

Winter 2021



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HAIKU

Leafless maple
Light and shadow trace its form
Again in the pond

– Peter Kendall

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THE GARDEN PATH

FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS
Email marketing@japanesegarden.org



Dear Members,

Akemashite omedetō gozaimasu!

Happy New Year!

I have always been an eternal optimist since the day I was born. No matter how empty, I have always seen my cup as half full. But it is not blind optimism; it comes from lessons learned from those who have come before me. So, in the aftermath of one of the most difficult years any one of us can ever remember, I for one am optimistic and have hope in the year ahead. Here is why.

Out of great adversity, and great challenge, comes resilience, human connection, and advancement. The past year has afforded the opportunity for each of us individually, and collectively, to grow stronger, better, and wiser than before.

The lessons of the past show this to be true. The year 2021 marks the 10th anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake. The first of three catastrophic events which ravaged Japan and shocked the world: the 3.11 earthquake; the devastating tsunami; and the subsequent nuclear disaster of Fukushima. So much devastation and so many lives lost, but also, from the very moment it was over, there was hope. Those of us who had an opportunity to travel there to see the devastation and meet the people saw something more than the deep sorrow – we saw hope in the faces and spirits of each person we met along the way.

2021 brings the dawn of a new hope around the world. Here at Portland Japanese Garden, hope is also palpable. Even in the quiet

of winter, plants are budding, and roots and new growth lay active beneath the surface.

With this new dawn brings a new path for our organization. In the following pages, you'll read about the coming launch of The Japan Institute, an evolutionary concept for our organization which will further bring Japan to Portland as well as to communities around the world. You will learn about a legacy-making gift of \$2 million in honor and memory of the late International Advisory Board member Ron Herman, given by his wife and longtime Portland Japanese Garden friend, Jenny Herman. You'll also read about the transition and promotion of two key leaders – Sadafumi Uchiyama and Hugo Torii – and how this succession further secures the future of the Garden.

And this is just the beginning.

As we look to the future, let us remember the lessons of hope gifted by those who came before us. This is our opportunity to seize that gift of hope for our children and for generations to come. Let us all believe together that our cup is not just half full, but in fact, mostly full. Because even if it is not, together – as individuals, as family, and a community – we will fill that cup with hope.

With deep gratitude,

Steve Bloom
Chief Executive Officer



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Thank you, Members

Thank you again for all the support you've shown throughout 2020, and if you are a new member, welcome! Your visits, memberships, and donations all help to ensure that we can continue to be a treasured place for our community.

Our priority continues to be the safety of you and our staff. In following the lead of the CDC and Oregon Health Authority, we'll continue to operate with precautions and modifications for the year.

We're hopeful that as the year progresses, we will be able to increase access to the Garden and gradually return to providing benefits that were impacted by COVID-19. Keep an eye on our weekly member newsletters and the website to stay up to date on the latest information. You can sign up for our newsletters by visiting japanesegarden.org/newsletters.

2021 Festivals and Events

While there are no in-person events scheduled between January-March, we have cautiously optimistic plans to bring back modified in-person events, experiences, and Golden Crane receptions starting late spring, including our annual traditions of Children's Day, O-Bon, and Moonviewing.

Technology Upgrade

In February, we'll be upgrading our technology to create smoother user-experiences for you. We understand that it hasn't always been easy to navigate your online accounts, or make ticket reservations, so we're excited to share some improvements. We'll be sharing specific details through our member newsletters.

Virtual Experiences

We know that not everyone is able to visit us during these times. We're continuing to expand our virtual content this year, including art exhibition walk-throughs, plant tours with our Garden Curator, expert panel discussions, and of course, strolls through the Garden via weekly livestreams on Instagram. If you don't already, follow us through social media to stay connected and get the latest updates.

-  [PortlandJapaneseGarden](#)
-  [PDXJapaneseGarden](#)
-  [PortlandJapaneseGarden](#)
-  [PDXJapaneseGdn](#)

A Restorative New Year

The Garden as a Place of Respite

Strolling through Portland Japanese Garden in the winter can feel peaceful and quiet. But this season holds much more activity than meets the eye. Winter is a critical time where plants are saving up their energy and preparing for new growth in the spring.





