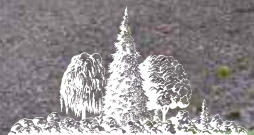


ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2015-2016



Arboretum Foundation

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Arboretum Foundation promotes, protects, and enhances the Washington Park Arboretum for current and future generations by strengthening and building a diverse and engaged community of donors, volunteers, and advocates.

## VISION STATEMENT

The Arboretum is a highly treasured, widely used community asset and a horticultural, environmental, recreational, and cultural resource for the region.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

Founded in 1935, the non-profit Arboretum Foundation raises funds and manages membership and volunteer programs to promote, protect, and enhance the Washington Park Arboretum. The Foundation provides essential support for Arboretum operations and activities, including arboriculture, maintenance, education, and collection restoration. It is also conducting a major gifts campaign to support implementation of a 20-year master plan to comprehensively renew the Arboretum.

## VISIT US ONLINE

[www.arboretumfoundation.org](http://www.arboretumfoundation.org)

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sarah Reichard  
*Director, UW Botanic Gardens*

Paige Miller  
*Executive Director, Arboretum Foundation*

## STAFF

Paige Miller  
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Nat Bennett  
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Jessa Gardner  
*Events Coordinator*

Alyssa Henry  
*Volunteer Resources Manager*

Tess Forte  
*Events Manager*

Chris Stollery  
*Development Director*

Rumi Tsuchihashi  
*Japanese Garden Support Manager*

Gary Wortzel  
*Finance Manager*

## EXCUSE OUR DUST!



Jim Reid

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim".

President,  
Board of Directors

If you have come to the Arboretum in the past few weeks, you have seen construction equipment almost everywhere. We knew we would have to endure one year like this—and this year is it! You can read more about the ongoing construction of SR 520 across Foster Island and the extensive work on the new Arboretum Loop Trail on page 9. The trail will make so much of the Arboretum more accessible than it has ever been. We can't wait for the construction crews to pack up and see the trail in use.

This has been a truly amazing year for us. We reimagined our annual Opening Night Party at the Northwest Flower & Garden Show and were rewarded for our efforts with the most successful fundraiser the Arboretum has ever had. And our Hoh Rain Forest display garden at the Show, with its nurse log and dripping moss, not only won a Gold Medal, but many rave reviews from Show visitors.



Paige Miller

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paige".

Executive Director

Back at the Arb, we are so excited that Seattle Parks has returned the Seattle Japanese Garden to us as its major support organization (see page 8). And, we are getting ready for two summer parties in July 2016; our first ever ArbFest on Azalea Way (see page 7) and the annual Japanese Garden summer party.

Finally, we both want to thank our terrific board, volunteers, and staff who work together to carry off our annual cycle of plant sales, work parties, and events and our donors who provide crucial financial support. We are so fortunate to be part of this dedicated community who sustain and enhance the Arboretum, Seattle's most beloved public garden.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## Balance Sheet

	FY 2015	FY 2014
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash in Bank	\$ 294,277	\$ 331,382
Investment Account Funds:		
General	1,452,648	1,465,136
Endowment	1,930,198	1,901,492
Promises to Give from Donors	38,333	79,116
Other Current Assets	32,083	29,096
Property, net of depreciation	1,706	3,622
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,749,245</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,809,844</u></b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Accounts Payable		
& Accrued Liabilities	\$ 84,528	\$ 96,067
Long Term Liabilities	13,655	13,655
Net Assets		
Unrestricted/Board Restricted	1,691,075	1,687,619
Temporarily Restricted	635,372	705,038
Permanently Restricted	1,324,615	1,301,465
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u>3,651,062</u></b>	<b><u>3,700,122</u></b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ 3,749,245</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 3,809,844</u></b>



