016

2:00-4:00pm

Portland Art Museum, in the Fields Ballroom,

hosted by the PAM Asian Art Council

1219 SW Park Ave

GOLDEN CRANE SOCIETY HOSTED VIEWING HOURS WITH KENGO KUMA

February 6, 2016

5:00-7:30pm

Center for Architecture

Invitation Only

CALENDAR CONTEST: SHARE YOUR LOVE OF THE GARDEN

Submissions due February 22, 2016

Every year, our talented Photographer Members capture breathtaking images of the Garden— from our famous Japanese maple, to our friendly, frisky koi. And every year we look forward to featuring a selection of these incredible images in the Garden's annual wall calendar. This bestselling item is a favorite of visitors and garden lovers around the world, and is a great opportunity for Photographer Members to see their work showcased in a gorgeous format. If one of your photographs is selected to represent a month in the Garden you'll receive ten complimentary copies of the 2017 calendar. If we choose to include your work as a smaller inset photograph, you'll receive two complimentary copies. Learn more about the benefits of being a Photographer Member, and get more details about the calendar contest, at japanesegarden.com/photographers.

GATEWAY MEMBER NIGHT WITH PSU KABUKI (SOLD OUT)

February 27, 2016

6:15-7:00pm—Reception and presentation with the production director Dr. Laurence Kominz, Professor of Japanese Language & Literature

7:00-10:00pm—Performance

Portland State University—Lincoln Performance Hall

Gateway Members receive 20% discount on general admission ticket prices:

- Gateway Members \$12.00
- Gateway Senior Members \$9.00

Discount tickets available until 2/12/16 at japanesegarden.com/events

The Portland State University School of Theater & Film is presenting *The Revenge of the 47 Loyal Samurai* as a Main Stage Production. This traditional Japanese play will be co-presented by the PSU Center for Japanese Studies with the support of the US-Japan Foundation.

Performances of this seminal example of kabuki theater will take place from February 25th to March 5th. Join us for a special Gateway Member Night with food, drink, and a special presentation by director Dr. Laurence Kominz before the opening weekend performance on Saturday, February 27.



Member news continued on next page.



Photo: Jonathan Ley

GARDEN'S MARCH 1 REOPENING JUST ONE MONTH AWAY

Spring: a time of rebirth. The earth slowly turns her face to the sun, the weather warms, and colorful blossoms peek out after a long winter's nap. It's an exhilarating time in any garden but this will be an especially exciting spring for the Portland Japanese Garden as we welcome our Members back to the Garden after six long months. Gardener Justin Blackwell points out what members will experience upon their return:

"Cherry trees heavy with blooms, an array of white, pink, and red camellia and newly pruned pines giving a formal elegance to the Flat Garden. The sweet fragrance of Edgeworthia and Viburnum contrasting with the pungent Eurya japonica will delight the senses. And of course the koi are becoming active and lively and frisky; I think they missed the adoration from adults and children!"

We've all missed our visitors. But the absence of thousands of feet has given the Garden a unique opportunity to restore itself. Strolling through, the pathways will feel lighter, as though they've been "lifted." The moss is springy and lush. Members will notice a new earthen bridge in the Natural Garden; the former bridge had been in use for 30 years and carried the weight of millions of visitors. In reconstruction, the gardeners paid homage to its original rustic beauty while building it to last for another 30 years. Note the matching hornbeam branches—saved from the fall's pruning—that are incorporated as low rails.

Members eager to return are invited to join us for special Member-only events. On **February 29**, Gateway Members and their guests can explore the Garden one day before it opens to the public. They'll be treated to hot tea on the Veranda and an update about the Cultural Crossing expansion. Then, on **March 5 and 6**, our first weekend Member Hours will also include hot tea on the Veranda to warm up after reconnecting with the plants, trees, and koi—making this a very special weekend for our Members.

It's not long now. We look forward to welcoming you back to wander the familiar paths and landscapes, and re-explore your favorite parts of this special place.

