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LAWSUIT FILED TO SAVE HANNAH CARTER JAPANESE GARDEN IN BEL AIR

Los Angeles, California, May 7, 2012 - A lawsuit was filed today in the Los Angeles Superior Court to block the proposed sale of the historic Hannah Carter Japanese Garden, which covers over an acre in Bel Air.

The plaintiffs are suing the Regents of the University of California for breach of contract. The plaintiffs allege that the Regents signed a contract to maintain the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden in perpetuity. Instead, the Regents plan to sell the garden and keep the money.

The Regents acquired the garden years ago, along with an adjacent parcel worth millions of dollars, from the late Edward and Hannah Carter pursuant to a written agreement. The plaintiffs are the heirs of Hannah Carter. They want the Court to order the Regents to preserve the garden, not sell it.

The Hannah Carter Japanese Garden was designed in 1959 by a world-renowned Japanese landscape architect named Nagao Sakurai, and is modeled on the gardens of Kyoto. It is recognized as one of the finest examples of Japanese gardens in North America. Many structures in the garden, including the main gate, the garden house, bridges and a shrine, were built in Japan and reassembled here. Construction of the garden was completed in 1961.

The Regents' plan to sell the garden has generated national attention and has been addressed by the Huffington Post (<http://huff.to/IvGjJ1>).

Supporters of the garden have set up a website: HannahCarterJapaneseGarden.com. According to the website, numerous individuals and civic groups have signed an online petition urging the Regents to save the garden, including the Los Angeles Conservancy, the American Society of Landscape Architects, and the American Public Gardens Association.

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