



COALITION TO SAVE THE HANNAH CARTER JAPANESE GARDEN

INFO@HANNAHCARTERJAPANESEGARDEN.COM

AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS
ASSOCIATION

May 22, 2012

Submitted electronically

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

Chancellor Gene Block
University of California, Los Angeles
Box 951405, 2147 Murphy Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1405

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS –
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
CHAPTER

Connie J. Miller
The Regents of the University of California
Real Estate Services Group
111 Franklin Street, 6th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

BEL AIR GARDEN CLUB

THE CALIFORNIA GARDEN
AND LANDSCAPE HISTORY
SOCIETY

CALIFORNIA PRESERVATION
FOUNDATION

Joyce Essex (Danny Harvey or Ron de Salvo)
Coldwell Banker International
301 North Canon Drive, Suite E
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

THE CULTURAL LANDSCAPE
FOUNDATION

THE GARDEN CONSERVANCY

Re: Hannah Carter Japanese Garden and Disclosure to Prospective Bidders/Buyers

HISTORICAL RESOURCES
GROUP

Dear Chancellor Block, Ms. Miller, and Ms. Essex:

THE LOS ANGELES
CONSERVANCY

On behalf of the Coalition to Save the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden, I am writing to ensure all relevant information regarding the historic significance and ongoing controversy surrounding the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden is fully disclosed to all prospective bidders and interested parties, as part of any current and subsequent sale. In February of 2012 the Coalition was formed in response to the University's plan to sell the garden rather than maintain it in perpetuity as pledged in its agreement with Edward Carter.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NORTH AMERICAN JAPANESE
GARDEN ASSOCIATION

The Coalition considers the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden to be of national significance and extraordinarily rare, among the largest and most important private residential Japanese-style gardens built in the United States. As the first major Japanese garden built in Southern California following World War II, it is significant symbolically as it signals a return appreciation of Japanese culture.

While the Coalition sympathizes with the need to generate greater financial resources to support the University's core educational mission, selling the garden is not the right approach. We have strong concerns about the University's decision, as we believe it is shortsighted and dismisses how the garden has and can continue to serve academic purposes. More important, placing the garden for sale without any restrictions or protections endangers the garden and severely limits its likelihood for survival. At the very least, if the garden is to be sold, the University should place protective covenants or an easement as a condition of the sale.

The Coalition has continually expressed an interest in working with the University to find a mutually agreeable win-win solution that avoids putting the garden at risk. Leadership of the University has not done sufficient community outreach or made a good faith effort to meet with Coalition members to discuss viable alternatives.

To date more than 3,000 individuals have signed the online petition protesting the sale of the garden. In addition, letters have been sent to the leadership of the University from individuals, elected officials, and local, state and national organizations calling for the sale to be halted and for other viable alternatives to be explored.

On January 24, 2012, Los Angeles Councilmember Paul Koretz wrote to Chancellor Gene Block, stating the following:

“I am very concerned that if the Japanese Gardens are sold, they will be sold to a private developer who has no intention to preserve it. Please be advised that I do not support the sale of this cultural resource and, should it be sold, I will oppose any effort to develop the property or change its use to anything other than the beautiful cultural landmark it is today.”

Should the University choose to proceed with the sale and transfer ownership to a private entity, the Coalition is prepared to submit an application and seek Historic-Cultural Monument designation of the historic garden. Local landmark designation will ensure that this historic garden receives protection from both wholesale eradication and inappropriate alterations via design review by the Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources and the Los Angeles Cultural Heritage Commission.

Additionally, because of its documented historic significance, the Coalition believes the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden qualifies as a historical resource for the purposes of future project review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This process will require public agencies to deny approval of a project with significant adverse impacts on historical resources when there are feasible alternatives or mitigation measures that can substantially lessen such effects.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at telephone 415.441.4300 should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Antonia Adezio".

Antonia Adezio, President, The Garden Conservancy
On behalf of the Coalition to Save the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden

cc:

Mark G. Yudof

Sherry L. Lansing

Ken Bernstein, Los Angeles Office of Historic Resources

Councilmember Paul Koretz