GATEWAY MEMBER-ONLY WELCOME BACK TO THE GARDEN

February 29, 2016 | 12-4pm

Portland Japanese Garden

No reservation required, Gateway and Golden Crane members only

OPENING WEEKEND FOR MEMBERS

March 5-6, 2016 | 8-10am

Portland Japanese Garden

No reservations required

STAYING CONNECTED WITH THE GARDEN AND CULTURE

Even though the Garden has been closed for five months, our volunteers have worked to stay sharp for the March 1 reopening. Thanks to our friends and partners at the Portland Art Museum, Leach Botanical Garden, Nike, Jasmine Pearl Tea Company, and Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, our volunteers have gained new insights into Japanese garden arts and culture through private tours and workshops.

NEW EXPERIENCES WITH JAPANESE ARTS

The Garden's Department of Culture, Arts, and Education organized several Japanese art tours and workshops for volunteers. Participants took private tours of the Asian art collections at the Portland Art Museum with Maribeth Graybill, the Arlene Schnitzer Curator of Art and Culture and the Japanese printmaking collection at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art with Curator Anne Rose Kitgawa. The Garden's own Exhibition Coordinator Mami Takahashi taught three Japanese art seminars, including hands-on workshops for papermaking, *maki-e* gold-leaf decoration, and Japanese painting. Mami—a Japanese multidisciplinary artist herself—taught participants traditional Japanese art techniques.

SHARING JAPANESE CULTURE

With people unable to visit the Garden, our Garden Guides created a Speakers Bureau to bring the tranquility of the Garden to communities in the Portland Metro area. By the end of February, these volunteers will have given 45 presentations to venues like Creekside Village Retirement, Kiwanis Club of Cedar Hills, and the Bonsai Society of Portland. The presentations replicate a typical guided tour of the Garden with information about our history, five landscape styles, and

details about the Cultural Crossing expansion. For more information, or to book a speaker, visit japanesegarden.com/speakers-bureau.

Garden Guides also continued to engage with local school children. Volunteer guide Lynn Geis gave a presentation about the Japanese tea ceremony to a group of



students at the Emerson school. Ms. Geis set up a model teahouse using *tatami* mats and *tokonoma* (an alcove that traditionally holds a flower arrangement and calligraphed scroll) and whisked up a batch of matcha green tea for the students to experience a taste of this bitter drink. "I received some delightful thank-you notes, complete with illustrations," she said. "That assured me that they had taken in a lot of information. It was definitely a good experience."

Naturally, all the volunteers are eager to get back to the Garden themselves. "The first thing I'll do when the Garden opens is walk the entire garden," said 5-year volunteer docent Kate Knox-Giavanti. "I am excited to see what benefits a nice six-month rest from visitors will have had. I've missed seeing the subtle changes from week to week as the season change."

DONOR PROFILE: CHEF NAOKO



When Naoko Tamura arrived in Portland in 2007 with a plan to open a Japanese restaurant that served only fresh, natural food, she didn't intend to begin a relationship with the Portland Japanese Garden. Fortunately for us, Garden Curator Sadafumi Uchiyama took note of her arrival in the local Japanese community newspaper *Yuuyake Shimbun*, and an introduction was made. The day before Chef Naoko Bento

Café officially opened its doors to the public in 2008, the Garden staff placed the restaurant's first-ever take out order, and began a relationship rooted in the mutual desire to share Japanese cultural with members of the community. Naoko has been a proud visitor, friend, and supporter of the Garden ever since, contributing her delicious and healthy food for Garden events as a Golden Crane Corporate Sponsor.

Since her arrival in Portland, Naoko has been busy. In addition to running the successful Chef Naoko Bento Café on SW Jefferson

St., catering events, and providing meals for Delta One flights from Portland to Japan, she has started her own nonprofit organization, From Portland with Love, with a mission to promote cultural exchange with a focus on what people and businesses in the Pacific Northwest can offer to Japan. From Portland with Love grew out of a desire to help victims of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011, and the organization continues to support Japanese people in need by hosting fundraising concerts and events.