## Revenue & Expenses

	FY 2015	FY 2014
<b>Revenue</b>		
Support & Memberships - Unrestricted		
Membership & Donors	\$ 504,168	\$ 336,812
Events & Gift Shop, net of costs	259,631	243,167
Private Grants	81,659	185,000
Other Revenues & In-Kind donations	58,118	211,159
Total	<u>903,576</u>	<u>976,138</u>
<b>Operating Expenses:</b>		
Program services	373,771	427,624
Grants to UWBG	286,135	354,144
Fundraising	155,986	138,083
Management & General	124,004	157,998
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<u>939,896</u>	<u>1,077,849</u>
Net Gain (Loss) on Investments	127,604	435,877
Change in Net Assets - Operating Activities	<u>91,284</u>	<u>334,166</u>
<b>Restricted &amp; Temporarily Restricted Revenue</b>		
Endowment Donations	17,150	11,525
Projects	1,405	107,550
	<u>18,555</u>	<u>119,075</u>
Special Grants to Others		
Project and Fundraising Expenses	158,899	248,481
Change in Net Assets - Non-Operating	<u>(140,344)</u>	<u>(129,406)</u>
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b><u>\$ (49,060)</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 204,760</u></b>

# SNAP SHOTS 2015-16



Middle Schoolers from Seattle Schools  
Mulching the New Zealand Forest



Check Out at the Fall Abundance  
Plant Sale



Champagne Toast at the  
Opening Night Party



A Budding Gardener at the Early  
Bloomers Sale



Earth Day Volunteers Weeding



A Staff Photo During GiveBIG

# A SPECTACULAR YEAR FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We can't thank you—our donors and members—enough for making this a spectacular year for contributions and fundraising. Your gifts to the Foundation ensure that we will continue to promote, enhance and protect the Washington Park Arboretum for current and future generations. Your gifts keep the Arboretum green and flourishing.



**Sale Supporters:** Volunteer Manager Alyssa Henry with shoppers at Early Bloomers.

Your enthusiastic support of our plant and gift sales helped us to meet our 2015–2016 fundraising goals. We had a terrific FallAbundance plant sale in September, which brought in \$6,600. Our December holiday sale, Gifts & Greens Galore, raised \$6,250. The Early Bloomers plant sale in April 2016 resulted in record attendance. In addition to purchasing wonderful plants, 90 percent of our shoppers made a gift in addition to their purchases. Every dollar counts!

## 2016 OPENING NIGHT PARTY & AUCTION

The year's fundraising highlight was an outstanding Opening Night Party and Auction in February, chaired by Chris Harry. The evening was an overwhelming outpouring of support for the Arboretum and for the generations of families who have sustained this precious resource for more than 80 years. We thank Ann Pigott Wyckoff for serving as our Honorary Chair. The "Make a Difference" portion of the event raised over \$115,000—double the amount raised in the previous year. Thank you to all who shared in this special evening.



**Party Goers:** Board member Steve Alley with guests at the Opening Night Party.

## THE BENEFITS OF ARBOR CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP



**Leadership Donors:** Foundation Board President Jim Reid (right) with Allen and Elizabeth Moses at the Arbor Circle Reception.

In May 2016, our leadership donors enjoyed an exquisite private reception in the Seattle Japanese Garden—one of the most celebrated Japanese stroll gardens outside of Japan. Donors contributing a minimum of \$1,000 annually are thanked with invitations to exclusive special events, such as this year’s reception and the very popular Walks and Talks tours at the Arboretum.

### LEAVING A LEGACY

Donors and members who want to ensure that future generations will enjoy the beauty we experience today often include the Arboretum Foundation in their wills. Donors interested in honoring or remembering loved ones also contribute funds to dedicate commemorative benches and trees. We received donations for seven commemorative benches this past year.

The logo for ARBFEST, featuring the word "ARB" in a smaller font above "FEST" in a larger, bold, green font. A small tree icon is to the left of "ARB".

A Moveable Feast and Adventure in the Park.

Washington Park Arboretum / Thursday, July 14, 2016 / 6-10 pm



Please join us on July 14, 2016, for this new outdoor summer party to benefit Seattle’s most spectacular urban green space—the Arboretum! Party guests will enjoy French-inspired cuisine, signature cocktails, and fine wines along Azalea Way. Guests will experience the Arb in a unique and immersive way, hunting for geocached treasure, perfecting their pétanque, dancing to the gypsy jazz of Pearl Django, and more! All proceeds benefit the Arboretum Foundation.

