

GARDEN FOR THE PEOPLE

by Mary Ellen Hannibal

The Garden often feels like an alternate universe, a better one. As the third season of Flower Piano unfolded this past July, plant crowds stood, sat, listened, and strolled from garden to garden with shining eyes. It didn't feel like people were escaping reality, however. Amid the jazzy, classical, and myriad other vibes put forth by the pianos, there was a palpable sense of assertion. A late afternoon community sing-along made a poignant point. People wanted to sing together. They wanted to hold hands and spontaneously did. They wept together, tears washing in twin rivulets of joy and despair down old, young, male, female, and gender-indeterminate faces. There was no question that the state of our supremely troubled world and its dominant discourse of division was present there on the lawn. And the people's voices rose up to defy it.

THE FACT THAT THE GARDEN IS A PLACE FOR ALL DIFFERENT SORTS OF PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER IS NOT INCIDENTAL, BUT AT THE HEART OF ITS IDENTITY AND PURPOSE.

The word garden invokes repose, but history posits something more complex. Flower Piano heightens the experience, but every day the Garden performs an act of democracy. Take a look around any afternoon, and you will see people from all over the world enjoying the place. Locals are here too—young, tech-driven newcomers looking to connect beyond the virtual, and old-time San Franciscans, some struggling to remain in a city, so many parts of which seem to have moved past them, but not here. The fact that the Garden is a place for all different sorts of people to come together is not incidental, but at the heart of its identity and purpose.

San Francisco Botanical Garden is unique among large city gardens in that we cultivate plants from all over the world. We usually focus on this diversity from an environmental perspective—our climate helps us to sustain many species



PHOTOS BY THE PEOPLE

All taken by Garden guests and posted on the social media site, Instagram. Photo credits are provided to Instagram usernames. From Left to Right: @clairecoxx, @aceduce1, @ruthablesf, @alexanderthegr8est, @loly_ca, @jaimeleeholm, @dame_danger, @zdterrill

GRATITUDE

SUE ANN SCHIFF

Executive Director,
San Francisco Botanical Garden Society

San Francisco Botanical Garden welcomes all. As Mary Ellen Hannibal discusses in our cover story, gardens have a place not only in our hearts, but in history as well. While today's political environment seems bent on division, here at the Garden we celebrate diversity—of plants and people. We have an astonishing array of plants from all over the planet, and we welcome people of every age and background from around the world as well. Our Garden engenders hope for a more sustainable and more inclusive future.

From my very first day at the Garden, its beauty, significance, and the commitment of people close to it have been a source of inspiration. More than anything over my years here, I am inspired every day by the Garden's incredible potential to connect people to plants, nature, and each other; to bring perspective, meaning, and joy to their lives; and to help people understand that even through small steps taken locally, they can make a difference on global issues like climate change and biodiversity loss.

San Francisco Botanical Garden is about plants and the immeasurable value of nature, beauty, and preservation of biodiversity. But the Garden is also very much about people and community. I am especially proud of how the Garden has grown to engage more people and build community.

As I prepare to step down as Executive Director, I think not only of what we have accomplished, but also of the opportunities that lie ahead. I am looking forward to an exciting future for the Garden, in which:

- Today's nearly 450,000 annual visitors become tomorrow's 1 million;
- *Every* young child in San Francisco can take advantage of the programs we offer, and thousands more children from the Bay Area and beyond participate, too;
- *Every* day of the year, people young and old, come to the Garden to gather, observe, create, and share as citizen scientists, musicians, artists, friends, and family inspired by the unique power of nature;
- *Every* individual who is interested can participate in the Garden's expanding plant conservation activities;
- *Every* visitor can experience the Garden as San Francisco's open university of plants and recognize that when they learn about plants, they learn about themselves and their connection to all living things;
- *Every* person who comes here understands that time in the Garden—like air, water, and food—is part of their sustenance and their health.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with this staff, our Board of Trustees, our City partners at Rec & Park, and our donors, members, and volunteers. I am so proud of what we have accomplished together. Without you, the Garden would not be as strong and vibrant as it is today. With you and with the leadership of the next Executive Director, only the sky is the limit.

I will forever be honored to have been the leader of this incredible organization and beautiful garden. 



Richard Morgenstein

FAREWELL

It is with both appreciation and sadness that the Society says farewell in the coming months to Executive Director Sue Ann Schiff. Since 2011, the Garden has been the beneficiary of her vision, energy, and deep understanding of the non-profit world and would not be the same place today without her.

"Under Sue Ann's leadership the Garden has been vitalized as never before," says Delle Maxwell, Board Chair. "She has helped the Garden expand its horizons on multiple fronts: increased attendance, growth in the children's and school programs, expansion of volunteer opportunities, and increased support for so many vital Garden projects."

"In the years that Sue Ann has stewarded the Society, San Francisco Botanical Garden has engaged with the community in ever more innovative and accessible ways," says Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, SF Recreation and Park Department. "New initiatives like the annual Flower Piano program, now a much-loved San Francisco tradition, have invigorated public interest in and support of the Garden. Her leadership leaves the Garden in the position to build on that success to achieve even more."

Schiff, who is stepping down to have more time to care for family members, will be greatly missed by the staff, Board, supporters, and Garden community.