On February 11, From Portland with Love will hold its annual "Japan Night Concert" to benefit for residents of Minamis ma, sister city to Pendleton, OR. The event will feature several renowned Japanese performers, including violinist Junko Ohtsu, pianist Tomoko Okada, and Yoshie Ichige, reading the work of beloved children's author Leo Lionni and acclaimed poet Shuntaro Tanikawa. Attendees of the benefit will also enjoy a special bento created by Chef Naoko.

Japan Night Concert, presented by From Portland With Love
Thursday, February 11
Reception 6:30pm, Concert 8:00pm
World Forestry Center, 4033 SW Canyon Road
Tickets: fromportlandwithlove.org



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THE CAMPAIGN FOR A CULTURAL CROSSING

Contributions received through December 28, 2015



The Portland Japanese Garden's Campaign for a Cultural Crossing is supported by individuals, businesses, and foundations here in Oregon, across the country, and from Japan. You might be surprised to learn that individuals' gifts, from \$10 to seven-figure donations, carry the day in every fundraising effort—in fact, foundations and corporations usually only make up 15% of any fundraising campaign. We are well on the way to reaching and exceeding that 15% goal and are especially pleased to announce that The Collins Foundation has awarded a \$750,000 grant to support the Cultural Crossing project. We have now raised over \$23,000,000 towards our \$33,500,000 goal. We hope you will join us. Every gift makes a difference!

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Arlene Schnitzer in honor of Jordan D. Schnitzer's 20-year service to the Portland Japanese Garden

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CULTURAL/CROSSING

THE CASTLE WALL STORY: BOLTS AND FEATHERS, BOULDERS AND BRAWN

One of the standout structures visitors can see in progress will be the Castle Wall at the west end of what will be the Cultural Village. Twenty feet high and 140 feet long, the Castle Wall at the Portland Japanese Garden will be a monument to what many hands can accomplish, working together. As visitors approach the Garden, this wall will rise up to meet them, transporting their imaginations to another place and time. As a multi-part series, we are telling the stories of the people, traditions, and stones that make up this one-of-a-kind creation.

INVESTING IN QUALITY THAT LASTS

Last September at Smith Rock, Inc. on Johnson Creek Boulevard in SE Portland, the sound of metal on rock—drill bits, mallets, and saws—filled the air, along with dust and flying rock chips. The sun was high, and the day was hot. Master stone mason Suminori Awata walked from stone to stone, carefully observing the workers' progress. The goal was to cut over 800 tons of Baker Blue granite into long, large foundation pieces. The 55 cornerstones will support an authentic medieval Castle Wall, a key feature of the Cultural Crossing expansion.

In order to get such a huge quantity of raw stone, Awata and his team traveled to a privately owned quarry in Eastern Oregon to choose several hundred-ton boulders of fine-grained, azure-flecked granite. Then, Smith Rock used specialized heavy equipment to transport the boulders to the Smith Rock storage facility in Southeast Portland. There, workers got to work cutting the stones into smaller pieces that could be shaped and split by hand, using tools such as saws, hammers, and drills.

MOVING THE EARTH

Baker Blue granite is hard enough to support hundreds of tons of rock without breaking or crumbling, and for the Cultural Crossing Castle Wall project, the best quality is essential. The Castle Wall is intended to stand for centuries, for generations of visitors to enjoy—a resplendent, strong example of the finest Japanese craftsmanship, made from Oregon materials.

Matt Driscoll, one of Mr. Awata's two assistants said, "With such a beautiful, high-quality stone, we don't need to do much to prepare the stone for construction. We might use a 1/8-inch grinder on the face, to accentuate the coloring of the granite. Really, the biggest challenge is getting such a huge piece of rock into place on site."