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From general maintenance and preventative measures to highly specialized and meticulous skills such as pine pruning, much work happens behind the scenes that may or may not be observed by visitors.

While some aspects of our everyday life has slowed down due to the pandemic, nature waits for no one. Rain or shine, our small staff of hard-working and caring gardeners are out in the Garden at the break of day to nurture and maintain all garden spaces. If you happen to see them on your visit, don't hesitate to say hello and let them know how much their work is appreciated!



3

- 1  [Hannah Steelman](#)
- 2  [Tyler Quinn](#)
- 3  [Hannah Steelman](#)



Sadafumi Uchiyama

CHIEF CURATOR AND DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL JAPANESE GARDEN TRAINING CENTER

Uchiyama is a third-generation Japanese gardener from southern Japan and is a registered landscape architect with a BLA and MLA from the University of Illinois. He has been with Portland Japanese Garden for 12 years as Garden Curator, during which time he helped create and integrate the Cultural Crossing Expansion Project. Prior to his role as the Garden Curator, Uchiyama served as a member on the Garden's Board of Trustees from 2003-2007.



Hugo Torii

GARDEN CURATOR

Torii has been with Portland Japanese Garden for more than 2 years as the Director of Grounds Maintenance, overseeing the physical aspects of the Garden, its maintenance, and development. With a master's degree in Landscape Design from Kyoto University of Art and Design, Torii also worked for Gartenlandschaft Berg in Germany. Previous to this role, he built a strong foundation as a Japanese landscape gardener working 12 years at the prominent Ueyakato Landscape Co., LTD in Kyoto, Japan.



Passing the Torch from Hand to Hand

Announcing Portland Japanese Garden's New Garden Curator and Chief Curator

This January, Portland Japanese Garden is announcing the promotion of two key leaders at the organization. Sadafumi Uchiyama has been promoted from Garden Curator to the position of Chief Curator and Director of the International Japanese Garden Training Center. Hugo Torii has been promoted from Director of Grounds Maintenance to Garden Curator. This transition marks a critical step in securing the future of Portland Japanese Garden.

Since 1963, millions of people from around the world have found an intimate connection to nature by stepping into Portland Japanese Garden. While this experience with nature can feel ethereal, the landscape design, aesthetic principles, and desired effect of the garden spaces are deeply intentional.

Unlike any other Japanese garden in North America, Portland Japanese Garden has been continually overseen by a succession of Japan-trained garden craftsmen. This has ensured that the gardens remain authentically Japanese in their design and maintenance. Here, we hear from both Uchiyama and Torii about this momentous "passing of the torch":

For the full interview, please visit: japanesegarden.org/passingthetorch

📷 Megumi Kato

Q: How do you plan to tackle the responsibility of your roles, respectfully?

Torii: I have learned it can take 200 years to become a master of a craft, but with the right people, the sum of the combined experiences can become greater than its parts. I love what I do and I am blessed to be surrounded by a great team. I also know that the work we put in each day matters. So, I hope to take it one day at a time, while keeping my gaze towards the future.

Uchiyama: Growing up in a family of Japanese gardeners, I learned from a young age that a garden is a simple place and thing. Yes, we talk about Portland Japanese Garden in a philosophical way when speaking to the importance and impact of a garden, but when you think about it quite simply, a garden is a service. This notion keeps us grounded and connected to our community when carrying out both the day-to-day tasks and the long-term vision.

Q: How does it feel to evolve from a role you have held close for over a decade?

Uchiyama: It's important to remember that the Garden will outlive all of us, and as curators, we each just get a small portion of its long life. Maybe this is very traditional and Japanese of me, but I am not interested in leaving a legacy or counting the accolades. I just feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to be one part of the whole picture.