PASSING THE BATON

In June, longtime Board Chair Don Baldocchi stepped down as Chair after six-and-a-half years, and, as new Board Chair Delle Maxwell says, "Those are very big cowboy boots to step into."

Baldocchi, a native San Franciscan and owner and President of Pacific Nurseries, the oldest continuously operating nursery in California, was honored at this year's Garden Feast for his deep commitment to the Garden's success.

"Don always puts the concerns of the Garden first," says Maxwell. "He's been an inspirational leader during his years as Chair and has done so much to support the work of the director and staff. As a result, our profile in the community is higher than it has ever been, and we are truly ready to claim our place among the great Golden Gate Park institutions."

Maxwell has long loved the Garden. She describes it as her backyard in the 1970s when she lived in the neighborhood. She would often grab a book and a picnic and head to the Garden to unwind. Maxwell has had a busy career since then as an award-winning computer animator, designer, and technical writer, working at the intersection of technology and design for more than 30 years. She has worked for NHK television in Japan, PDI (which later became DreamWorks), the Geometry Center at the University of Minnesota where she co-directed mathematical

visualization animation projects, and was a freelance designer for more than 15 years, creating multiple software user interface design projects for Silicon Valley companies.

But Maxwell has always made time for gardening and has a keen interest in drought tolerant plants, especially California natives and succulents. Her own garden in Portola Valley has been featured repeatedly in the Going Native Garden Tour, and since her retirement a few years ago, she has become a Master Gardener and is active in the San Francisco and San Mateo Counties group. She also serves on the Sustainability and Environmental Resources Committee in Portola Valley, with a special interest in water conservation.

In 2000, she began volunteering in the Garden's nursery, working in the Vines Department to propagate plants, and joined the Board in 2015. Maxwell is looking forward to sharing her passion for the Garden in her new capacity as Board Chair. "I love the place so much. Everyone there does. We really want the rest of the community to get that excited about it too."



Richard Morgenstein

People depend on plants for the oxygen we breathe, the food we eat, and the beauty that comforts the soul. Plants support everything we do. They connect us to all of nature. Plants make life possible. The more we understand and cherish the interconnectedness of all life on Earth, the more we will do to conserve and sustain life on our planet. This core belief guides our work at San Francisco Botanical Garden and our plans for the Garden's future.

Located in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco Botanical Garden is a sanctuary of natural beauty and tranquility dedicated to educating children and adults, cultivating community, and displaying and preserving the planet's biodiversity. With over 8,500 different kinds of plants from around the world, including many that are rare and endangered, it is possible to travel the world in the Garden's 55 acres. Welcoming nearly 450,000 annual visitors, the Garden brings the community together to marvel, to learn, to find respite in nature and to celebrate Earth's beauty and the interconnectedness of all living things.

The Garden is operated through a partnership between the nonprofit San Francisco Botanical Garden Society and the City and County of San Francisco Recreation and Park Department. 

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

Established in 1955

San Francisco Botanical Garden
at Strybing Arboretum

Golden Gate Park
Ninth Avenue at Lincoln Way
San Francisco, CA 94122
415.661.1316
SFBotanicalGarden.org

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that are threatened and endangered in the wild, so we are an important repository of genetic materials. But there is also a unique civic flavor to our 55 acres. People from literally all over the globe can come here and recognize flora from home. Geographically local plants thrive side-by-side with those from other locations, wordlessly making the case that we can all live together, and that doing so creates a unique style of beauty and order. Like no other, our Garden is a microcosm of the world, representing both its flora planted in the ground and its people, strolling by and enjoying it.

From antiquity, gardens have been about the coming together of two things—nature and people. Nature, of course, has its own ways of organizing itself outside of direct human intervention. Many birds are gardeners. Scrub jays are nearly solely responsible for planting the state’s endemic oak forests. Mammals—from ground hogs to beavers to prairie dogs—are gardeners, to say nothing of the pollinators. The basic ecological processes that help drive species abundance and distribution have wordlessly taught us ways to enhance our material and spiritual worlds. Human gardening has taken many different forms. Native Californians gardened their environment—pruning, coppicing, burning, and deploying other practices to cultivate wild species, which they did without domesticating or reducing their numbers. Native Californians are among the original stewards of the natural world, acting not to dominate creation, but to honor and work with it. Their interactions with nature beg the questions: what is a wilderness, and what is a garden?

Today, we mostly think of a garden as a special enclosure in which select plants are cultivated. There are vegetable gardens, of course, grown to be eaten. But many gardens are planted in the spirit of living paintings or living tapestries, environments of composed beauty, and, as such, both acknowledge and sustain human aspirations. These include political aspirations.

In today’s world environment, it’s especially interesting to look back to the revolutionary beginnings of the United States of America, where perhaps unexpectedly, we find a powerful garden

@l.rosana60 captures a sweet moment between grandmother and granddaughter in the Zellerbach Garden of Perennials during their visit from Jakarta, Indonesia.



@elemental_alchemy bathes in the joyous, restorative power of the Redwood Grove.

motif. Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Madison were all avid gardeners. Their convictions about nature, particularly plants, both influenced and expressed their ideas about the new country they helped to found. They quite literally constructed their revolutionary agenda as an expression of their beliefs about nature, plants, agriculture, and gardens. We often think of Henry David Thoreau and John Muir as instigating our contemporary environmental movement, but, in fact, our first elected officials posed nature as intrinsic to the cause of the new nation—not only a symbol of democracy, but a vital, co-creating force in achieving it.