Call 206-325-4510 or visit [www.arboretumfoundation.org](http://www.arboretumfoundation.org) to buy tickets or for additional information.

## THE SEATTLE JAPANESE GARDEN COMES BACK TO US

In the late 1950s the Arboretum Foundation undertook to raise the funds to build a Japanese Garden in the Arboretum. We solicited the gift that made the Garden possible and identified the foremost designers from Japan, Messrs. Inoshita and Iida, to design the Garden. For its first two decades, we were the Garden's chief

support organization, but since that time the support role has been divided among several organizations and we were less engaged. That all changed this spring!

In 2014, Seattle Parks undertook a formal review of the Japanese Garden's management structure and found that its own management of the Garden was fragmented and that the Garden's support functions were badly divided—with no group having the capacity or expertise to provide the strong support the Garden needed. So, Seattle Parks asked that the support roles for the Japanese Garden once again be unified under the Foundation, as they were at the beginning.



**Children's Day Fun:** Seattle Aikikai leading an Aikido demonstration at the Japanese Garden.

The Foundation is now managing fundraising, events, volunteer recruitment, membership, and marketing for the Japanese Garden. Seattle Parks continues to manage the ticket booth and the maintenance and upkeep of the grounds and plant collection.

Our goal is to strengthen the Japanese Garden financially and to make it an even more popular destination and rich cultural resource for our community. We are happy to report that we are making great progress. The attendance at the 2016 Children's Day, in late May, was nearly double that of last year, and the sales of traditional fish flags and other items were three times as much! That is a great start.



## LOOP TRAIL AND 520 UPDATE

Construction of the Arboretum Loop Trail started in late March, 2016. The new, 1.5-mile trail will run from Madison Park along the east side of Lake Washington Boulevard and connect to Arboretum Drive, creating a 2.5-mile scenic “loop” for families to walk and bike.

Mostly ADA accessible, the new trail will make it easier for visitors to explore parts of the Arboretum that were previously too wet to walk in for much of the year. The project also includes improving the natural hydrology of Arboretum Creek, restoring nearby wetlands, and planting thousands of new native plants.

The trail was originally outlined in the Arboretum Master Plan, adopted in 2001 after extensive public input. It is being funded by mitigation from the SR 520 bridge rebuild. Construction of trail will continue through December 2017. Find out more at [LoopTrail.seattle.gov](http://LoopTrail.seattle.gov).



**Boyer Bridge:** One of three new bridges being built over Arboretum Creek as part of the new loop trail.

## PHASE 2 OF THE 520 BRIDGE APPROVED

In April 2016, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) celebrated the opening of the new 520 floating bridge across Lake Washington. Construction of the West Approach Bridge North, connecting Montlake to the floating bridge through the Arboretum, is scheduled to be completed in summer 2017.

In July 2015, Governor Jay Inslee signed into law a new 16-year transportation package that finalizes funding for the western stretch of the 520, connecting the new floating bridge to Interstate 5. The project will include the construction of the West Approach Bridge South through the Arboretum and a freeway lid in Montlake. In addition, the Arboretum will receive about \$12 million in mitigation funds for shoreline and creek restoration, and the creation of a new North Entry to the Arboretum. This will be a long-term project, but the Arboretum partners have already met with WSDOT to discuss wayfinding and other related issues.

## OUR HARD-WORKING VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are the life force of the Arboretum Foundation. Very little could be accomplished at the Arboretum without the hundreds of dedicated and passionate people who volunteer their time and energy. You'll find them in gift shop, providing services to visitors; in our Pat Calvert Greenhouse and Plant Donations Nursery, providing plants for the people of Seattle, as a fundraiser for the Arboretum; and out in Arboretum, tirelessly weeding the planting beds and helping keep this place looking beautiful. In the past 12 months, 800 volunteers have donated more than 14,000 hours to support the Arboretum.