James Florio

The Herman's donation will be recognized through the naming of *The Ron and Jenny Herman Garden House*

A Legacy-Making Gift

Honoring Ron Herman



Ron Herman. Photo by Jonathan Ley

We are thrilled and humbled to announce a legacy-making gift of \$2 million in honor of late International Advisory Board member Ron Herman. The donation was made by his wife and longtime Portland Japanese Garden friend, Jenny Herman. Ms. Herman made the gift to celebrate Ron and recognize his major influence in the field of Japanese gardens internationally.

“Ron was a major influencer on western understanding of the artform and created many of the highest quality Japanese gardens in North America” says CEO Steve Bloom. “He was a giant in this field and we are honored to carry his legacy forward thanks to this generous gift from Jenny.”

Horticulture enthusiasts will recall that Mr. Herman lectured at Portland Japanese Garden several times over the last decade. Mr. Herman was one of the foremost practitioners and scholars on Japanese gardens in the world. His advocacy for pairing cultural understanding with technical knowledge when teaching Japanese garden arts was formative in developing the learning model at our own International Japanese Garden Training Center’s flagship program *Waza To Kokoro* (“Hands and Heart”).

With this gift, the Garden will finally be able to take its next steps toward evolving into The Japan Institute (see page 10). The concept of evolving Portland Japanese Garden into

The Japan Institute has been percolating with Garden leadership for nearly a decade. Thanks to this visionary gift, the dream is now possible.

Ms. Herman’s gift comes after already generously donating Ron’s significant volume of texts to our own library collection. This addition is an incredible contribution to the body of Japanese garden knowledge that will be shared globally. The Hermans’ gift will be recognized through the naming of the *Ron and Jenny Herman Garden House* and ensures his indelible impact on the field of Japanese gardens will be known today as well as for future generations.



James Florio

The Japan Institute

A New Path for Portland Japanese Garden

2020 was a year that tested our individual and collective capacity for distressing news which is why we are so happy to start 2021 by announcing a new path for Portland Japanese Garden.

We call it *The Japan Institute*.

What is The Japan Institute?

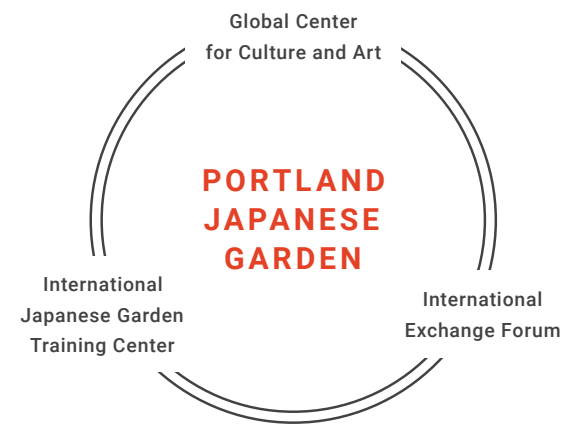
The Japan Institute is being created in order to share and expand programs of Portland Japanese Garden more broadly around the world, expand international partnerships, and continue to engage diverse people in shared experiences and conversations about peace, beauty, and connection of nature. Innovative programs, global collaborations, and experiential education for youth and adults are the hallmarks of The Japan Institute, organized around three centers:

1. **Global Center for Culture and Art**
2. **International Exchange Forum**
3. **International Japanese Garden Training Center**

The core of these three centers is the Garden itself, informing and responding to the programs around it.



Jonathan Ley



In reality, the foundation of The Japan Institute already exists at Portland Japanese Garden. Cultural programming like festivals and art exhibitions will continue happening as part of the Global Center for Culture and Art. We will continue to convene and host global audiences to explore ideas critical to modern life informed by the ideals of Japanese gardens, arts, and culture under the umbrella of the International Exchange Forum. And our International Japanese Garden Training Center will continue its series of educational programs such as the *Waza To Kokoro* seminar and the popular Garden Workshop series.

With this foundation, The Japan Institute can be best understood as the next evolution of Portland Japanese Garden. It will create a more inclusive and expansive canopy allowing more of Japan's greatest gifts

to be explored, more robustly, with more people around the world. The Herman gift, paid over several years, will act as start-up funding with the goal of formally launching The Japan Institute in 2022.