OUR FIRST ELECTED OFFICIALS POSED NATURE AS
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CO-CREATING FORCE IN ACHIEVING IT.

In 1776, as Manhattan braced itself for battle with the British, the Americans’ commander-in-chief took time out to write detailed instructions to the estate manager at Mount Vernon, directing him to plant only native American trees and to source these only from the forests around the Virginia plantation. For nearly two hundred years, newcomers to Virginia had labored to recreate the British gardens they had left behind, going to great expense and trouble to cultivate European plants. For Washington to assert otherwise was a gesture of revolution. Native evergreens, conifers, and flowering trees expressed his vision of independence. Among the emblems of this brave new country planted by Washington was the *Magnolia grandiflora*, native to the South. (Our own Garden is replete with patriotic trees!) Washington also planted a botanical garden at Mount Vernon. A hands-on gardener, he spent much time here testing plants and seeds for economic potential in a future America he saw as agricultural. When it came time to plan the location and aspect of the new nation’s capital in Washington, D.C., George Washington envisioned a city of gardens, including a botanic garden, which was eventually built decades later. Its collection of American trees would stand as an expression of national unity and would also supply gardens across the states.

In the late 19th century, public gardens began to provide a more direct connective tissue between people and plants. As thousands of immigrants poured into the ports of the east coast, settlement schools planted gardens to help acculturate newcomers to the American way (and to feed them). The rise of industrial cities, filled with canneries, mills, and coal smoke belching next door to unregulated tenements, inspired a reform movement that tapped nature to ameliorate. Ben Grant, Urban Design Policy Director at the San Francisco Bay Area Planning and Urban Research Association (SPUR), said the development of city parks "...had to do with the virtue of nature. They were meant to expose the masses to nature for their moral improvement." This impulse was on display in San Francisco as well, for example, in the gardens built by Adolph Sutro, who invited the public to come enjoy his collections of animals and plants from all over the world in Sutro Heights. Botanical gardens emerged alongside what might more accurately be called pleasure gardens. "Botanical gardens sought to teach, to understand plant communities and plant relationships with each other, and their interpretive element became richer.



@bside_storchild captures now fiancée @danamarielh admiring a flowering maple (*Abutilon* sp.).

Here were these public places where anyone can come, but you can learn something too. Increasingly, today's botanical gardens are teaching about ecology and conservation. They have an interpretive mission." Today, the garden, both as a physical space and as an ideal, continues to support human aspirations for a better, more inclusive life. "Gardens are rich in metaphors," said Mary Ann Pudup, Associate Professor and Director of the Community Studies program at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Pudup is an avid gardener and long-involved with the Garden for the Environment, which offers citizens physical space and instruction in how to garden. "Think of all the terms—something's 'blooming,' we 'plant new life,' there is the cycle of birth and death, the renewal of the garden. It all speaks to people." Whether we volunteer in them or simply enjoy ourselves in the presence of public gardens, a powerful relationship is formed. "There is an appeal in nature and the transformation of the natural world," says Pudup. "Gardens are a human creation, but they show us that nature can be cultivated. And if nature can prevail, so can we."

For many of us, the garden exists on many levels, from the imaginative to the practical to the communal. Adam Reineck is Design Director and Co-Lead at IDEO.org, the firm famous for promoting design thinking in various planning processes.

TODAY, THE GARDEN, BOTH AS A PHYSICAL SPACE AND AS AN IDEAL, CONTINUES TO SUPPORT HUMAN ASPIRATIONS FOR A BETTER, MORE INCLUSIVE LIFE.

"I grew up in the Upper Haight," Reineck said. "As a city kid, I was always trying to find nature, and we spent a lot of time in San Francisco Botanical Garden. I very specifically remember the magic of the gates," he said, invoking his childhood experience of the Garden's main entrance. "We would enter there, and then get lost. The Garden is just big enough that you can have a great time getting lost because eventually you will find a wall, or recognize a landmark, realize where you are, and then get lost again." With seasonality on display, the Garden is a theater of time manifesting through the appearances of plants and animals, but it is also a gateway to another world. It is a place of private reverie, but also provides communal pause. "I love to bring friends to the Garden," Reineck said. "We can walk through together, have a picnic, share time without having a mission. We can discover stuff together."



@laurenhiga shares a happy moment in the Temperate Asia collection with friend @ell_logan

SPUR's Ben Grant, addressing the antidote public spaces provide for the 'end of space' brought about by our ubiquitous private worlds channeled through electronic devices, reiterated that, "The public realm is where we safely mix across boundaries—where we sometimes celebrate as one, and where we face ourselves." In our Garden every day, we see faces made tranquil by the sensual enjoyment of plants from all over the world. People visit here from far and near—they all find themselves welcomed home. 🌿

Mary Ellen Hannibal is a Bay Area writer and editor focusing on science and culture. Hannibal is an award-winning journalist and author of the recently released, *Citizen Scientist: Searching for Heroes and Hope in an Age of Extinction*.