CUTTING THE CORNERSTONES

To split a boulder of this size cleanly, the mason drills a line of identical holes along the face of the rock. Metal bolts and "feathers," or winged bolt-holders are inserted and hammered in with a metal mallet. In order to spread the stress evenly, each bolt gets a few taps at a time. The mason goes down to the end of the line, then doubles back. Very slowly, the boulder begins to split. Experienced masons may even walk away mid-way through this process to let the stone "rest," knowing that gentle pressure is even more effective than heavy, intense mallet strikes.

Next, the cut stones will make their way to the Garden and the building process will begin. In our next installment, we'll talk about how the Castle Wall's cornerstones are placed for the first phase of its construction.



For more information, check out our blog at culturalcrossing.com/stayupdated

HAIKU

BY PETER KENDALL

From the moon bridge
the four and a half mat tea house
shrouded in fog



Photo: Cedric Wiens

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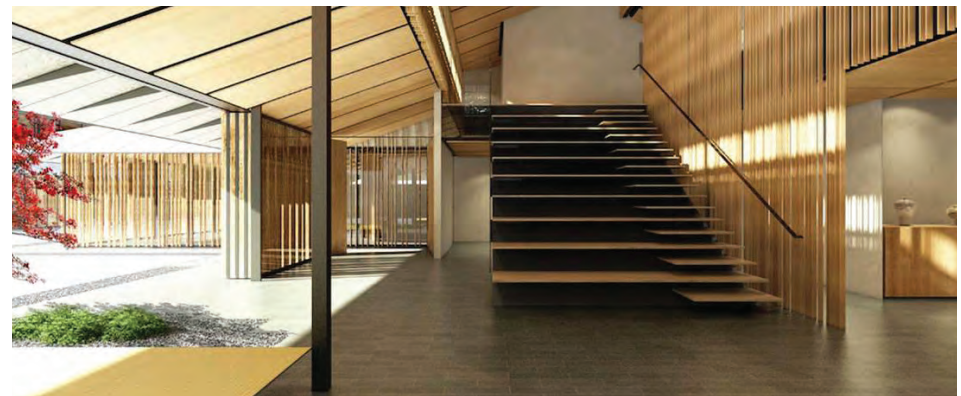
WORLD-RENOWNED ARCHITECT KENGO KUMA TO GIVE LECTURE ON CULTURAL CROSSING DESIGN (SOLD OUT)

On Saturday, February 6, the community can learn more about Mr. Kuma's design for the Portland Japanese Garden, as well as his ideas about Japanese aesthetics, the environment, and the future of architecture in a special lecture to be held in the Fields Ballroom at the Portland Art Museum. *Tsunagu: Kengo Kuma's Architecture of Relationships* will include talks by Mr. Kuma and Professor Botond Bogнар, followed by a Q & A.

Kengo Kuma, designer of the Portland Japanese Garden's Cultural Crossing expansion is considered one of the "most Japanese" contemporary architects from Japan. He is known for his sensitivity to the environment, modest designs, and awareness of Japanese tradition. His design for Cultural Crossing includes three LEED-certified buildings made from local materials such as Port Orford cedar and Baker Blue granite.

Professor Bogнар (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), a leading scholar of Mr. Kuma's work, will provide an overview by examining the way in which Kuma's buildings acquire authenticity by weaving intensive yet intimate relationships with both the environment and humans—gaining identity by exposing its inner elements. Randy Gragg, the director of the Yeon Center and a noted Portland writer on architecture, will moderate the Q & A that follows these talks.

The *Tsunagu* lecture is part of the month-long exhibition of Mr. Kuma's designs at the Center for Architecture. *Tsunagu: Connecting to the Art of Kengo Kuma*, held at the Center for Architecture, is the first in the United States to probe the philosophy and designs of Kengo Kuma. The exhibition focuses on Kuma's design for the Portland Japanese Garden's Cultural Crossing expansion, an ambitious project that will add three LEED-certified buildings, a medieval Castle Wall, and several new garden spaces to the hilltop outside the original 5.5-acre garden.