The Path Ahead

Within the next several years, Portland Japanese Garden will acquire and develop a nearby site as the headquarters for The Japan Institute with additional workshop, classroom, lecture hall, and nursery space to accommodate the expanding Japan Institute programs which exceed the capacity of Portland Japanese Garden's 12.5-acre campus, allowing the Garden itself to remain a place of peaceful connection to nature and beauty.

Through this wide variety of art, culture, and education programs and partnerships, The Japan Institute will create meaningful experiences of personal renewal and shared experiences of beauty, nature, and peace for diverse audiences. These experiences will open hearts and minds for important conversations about issues critical to our future on this shared earth – peace among ourselves, harmony with nature, and supporting the creativity and blossoming of the human spirit.



1

Connecting Cultures

Commemorating the 10th Anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake

Portland Japanese Garden was founded as a place for cross-cultural understanding following World War II. A hallmark in the City of Portland, the Garden has become a special place where people can find common ground in the beauty of nature – a place for our community to feel peace, tranquility, and connection with each other.

This sense of community extends from Portland, throughout the world. This year is the 10th anniversary of the Tohoku earthquake, or the Great East Japan Earthquake, in Japan. In commemoration, from 4/23-5/31, Portland Japanese Garden is re-visiting an incredible story through a retrospective exhibition epitomizing perseverance, hope, and the power of community. The exhibition will also document the journey of *kasagi* (crossbeams of a *torii* gate) from the shores of Oregon back to a shrine in Hachinohe, Japan.





Here is a snippet of the incredible story.



2

"The Pacific Ocean is not something that divides us but is something that connects us."

U.S. Ambassador to Japan, **Caroline Kennedy**, at a ceremony welcoming the two *kasagi* back to Japan in 2015.

- 1  Sadafumi Uchiyama
- 2  Ken Katsurayama
- 3  Tyler Quinn
- 4  Katsura Villa by Ishimoto Yasuhiro

Ten years ago, on March 11, 2011 the magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck off Japan's northeastern shore - the most powerful earthquake ever recorded to hit Japan. It caused enormous tsunami waves across miles of shoreline, climbing as high as 130 feet. It tore apart coastal towns and villages, and washed tons of debris out to sea. Communities were torn apart. Loved ones were separated from each other. This event also crippled a nuclear plant in Fukushima, contaminating the region with alarming levels of radiation.

In the months and years following, Japanese communities were still looking for the missing pieces of their former lives. Meanwhile, across the ocean, those missing pieces were resurfacing. A volleyball here. A boat there. Connections to lives lost and lives still being lived.

In 2013, two nearly identical beams of a sacred Shinto gate landed on the Oregon coast. After traveling 5,000 miles across the Pacific, incredibly, these two crossbeams, known as *kasagi* from a *torii* gate landed within 120 miles of each other less than one month apart (a *torii* is a traditional gate used to mark the entrance to a hallowed space). Virtually unidentifiable, they could have been abandoned, forgotten, and lost forever. Instead, the quest to return the two battered pieces of wood brought people together from across the globe as a message of support for the people of Japan.

Dedicated Portland Japanese Garden employees and volunteers searched far and wide, spreading the word about the found *kasagi* in hopes of connecting with anyone who might provide a clue.



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In a country with over 10,000 shrines, it was no small task. Even the President and CEO of Ajinomoto Foods and member of the Garden's International Advisory Board, assisted by asking his staff to "find old shrines that have washed away." Portland Japanese Garden leaders went to Japan and traveled town by town, spreading the word. As they combed through details and enlisted the help of local community members, the team started to slowly connect the dots.

A year later, the small fishing village from where the *kasagi* gates had come was finally located. The gates had washed away from Hachinohe, a city on the northeast coast of Honshu island. The *torii* gates were rebuilt, rededicated and now stand tall in their original place as a symbol of perseverance, recovery, and hope.