NEW FACES AROUND THE GARDEN

ELISA HEIKKILÄ
Associate Director of Development

Elisa Heikkilä grew up in Finland, one of Europe's most sparsely populated countries and its most heavily forested. "You spend a lot of time in the open air there," she says. When she moved to San Francisco in 2016, she was struck by just how dense the city felt. But there was one place she found that provided a respite from urban life: San Francisco Botanical Garden.

"WE HAVE SO MANY POINTS OF CONNECTION FOR OUR SUPPORTERS....HOW AMAZING THAT THERE IS A LIFETIME OF LEARNING HERE."

"You see and experience so much in a compact space. There are such wonderful pockets of experiences within the Garden. Just in a short walk between the Moon Viewing Garden and the Great Meadow, there is so much diversity."

Heikkilä was the Development Officer at Yorkshire Sculpture Park in the United Kingdom prior to arriving in San Francisco, where she grew that museum's support programs, from individual gifts to government funding. She is excited about all of the myriad ways to engage donors in the Garden's conservation and education work.

"We have so many points of connection for our supporters. I am particularly struck by how a child can truly grow up in the Garden, starting as a toddler with Story Time in the Library, then visiting with a school, bringing family to the Children's Garden, and eventually becoming a teen volunteer. How amazing that there is a lifetime of learning here."



Richard Morgenstein



Richard Morgenstein

RYAN GUILLOU
Curator

Ryan Guillou is not complaining about the fog like many newcomers to San Francisco. "It's so exciting to do a 180 to a mild climate where plants are inclined to grow," he says. "It's green!" Before joining the Garden as its new Curator, Guillou was the Nursery Manager at the Royal Botanical Garden of Jordan in Amman. His career has also included positions at Jerusalem Botanical Gardens located in Israel, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden, and Smithsonian Gardens.

"THE MOST IMPORTANT PIECE OF OUR MISSION IS TO ENGAGE THE PUBLIC IN THE WORK WE DO, AND A GARDEN LIKE THIS, THAT IS SO ACCESSIBLE, CAN REALLY BE CREATIVE ABOUT HOW TO DO THAT."

Guillou is honored to continue the work of Curator Emeritus Don Mahoney to refine and define the Garden's magnificent collections to further conservation efforts and inspire visitors. "This Garden has history and character, and has benefited enormously from Don's leadership. I want to build on that and maximize the opportunities that the Garden's rich stories and our unique climate afford us."

Garden Director Matthew Stephens adds, "The San Francisco Rec & Park horticultural staff and I are excited about Ryan's arrival and eager to partner together to elevate the overall care of the Garden and move our larger conservation efforts forward."

Guillou started in his new position in July, just as Flower Piano kicked off in the Garden. He knew he had come to the right place. "One of my dreams ever since starting my career in the botanical garden world has been to work in a garden that is right in the heart of a city and that is part of the life of that city. The most important piece of our mission is to engage the public in the work we do, and a garden like this, that is so accessible, can really be creative about how to do that."



50TH ANNUAL PLANT SALE

Plant lovers flocked to the Garden's 50th Annual Spring Plant Sale in search of new inspiration for their gardens and windowsills. Perhaps the wet winter had rejuvenated dreams of abundant flowers because the crowds were robust and the shopping was exuberant. Attendees were delighted to find over 20,000 plants representing 2,500 different varieties, many propagated from the Garden's own collection and not available elsewhere.

The Garden's knowledgeable Nursery volunteers were continuously busy answering questions, but just as often around each table, sale goers of all ages, backgrounds, and gardening experience also delighted in sharing tips as they admired each other's choices.

For the landmark 50th year, Orchard Supply Hardware was on hand for complimentary garden tool sharpening, the Master Gardeners of San Mateo and San Francisco Counties answered additional garden questions, children enjoyed free, hands-on activities provided by the Garden's Youth Education team, and more.

The Annual Spring Plant Sale raised funds for the Garden and is the largest of the Garden's plant sales that take place on select Saturdays throughout the year. Please join us for the 2018 Annual Plant Sale that will take place May 4–5.

All photos courtesy Travis Lange.



2018 PLANT SALES

SATURDAYS, 10AM–1PM

San Francisco Botanical Garden

Entry Garden near the Main Gate and Bookstore

March 3:	Magnolias & Companion Plants
April 7:	Spring Bloomers
May 4–5:	Annual Plant Sale
June 9:	Perennials & Pollinator Plants
July 14:	Salvias, Shrubs, & Fuchsias
September 8:	California Natives & Succulents
October 13:	Trees, Ferns, & Rhododendrons
November 10:	End of Season Sale

CAN'T MAKE THESE DATES?

Plants are for sale at the Arbor, 10am–4pm daily, except major holidays.

All sales include a general selection of plants in addition to featured plants. For more information, please visit SFBotanicalGarden.org/plant-sales.



On June 14, friends and supporters came together for the Garden's annual fundraising luncheon in support of the Garden and its free, hands-on nature education programs serving almost 13,000 Bay Area children every year. 350 guests gathered on the Great Meadow for the floral fête, co-chaired this year by Kat Taylor and Anki Gelb.

The event honored Don Baldocchi who was stepping down after six-and-a-half years as Board Chair. San Francisco Recreation and Park Department General Manager Phil Ginsburg presented a mayoral proclamation declaring it "Don Baldocchi Day in San Francisco." Taylor serenaded attendees with a creatively rewritten version of the song "You'll See" from *Rent* to celebrate Baldocchi and the work of the Garden. And Baldocchi himself delighted the appreciative crowd with his earliest memories of a youth spent exploring the Garden.