FROM THE GARDEN E-STORE



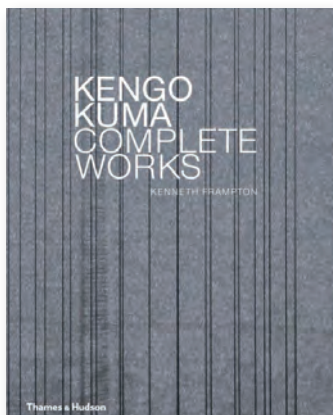
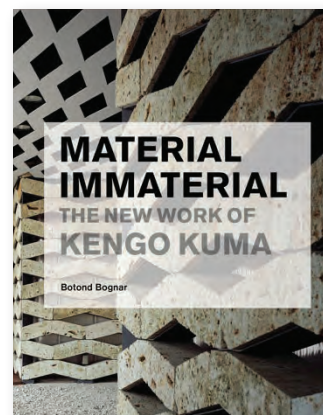
To help prepare you for February's Art in the Garden Exhibition, Tsunagu: *Connecting to the Architecture of Kengo Kuma*, the Garden Gift store is selling a selection of books about the world-famous architect.

Beyond the Bubble: The New Japanese Architecture

This detailed look at the best of contemporary Japanese architecture includes an overview of contemporary Japanese architecture from the late 1980s to the present day, and includes several in-progress works. The exceptional artists featured in this book include Kengo Kuma, Toyo Ito, SANAA, and Atelier Bow-Wow. Curated by leading Kengo Kuma expert Professor Botond Bognar, this thoughtful, thorough collection of essays, photographs, drawings, and renderings offers a wide-ranging survey of the most exciting architects working today.

Material Immaterial

Material Immaterial: The New Work of Kengo Kuma offers an intensive look at the architect's work over the past 30 years. Written by leading Kengo Kuma expert Professor Botond Bognar (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), *Material Immaterial* presents the world-renowned designer's best-known works, including the Suntory Museum in Tokyo and the Lotus House in Zushi. Bognar explores Kuma's statement that his ultimate aim was to "erase architecture" so that his buildings are indistinguishable from their environment. A must-read for any serious architecture or design aficionado.



Complete Works of Kengo Kuma

Kengo Kuma is considered a quintessential Japanese designer. *Complete Works of Kengo Kuma* fully documents his inventive, inspiring work of the last 25 years. Author Kenneth Frampton frames Kuma's designs in the context of post-war Japan's flourishing architecture scene and influential figures. Includes detailed drawings and Kuma's personal descriptive texts, organized by the material themes that have come to define the architect's work.

store.japanesegarden.com



MORE REASONS TO SHOP

We're including a complimentary 2016 Portland Japanese Garden wall calendar with any gift store purchases over \$50 from now until March 1, 2016. And don't forget, Garden Members get free shipping on all orders until we reopen. Use promo code **SHIPMEMBER** at checkout.

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Photo: William Sutton

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**SAYONARA UNTIL SPRING
(SEE YOU SOON!)**

The Portland Japanese Garden will be closed from September 8, 2015–March 1, 2016 to lay the ground work for our Cultural Crossing expansion project. Follow the process at culturalcrossing.com/stayupdated

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- Development (503) 542-0299
- Garden Gift Store (503) 223-5055
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japanesegarden.com



'STAY UPDATED' ON THE GARDEN'S EXPANSION



Curious about the progress of the Portland Japanese Garden's expansion project? Visit our Cultural Crossing 'Stay Updated' blog for construction updates, feature articles, photos, videos, and more. We'll add new articles throughout the week so make sure to check back regularly.



WATCH THE PROCESS UNFOLD

For a real-time view of the construction, check out our two project webcams. Each tree-mounted camera takes one still photograph every 10 minutes and immediately posts it online. Use the built-in controls to watch the process unfold.

SHARE THE EXCITEMENT

We're still early in this once-in-a-lifetime process. Help us build the excitement by sharing our Cultural Crossing 'Stay Updated' blog with other Garden friends and supporters. Also, be sure to follow the Garden on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Tumblr.

culturalcrossing.com/stayupdated