Find the full story at:

japanesegarden.org/kasagi-gates-hope

UPCOMING ART EXHIBITION

Ishimoto Yasuhiro: Architecture + Nature + Culture

FEBRUARY 13 - APRIL 11

Explore the intersection of architecture, nature, and culture, through photography by influential Japanese American photographer, Ishimoto Yasuhiro. The exhibition features one of the most exquisite architectural and garden treasures of Japan – Katsura Imperial Villa in Kyoto. Ishimoto was born in the U.S. and raised in Japan, bridging both cultures in his photographic work.



4



Cumulative giving to the Annual Fund from January 1 through December 31, 2020



Tyler Quinn

\$100,000+

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Institute of Museum and Library Services
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\$1,500 - \$2,499

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Shiro Wakui & Masako Kubo
Kassie Westmoreland
Danny & Chien Lung Wu
Joji Yoshimura & Michael Kronstadt
And those who wish to remain anonymous (4)

If you would like to make a donation or have any questions about the Golden Crane Society, please contact Annual Fund Manager Beth Levy at (503) 542-0281 or blevy@japanesegarden.org.



Joana Cecilia

Global Ambassadors

Including our Global Ambassador Members and Donors contributing \$500 or more in the past 12 months and residing more than 120 Miles from Portland, Oregon.

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Capt. David G. & Carolyn Berry Wilson
Bokksu, Inc.
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Nakamura Sotoji Komuten
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Sayuri Ohno
Jane & David Pollock
PSACE/Portland-Setagaya Association
of Cultural Exchange
Robert Richards
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Henry Sidel

Robert Singer
George C. Stevens
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Miriam C. Trahan
Hiro Tsuji & James Knodell
Shiro Wakui & Masako Kubo
Douglas L. Walker
Walmart Foundation
Sarah White & David Gray
Jean Wyss
And those who wish to remain
anonymous (2)



Julia Taylor



Tribute Gifts & Donations

Memorials and Honoraria
September 16 - December 15, 2020

IN HONOR OF CALVIN & ELLIOT

Felice & Keith Lafortune

IN MEMORY OF GAIL ACHTERMAN

Rob & Sally Miller

IN HONOR OF LOUISE BANKEY

Amy Bankey

IN HONOR OF STEVE BLOOM

Gavin Goh Loong

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IN MEMORY OF JOHN R. BROOKE

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Dr. Kay Byers

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Anonymous
Kristi Ashbrook
Marianne Buchwalter
Cheryn Grant
Kelli L. Holloway & Kathryn J. Zerbe
Constance Jackson & Xavier Le Hericy
Lindsey Stevens

IN HONOR OF DIANE DURSTON

George Cummings

IN MEMORY OF DAVID EASLY

Carol Schnitzer Lewis

IN HONOR OF DOYLE FORISTER

Sara Perry

IN MEMORY OF GORO & YAYOKA INABA

Suzy Harris & Tom Coleman

IN HONOR OF MARY & OSCAR MAYER

Hank & Janet

IN MEMORY OF LEE MCCONNELL

Rhonda Brock-Servais
Staff of Moss Adams
Karey Schoenfeld
Carol & David Wright

IN MEMORY OF FRANK MCCULLAR

Lawrence Kirsch
Mark Loveless, MD
James Davidson
Gary Oxman, MD

IN HONOR OF PAUL & ASHLEY McQUADE

Charles Roberson

IN MEMORY OF HEIDEMARIE McSWAIN

Richard McSwain

IN MEMORY OF MARJORIE NAKAMURA

Rikki Ninomiya

IN MEMORY OF ZOE PAWLING

Kai Twanmoh & Ryan Pawling

IN MEMORY OF MARJORIE PINE

Anonymous

IN HONOR OF TED SIECKMAN

Herbert Salomon

IN MEMORY OF ANNE SIMPSON

Richard O. Simpson

IN MEMORY OF TED SOMERS

Anonymous

IN MEMORY OF LOUISE R. VENTRESCA

Marc Ventresca

IN MEMORY OF DR. PAUL YOUNG

Walt & Dianne Swan

IN HONOR OF LAURA ZIEGLER

Phillip Ziegler

PHOENIX LEGACY SOCIETY



Members of the Phoenix Legacy Society have named the Garden as the ultimate beneficiary of a planned gift. We are grateful to the following people for letting us know of their plans to support the Garden in this enduring way.