Header image: Jody Gelb and Scott Allen. Images from left to right: Anki Gelb, Gray Boyce, Janice Barger, Sheree Chambers, Jeff Garelick; Dr. Nooshin Razani; Helen Raiser and Phil Ginsburg; Kat Taylor, Don Baldocchi, and Delle Maxwell. Photos courtesy of Moanalani Jeffrey.

Guests also heard a moving keynote speech by Dr. Nooshin Razani, a UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Oakland pediatrician and founder of the hospital's Center for Nature and Health, where she is a passionate advocate of the healing power of nature for children and families experiencing the trauma of violence and poverty. With the help of the gathered crowd and other generous donors, the Garden raised a record breaking \$550,000.

SAVE THE DATE!

Next year's Garden Feast is scheduled for May 23, 2018. We look forward to celebrating another year at the Garden with you.

For more information, please visit GardenFeastSF.org, or contact Marissa Angulo at MAngulo@sfbg.org or 415.661.1316 ext 301.





Music, community, and nature join forces during Flower Piano—the Garden’s twelve-day, outdoor extravaganza, produced in collaboration with Sunset Piano, the inspiration of multidisciplinary artists Mauro ffortisimo and Dean Mermell. Mermell’s documentary film *Twelve Pianos*, which was shown during this year’s Flower Piano, tells the story of how they started their venture.

2017 marked the third year that this celebrated summertime event transformed the Garden into the city’s own alfresco concert hall, with twelve pianos tucked among the flowers and available to anyone to play. Over 46,000 people came to tickle the ivories, enjoy the talents of neighbors and strangers, and listen to performances by exceptional professional musicians.

Photos courtesy of Natalie Jenks and Travis Lange.

NIGHTGARDEN PIANO

New this year, NightGarden Piano—a special, one-night-only benefit to support Flower Piano—wowed the sold-out crowd of 3,000 with illuminated paths and pianos, stirring performances, food and drink, and a spectacular sunset on a rare, balmy San Francisco night. Stay tuned for more information about plans for NightGarden Piano 2018.



New community partnerships this year made possible the first appearance of members of the San Francisco Symphony’s Chorus Group and alumni from its Youth Orchestra, as well as performances by students from Oakland School for the Arts and the Ruth Asawa San Francisco School of the Arts. The Community Music Center joined the Garden in the spirit of the citywide celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Summer of Love, hosting a sing-along of hits from 1967 that wrapped up with a powerful rendition of “All You Need is Love.”

FLOWER PIANO 2018

Next year’s Flower Piano is scheduled for July 5–16. We hope you will join us for what will be another year of what *San Francisco Chronicle* columnist Leah Garchik called “...the nearest thing we have to the spirit of random pleasure we think is epitomized by the Summer of Love.”



ART AT THE HELEN CROCKER RUSSELL LIBRARY OF HORTICULTURE

KRISTIN JAKOB: BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION RETROSPECTIVE

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2017

The meticulously rendered artwork of award-winning botanical illustrator Kristin Jakob is featured this fall in a solo exhibition that includes illustrations for books, magazines, posters, and various commercial and private commissions, as well as a selection of fine botanical prints.



From an early age, Jakob, who grew up in Mill Valley, CA, felt drawn to the lush, natural world around her and displayed a talent for drawing the animals and plants she encountered there. Largely self-taught, she sharpened her skills at London's Royal College of Art. She has illustrated many native plant publications for the California Native Plant Society, and her art has been widely exhibited in London and in exhibitions at the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture, Filoli, and more.

LOOKING CLOSELY: THE HIDDEN WORLD OF MUSHROOMS AND LICHENS

by Lucy Martin
JANUARY – APRIL 2018



Sonoma County artist Lucy Martin's gouache and watercolor paintings focus on the often-overlooked beauty of the forest floor. Each painting begins with a walk in the forest collecting mushrooms along with the lichens, mosses, decaying leaves, cones, bark, and twigs around them. Back in her studio, Martin uses layer upon layer of dense color to create small, closely focused landscapes that are highly detailed and scientifically accurate.

This solo exhibition will include many original paintings as well as archival, framed prints. Martin has exhibited at the Library in the past, as well as with the Northern California Association of Botanical Artists and in several Sonoma County galleries.

NATIVE PLANTS OF SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN: WATERCOLORS

by Mary L. Harden and her Master Artists
MAY – AUGUST 2018



For this fourth exhibition of paintings by botanical illustration instructor Mary Harden and her students at the Library, the artists worked with the conservation group San Bruno Mountain Watch to observe plants in the 2,600-acre open space reserve. The original watercolors on display were painted from live specimens and include snowberry, checkerbloom, California buckeye, golden aster, bee plant, and many others. The images are life-size and botanically accurate while still displaying the exuberant artistic style of Harden and her students. The exhibition honors the work of Doug Allshouse and Dr. David Nelson of San Bruno Mountain Watch.

Harden founded the Mary L. Harden School of Botanical Illustration and has been teaching and creating art in San Francisco for many years. She has had numerous exhibitions around the Bay Area.