**Wetland Warrior:** A volunteer weeding Arboretum Creek during Day of Caring.

On September 18, 2015, the Foundation, University of Washington, and Seattle Parks and Recreation joined forces to coordinate restoration projects in the Arboretum for Day of Caring. Together, we led nearly 200 people from Microsoft, ZymoGenetics, and Nordstrom who wanted to celebrate this beautiful space.

The Arboretum Foundation Units have been helping us behind the scenes! Units 79 and 80 from Mercer Island did a tremendous amount of work on the centerpieces for the Opening Night Party in February 2016. Those ladies could rival any flower store with their comradery and flare!

## GARDEN STEWARDS PROGRAM CELEBRATES FIFTH YEAR!

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Garden Stewards Program, which continues to grow and yield great results. Throughout much of the year, you'll see the stewards out and about along Azalea Way, or tucked back into the gardens at Pacific Connections, with hori knives at the ready to rid our beautiful park of pesky weeds and invasive species. All in all this past year, 75 stewards volunteered over 900 hours of work. They held 69 weeding and mulching sessions—36 on Azalea Way, and 34 in the Pacific Connections Garden.



**Happy Helpers:** Garden Stewards cutting back forsythia on Azalea Way.

We had a wildly successful time at the NorthWest Flower & Garden Show in February, thanks in large part to our volunteers. Forty-nine volunteers helped build our multi-award-winning Display Garden, which captivated the patrons of the Garden Show with the beauty of the Hoh Rainforest (see page 14). Fifty additional volunteers worked as docents at the Garden during the week of the Show, encouraging passersby to come to the Arboretum and see its treasures. Forty volunteers made our Opening Night Party at the Garden Show our most successful fundraiser to date (see page 6). We could not have made such an impact without you!



**Weed Brigade:** FSi Consulting Engineers removed invasive trees in the Pacific Connections Garden on Earth Day!

(NPS) to host this event and celebrate the NPS Centennial. The Arboretum Foundation coordinated a few groups to join in the massive efforts, and assisted with outreach. Together, we mobilized people of all ages and from all backgrounds to serve their community.

At our June 2015 annual meeting, we honored Skip Vonckx with our Volunteer Legacy Award for his commitment to the Arboretum. Last August, we thanked our entire family of volunteers at the annual Volunteer Appreciation Party. Fun was in full swing as we chatted the night away and enjoyed our signature cocktail, blackberry vodka lemonade. Ellen Blizinsky was honored as our Volunteer of the Year for the time she devoted to the Arboretum Shop, working two shifts a month and carefully selecting all the merchandise. Elaine Springer was honored as the Garden Steward of the Year, for her dedication to the program and the time she donated caring for the Arboretum.

On April 23, 2016, the Arboretum celebrated Earth Day the right way! More than 300 volunteers gave over 1000 hours of their Saturday to support us. The University of Washington partnered with the Student Conservation Association and the National Parks Service



**Committed Colleague:** Skip Vonckx (center) took home our Volunteer Legacy Award.

## STAFF UPDATE

In the past year, we bid fond farewell to a number of valuable Foundation employees and welcomed five new staff members to our team.



In October 2015, we hired **Chris Stollery** as our new Director of Development. Chris heads up our development team and works hard to cultivate donors and raise vital funds to preserve the Arboretum. An avid gardener herself, Chris has strong experience fundraising for public gardens. In 2000, she managed the Seattle Chinese Garden's first major capital campaign. After that, she held several senior development positions at the Cornish College of the Arts.

In November 2015, our Volunteer Resources Manager Megan Meyer left to run the volunteer program at Treehouse. In early January 2016, we brought **Alyssa Henry** aboard as her successor. Before joining us, Alyssa spent three years with EarthCorps, where she was trained in volunteer and event management. Alyssa has a B.A. in environmental studies from Pacific Lutheran University and is excited to be cultivating and recruiting volunteers to help care for the Arboretum.