Legacy Society Members receive invitations to Golden Crane special events and receptions.

If you would like to include the Garden in your estate plans, or if you have already done so and would allow us to list you as a Legacy Society Member, please contact Annual Fund Manager Beth Levy at (503) 542-0281 or blevy@japanesegarden.org.

Esther "Ricky" Appleman
Carole Beauclerk
Barbara Bell
Diane Benjamin
Melanie Billings-Yun
Steve Bloom
Judy Bradley & Dave Mitchell
Susan C. Brown
Heida & Don Bruce
Carla Caesar & Nora King
Robert Caragher
Mora Chartrand & Linda Grant
Mary Dickson
David & Nancy Dowell

Mrs. Marguerite H. Drake
Elaine West Durst
Yoko Fukuta
Ms. Susan Halton
John Hembroff & Shari Macdonald
Ron & Jenny Herman
Geoffrey Hofer
Albert Horn
Ann & Jerry Hudson
Mary Kay Johnson
Elizabeth M. King
Valerie Lau
Ron & Polly Wall Lauser
John & Lisa Lehman

Linda & Don McNeill
Jeannie & Ron Prindle
Wayne M. Quimby & Michael Roberts-Quimby
W. Curtis Schade & Jacquie Siewert-Schade
Richard C. Stetson Jr.
Ernie Stoddard
Ann & John Symons
Drs. Calvin & Mayho Tanabe
Carmen Wong
And those who wish to remain anonymous (4)

We are grateful to the following individuals & families for their generous bequests & estate gifts to the Garden.

Nancy Beamer
Clarence Bobbe
Barbara Cyrus
Stanley L. Davis Trust
Bill Findlay
Robert W. Franz
John R. Gatewood
Barbara W. Gomez Trust
Estate of Stanley W. Greenhalgh

Elizabeth Ann Hinds
Jerry G. Jones Trust
Noel Jordan
Estate of James Kesler
Duke Mankertz
Beverly Merrill
Jack O. Rickli
Jeaneatta Sautter
Robert & Marilyn Schuberg

Jeanne Schramm
Lawrence L. Secor
The James W. Skog Trust
Toya Family Trust: George, Sonoya, Georgene, & Evelyn
David E. Wedge Trust
Constance Weimer

Hope Anew

A glimpse into how the Portland Japanese Garden community finds hope – through the physical garden, virtual experiences, and programs.



1
The Japanese decoration, kadamatsu, welcomes the deity and good fortune for the new year.



2
Gardener, Caleb Hendrickson, getting out the last of the fall debris from the Heavenly Falls to help it run smoothly.



4
The Healing Nature exhibition provided a visual exploration of the healing power of Japanese gardens and art in the lives of internees at Manzanar Relocation Camp during World War II.



5
Oregon Koto-Kai's virtual concert, with a selection of pieces meant to evoke images of snow, ice, family, and inspire warm feelings of gratitude.



3
Virtual panel discussion, "Bridging the Past and Future" virtual discussion panelists (from upper right), June Schumann, Karen Ishizuka, Daniel Okimoto, and moderator, Aki Nakanishi.



6
Longtime volunteer, Polly Lauser, takes in the morning light streaming through the Natural Garden machiai.

- 1 📺 Portland Japanese Garden
- 2 📺 Megumi Kato
- 3 📺 Zoom
- 4 📺 Aki Nakanishi
- 5 📺 YouTube
- 6 📺 Hannah Steelman

A WINTER MEDITATION

"One kind word can warm three winter months."