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN

CLOUD FORESTS

In Bloom through December

FALL IS THE BEST TIME TO
DISCOVER THE ENCHANTING
PLANTS OF THE WORLD'S MISTY,
TROPICAL HIGH ELEVATION
FORESTS, THRIVING HERE, TOO,
THANKS TO SAN FRANCISCO'S
FAMOUS FOG!

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY

...and experience all the Garden has to offer with special benefits throughout the year, including invitations to member garden parties.

Most important, your contribution will help the Garden conserve and display plants from all over the world and inspire people of all ages to cherish, understand, and protect our planet's beauty and biodiversity.



Help connect people of all ages to the natural world, right in the heart of the city. Become a member today.

DOCENTS AND GUIDES: TELLING THE STORIES BEHIND THE COLLECTIONS

Docents and Children's Walk Guides are key to the Garden's mission to cultivate the bond between people and plants. These dedicated volunteers engage with guests of all ages and help them understand the unique characteristics and significance of plants in the Garden's collection.

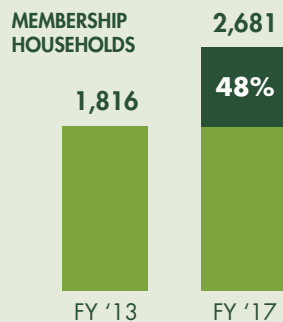
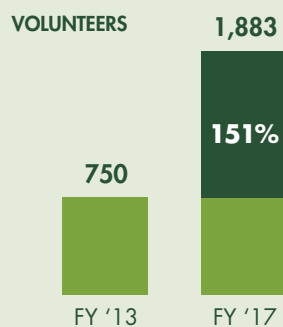
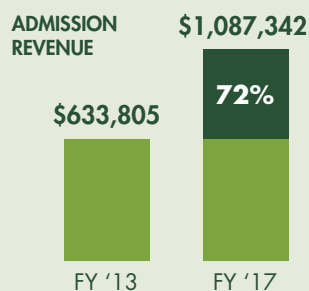
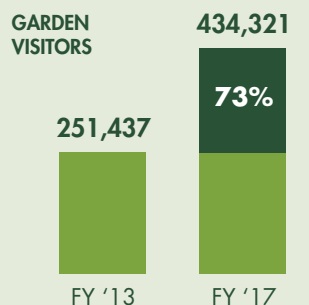
We deeply appreciate the enthusiasm and expertise of docents and guides. Next time you visit, consider taking a free tour or stopping by a weekend Interpretation Station to learn more of the Garden's secrets.

Congratulations and welcome to the 24 Docents and 15 Children's Walk Guides who completed training in FY17. Trainings for Docents and Children's Walk Guides are offered twice a year. See SFBotanicalGarden.org/volunteer for details on how to apply.





YOUR GIFTS HELP THE GARDEN GROW



SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT 2016 – 2017

The Garden has grown significantly in recent years, not in acreage, but in its reach and ability to engage our community and visitors from the Bay Area and around the world. As members and donors, you provide half of the funds needed to operate the Garden. You are the backbone of the Garden's long-term sustainability, and your generosity allows it to continue to thrive and grow.

This year's annual report includes metrics to help illustrate the Garden's impressive growth over the past several years, but we ask you to think beyond the numbers about the difference your giving makes.

There is a saying: when you change one life, you change the world. Our Garden changes lives every day, providing a sanctuary of calm and beauty for city dwellers seeking respite from urban congestion; a safe haven for young children to discover birds, butterflies, bugs, and turtles under the watchful eyes of their parents and caregivers; and an outdoor classroom for people of all ages to explore the recurring cycles of life and the way plants interact with their environment, with each other, and with us. The Garden is a Noah's Ark for rare and endangered plants from every continent except Antarctica, enabling people to understand threats to global biodiversity without leaving home. It is a place of wonder, inspiration, and appreciation for the interconnectedness of all living things. Environmental scientists and thought leaders advise us that the path to creating a sustainable planet requires a global shift in mindset to reconnect ourselves to nature. The Garden helps make that possible, one person at a time.

Your gifts to the Garden are gifts to our community and our future. We thank you for helping the Garden change lives and change our world.

With gratitude,

Delle Maxwell

Delle Maxwell
Chair, Board of Trustees

Sue Ann Schiff

Sue Ann L. Schiff
Executive Director

YEAR IN REVIEW: BY THE NUMBERS

JULY 1, 2016 – JUNE 30, 2017



\$1,087,342 total admissions revenue, from fees paid by nonresident visitors—a 181% increase since the fee was introduced in August 2010



434,321 visitors to the Garden—a 117% increase since 2010



27,175 volumes plus 250 current plant and garden periodicals in the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture, Northern California's most comprehensive horticultural collection*

12,658 children interacting with nature through school-year, summer, and family programs, representing nearly 34% growth in children served since 2010



14,300 plant propagations (estimated) by staff and volunteers, with many available to the public for purchase



1,883 volunteers who come individually or participate in corporate, school, and service organization projects

46,680 hours contributed by volunteers to virtually every aspect of the Garden's operations



2,681 households, representing individuals, couples, and families from San Francisco, the Bay Area and beyond who support the Garden through their memberships

8,839 different kinds of plants thriving in the Garden, including 5,884 species, of which approximately 30% are wild collected and 377 are rare and/or endangered*



597 free daily docent-led tours and weekend interpretation stations staffed by docents

Images left to right, top to bottom: Saxon Holt, Travis Lange, @bewellbabe, Natalie Jenks, Julie Baldocchi, Saxon Holt, Natalie Jenks, Kathryn Rummel, Saxon Holt.