Also in January, we were happy to hire **Jessa Gardner** as our new Events Coordinator, to replace Sheila Beer, who left the Foundation in late fall. Jessa provides support for both our annual cycle of events and for events at the Seattle Japanese Garden. Jessa has a B.A. in political science and a minor in Japanese from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Before joining the Foundation, she worked with a nonprofit to assist refugee resettlement in Houston, Texas.

When the Arboretum Foundation's took over the support role for the Seattle Japanese Garden in January, we welcomed **Rumi Tsuchihashi** on board as our new Japanese Garden Support Manager. A former Microsoft employee, Rumi had already done a

marvelous job organizing and promoting the Garden's event program since the fall of 2014. With Jessa's help, she will continue to grow event attendance and enhance the visitor experience.



In April 2016, we hired **Tess Forte** as our new Events Manager. A native of Seattle, Tess has a B.A. in religion from Swarthmore College and is also a graduate of the UW Fundraising Management Certification Program. Before joining our team, she spent 30 years working with adults with developmental disabilities in King County. At the same time, she honed her skills in Event Planning and Fundraising, and she brings that experience to the Foundation.

In May, we were sad to say farewell to our Garden Stewards Coordinator, **Pamela Givens**. Due to a loss of grant funding, we are unable to sustain Pamela's position. We will be hiring a new Garden Stewards assistant to continue coordinating the program on a much-reduced salary and schedule.

## FAREWELL TO RANDALL

For nearly 20 years, Randall Hitchin has worked in the Arboretum: first as the manager of the plant collections here for the University of Washington, and more recently working with volunteers, and doing outreach and fundraising for the Foundation. He is an Arboretum icon. His love for the Arboretum and his knowledge of its trees and shrubs is unparalleled. But Randall's true gift and calling is teaching. This winter he reduced his time with us, so he could begin teaching plant identification at South Seattle College. He also began an ambitious project to plant a world-class mahonia collection in the college's arboretum. Randall is moving on, but he will still be part of our family. He will continue to work on a contract basis for us, organizing the Walks and Talks programs for our Arbor Circle members. We are all so grateful for his contribution over these past two decade. Thanks, Randall!



# HOH RAIN GARDEN WINS FOUR AWARDS!

The Arboretum Display Garden won multiple awards at the 2016 Northwest Flower & Garden Show in February. We took home a judge's Gold Medal, the AHS Environmental Award, the Pacific Horticulture Magazine Award, and the Golden Palette Award.

In keeping with the Garden Show's 2016 theme—a celebration of 100 years of the National Park Service—our garden depicted the Hoh Rain Forest in Olympic National Park, one of the best examples of temperate rain forest in the world. Many of the plants that grow in the Hoh can also be found in the Arboretum, which retains a rich matrix of native flora.



Foundation Executive Director Paige Miller with garden designer Bob Lilly.

“The Hoh: America’s Rain Forest” was designed to look like a diorama at a natural history museum. Painted backboards and other framing encapsulated the garden to create a window into Washington State’s ancient, temperate rain forest. Salvaged logs were staged to look like the trunks of giant trees. Mosses and ferns draped from the trees, and sword ferns, salal, mahonia, and other native groundcovers created a rich, textured understory. A misty rain added authenticity to the garden and helped create a suitable microclimate for the plants.



Garden Trail: Salvaged wood was staged to look like nurse logs and tree trunks to give authenticity to our forest garden.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this year’s success: our design committee (including our designers Bob Lilly and Phil Wood), volunteers, docents, and donors, as well as our partners at Seattle Parks and Recreation and the UW Botanic Gardens.

# DONORS



MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2016

We deeply appreciate the generosity of the following donors whose gifts ensure that the Arboretum Foundation will continue to promote, enhance and protect the Washington Park Arboretum for current and future generations.

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Jason Morse  
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A young shopper browsing the selection of greens at Gifts and Greens Galore

# DONORS

The Arboretum Foundation is most grateful to our many donors.

Lynn Mowe  
Mary Ellen & Gordon Mulder  
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*Hamamelis x intermedia* 'Winter Beauty'





MAY 1, 2015 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2016

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