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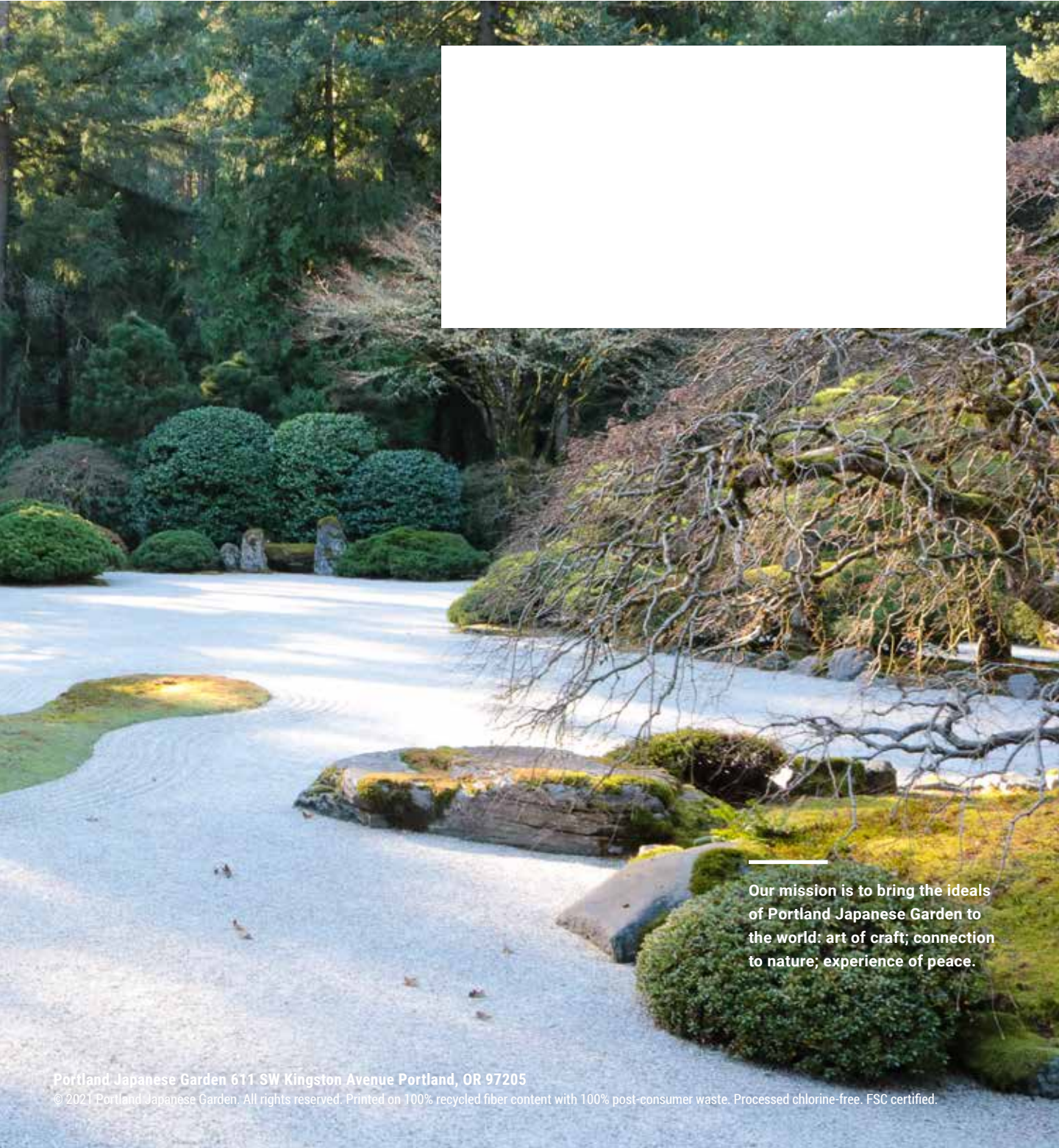
Official Winery of Portland Japanese Garden



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Official Airline of Portland Japanese Garden



Our mission is to bring the ideals of Portland Japanese Garden to the world: art of craft; connection to nature; experience of peace.

Portland Japanese Garden 611 SW Kingston Avenue Portland, OR 97205

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