*Counts as of June 30, 2017

SAN FRANCISCO BOTANICAL GARDEN SOCIETY FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2016

ASSETS	2016	2015
Cash and Investments	5,965,649	6,402,268
Accounts and Pledges Receivable	370,387	314,127
Property and Equipment	842,824	710,192
Other	95,071	35,548
Total Assets	7,273,931	7,462,135
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities	369,418	323,659
Net Assets	6,904,513	7,138,476
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	7,273,931	7,462,135

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

As of June 30, 2015 and June 30, 2016

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2016	2015
Contributed Income	2,868,474	2,502,661
Investment Income	(196,388)	139,077
Earned Income	245,735	246,461
Admissions Income*	551,145	498,581
Federal Government Support	-	96,789
Other	52,607	4,467
Total Support and Revenue	3,521,573	3,488,036
EXPENSES	2016	2015
Program Services	2,807,284	2,560,148
Management and General	554,767	363,473
Fundraising and Development	393,485	359,885
Total Expenses	3,755,536	3,283,506
Change in Net Assets	(233,963)	204,530

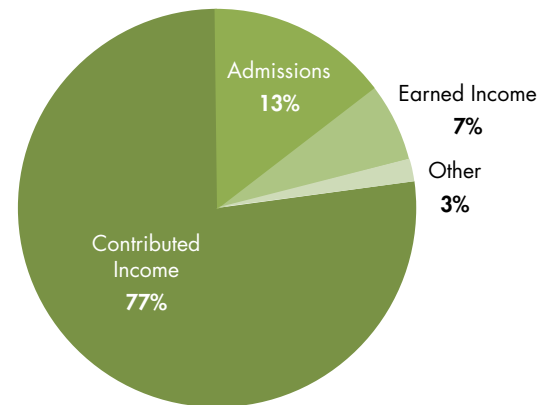
*As allocated to SFBGS by the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department

Source: San Francisco Botanical Garden Society Audited Financial Statements for the 12 months ended June 30, 2016

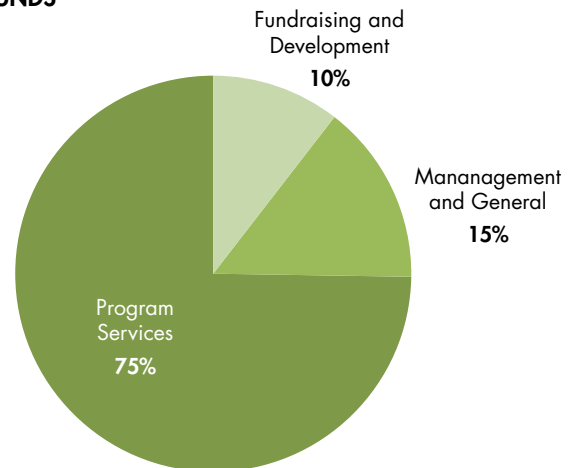
SOURCES AND USES OF FUNDS

12 months ended June 30, 2016

SOURCES OF FUNDS



USES OF FUNDS



Contributed Income: memberships, foundation grants, contributions, bequests, net revenues from fundraising events, and in-kind gifts

Earned Income: plant and bookstore sales, program fees, and library art & book sales

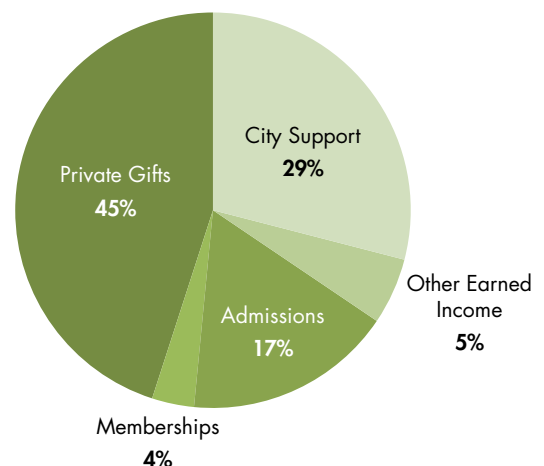
Program Services: plant collections management, nursery, gardens, youth education, classes and public programs, library, bookstore, volunteer program, visitor services, and other program-related activities

WHO PAYS FOR THE GARDEN

With limited public funding, private support from our community is more crucial than ever. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, combining the work of SFBGS and the Recreation & Park Department, it cost over \$6 million* to operate the Garden. More than 70% of the Garden's financial support came from SFBGS's donors and members, and from the Garden's visitors.

