

COALITION TO SAVE THE HANNAH CARTER JAPANESE GARDEN

INFO@HANNAHCARTERJAPANESEGARDEN.COM

AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS
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AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CHAPTER

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GARDEN ASSOCIATION

Facts about the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden

- Designed by Nagao Sakurai
- Constructed between 1959-61
- Donated to UCLA in 1964

In November 2011, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) first announced plans to sell the garden in Bel Air, citing rising maintenance costs, deferred maintenance, and the lack of attendance due to limited parking. The sale of the garden is estimated to generate approximately \$5.7 million, which would be used to fund core academic programs.

This decision to sell the garden follows a 2010 court decision that allowed UCLA to remove the “in perpetuity” requirement included within the donation agreements. Through a series of agreements in 1964, 1982, and 1999, UCLA accepted the donation and affirmed its responsibility to keep and maintain the garden in perpetuity. However, in mid-January 2012, UCLA began removing some objects and artifacts within the garden and placed the garden for sale in March.

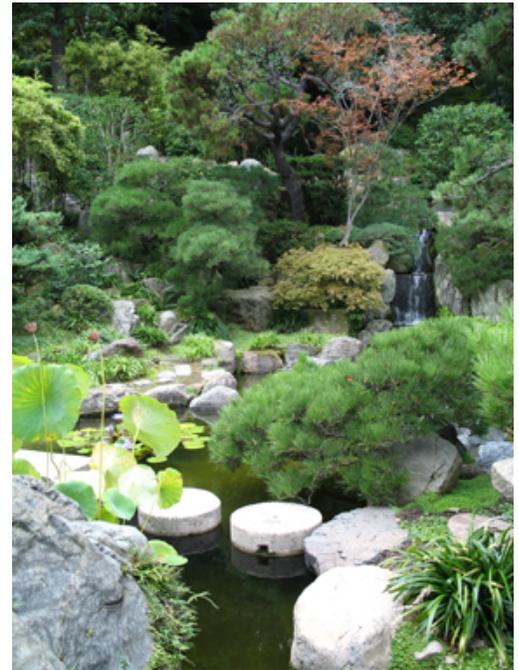
The Threat

UCLA is receiving sealed bids for the purchase of the garden, with a May 22 deadline. Zoned agricultural, the 1.5-acre hillside site could conceivably be redeveloped for a single-family residence, destroying the garden. UCLA is not selling the garden with any protective covenants or requirements calling for it to be maintained or preserved. As a public institution, UCLA is required to accept the highest bid.

About the Garden

Constructed between 1959 and 1961, the 1.5-acre hillside garden is among the largest and most significant private residential Japanese-style gardens built in the United States in the immediate post-World War II period.

Named after the wife of Edward Carter, chairman of the Regents of the University of California who donated the garden to UCLA in 1964, the garden was originally created by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon G. Guiberson following their travels in Japan and in memory of Mr. Guiberson’s mother, a garden enthusiast. Inspired by the gardens in Kyoto, the UCLA garden embodies the rich legacy of Japanese landscape design with the emphasis on water, stones, and evergreen plants in a naturalistic setting.



Designed by Nagao Sakurai, a noted landscape designer who planned the Imperial Japanese Gardens for the Japanese government at the Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco and World's Fair in New York in 1939, many of the carefully sited rocks, water basins, stone lanterns, carved stones, and pagoda were selected by the Guibersons in Japan and shipped to California.

The main gate, garden house for tea ceremonies, and family shrine structures were made to order in Kyoto, dismantled, and reassembled at the garden by Japanese artisans. After damage from a mudslide in 1968, Koichi Kawana, a member of the UCLA facilities staff and later a leading designer of Japanese gardens responsible for several important gardens throughout the country, rehabilitated the garden. While the garden is predominately Japanese in style, it also features a Hawaiian garden with tropical plants and waterfalls, and the influence of its Southern Californian location with native oaks, stones, and plantings, and the incorporation of a patio and barbeque terrace around the site.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. **Visit the website and sign the online petition**
www.HannahCarterJapaneseGarden.com

2. **Write a letter to the UC Regents.**

The garden website has a sample letter and the address for the **Regents of the University of California**: regentsoffice@ucop.edu Telephone (510) 987-9220

Please send a copy to info@hannahcarterjapanesegarden.com.

3. **Place a lawn sign in front of your home to urge UCLA to STOP the sale of the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden.** To pick up a lawn sign, please contact Adrian Fine at afine@laconservancy.org.
4. Write to info@hannahcarterjapanesegarden.com to volunteer to help in these last critical weeks
5. **Make a tax-deductible donation to support the campaign to save the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden** at www.hannahcarterjapanesegarden.com/contribute



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