* Expenditures for the privately funded Nursery: Center for Sustainable Gardening are not included

Sources: San Francisco Botanical Garden Society Audited Financial Statements for the 12 months ended June 30, 2016; San Francisco Recreation and Park Department report to the Board of Supervisors, dated March 20, 2017



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS JULY 2016–JUNE 2017

The beauty and diversity of our collections and the array of programs, tours, and events at San Francisco Botanical Garden are made possible by you, our supporters. Each gift enables us to offer unparalleled opportunities for inspiration and learning. We would like to extend our gratitude to those who generously contributed to the Garden's operating funds between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, through gifts to Strybing Circle, membership, paver, and bench tributes, Garden Feast, and specific programs. 🌿

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\$100,000+

Kinmont T. Hoitsma Trust

\$50,000 to \$99,999

Delle Maxwell and
Patrick Hanrahan
Tom Steyer and Kat Taylor

\$25,000 to \$49,999

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Renata Gasperi and
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\$10,000 to \$24,999

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Martha White
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DONOR SPOTLIGHT: NINA MOORE



Nina Moore's passion for the Garden has its roots in early childhood. "I've always loved plants and gardening, since I was very young," she says. "My Italian parents really encouraged me to get dirt under my nails, saying: Go mow the lawn! Time to water the plants!" Later in life when Moore was raising her own children here in San Francisco,

"I REALLY FEEL LIKE MY SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE. THE ORGANIZATION IS VERY WELCOMING AND UTILIZES THOSE DONATIONS WISELY. EVERY DAY I'M AT THE GARDEN, I SEE THE IMPACT OF MY GIVING AND FEEL GREAT ABOUT MY INVESTMENT IN THE GARDEN'S FUTURE."

it was only natural that she gravitated to the Garden. "When my son particularly was a toddler, the Botanical Garden was our big backyard and playground. We came so often. He had a great love of nature."

Moore is now in her third year as a docent and loves the opportunity to connect the community with nature, engage visitors and fellow volunteers, and to grow as an individual. "It really makes you feel a sense of wonder," she says. Through this new relationship with the Garden, Moore's support of the organization has deepened as well. "I really feel like my support makes a difference. The organization makes it is very welcoming and utilizes those donations wisely. Every day I'm at the Garden, I see the impact of that support my giving and feel great about my investment in the Garden's future."

Linda Brownrigg
Richard Cairns
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Jim Henderson
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Richard Chackerian
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Marsha Seely
Jacqueline and
Christian P. Erdman

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: AMBER LA

Amber La's young son Zac has grown up on Flower Piano. Now three, he has attended every year. He and his father Zaid are avid percussionists and love to join in. "Zac will just suddenly walk up to us and say, 'I want to do Flower Piano!' He is always taken aback when we explain it is a once-a-year event," says La. She is continually inspired by the community created around the pianos and how the event introduces so many people to the Garden's beautiful plant collections.

"HOW WONDERFUL THAT SOMETHING SO
BEAUTIFUL EXISTS IN THE CITY...IT'S SO IMPORTANT
THAT THIS RESOURCE IS ACCESSIBLE LIKE THAT."

La is an enthusiastic gardener—she created a lovely moon garden of white flowering plants in her backyard—and ardent environmentalist. "Plants are the future. They are going extinct and we have to protect them," she says. "Botanical gardens are critical to conservation and education. We need to support them." After moving to San Francisco in 2004, La became interested in San Francisco Botanical Garden. She and her family often attend plant sales and library exhibitions.

La is head over heels in love with the Garden's magnolias, her favorite being *Magnolia stellata*. "How wonderful that something so beautiful exists in the city and that residents can enjoy the blooms for free. It's so important that this resource is accessible like that."



Veronica Espada
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Jane and Mark Zuercher

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Newhall Foundation
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Sally Love Saunders Foundation
Woodside-Atherton Garden Club

\$250 to \$499

American Academy of
Ophthalmology
Crescent Elementary School
Flowers by the Sea
Wildwood Nursery

GIFTS IN HONOR

Family and friends celebrated the following individuals with gifts made in their honor from July 1, 2016–June 30, 2017:

Donald Baldocchi
Mariel Batjiaka
Elizabeth Brook
Anne C. Brown
Donald Clark
Donald Frediani
Susan Nervo Giammattei
Lorraine Gold
Robert Klevecz
Christopher Ksoll
Megan Analeise Lowe
Jason Martinez and
Florence Chung
Kathryn McNeil
Miss Kitty, Thaddeus,
Mr. Darcy, Maggie, Stubby
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Virginia O'Brien
Noah Orme
Ira Jay Plotinsky
Sydney Elizabeth Scholz
Georgi Stoyanof
Ora Walker
Ruthgrace S. West
Harry Wolf
Edward Yee Wong

If we have made an error or omission, please accept our apologies. Please contact the Development Office at (415) 661-1316 ext. 306, so that we may correct our records.



DEDICATE A BENCH OR PAVER STONE

Celebrate your loved ones, memories, and inspirations with distinctive tribute opportunities throughout the Garden. Consider sponsoring a bench or dedicating a paver stone with a tax-deductible contribution.

For more information, contact the Development Office at 415.661.1316 ext. 302 or tributes@sfbg.org.



MAGNOLIA ASSOCIATES

A GIFT FOR OUR FUTURE

"A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW PEOPLE WILL
KNOW WE WALKED THIS EARTH BECAUSE WE
CONTRIBUTED TO THIS WONDERFUL GARDEN,
AND IT WILL GO ON." – Dennis and Marlene Burke

Magnolia Associates of San Francisco Botanical Garden Society comprise the generous individuals who have made visionary decisions to include the Garden in their estate plans. These gifts for the Garden's future ensure its continued strength and growth in the years to come.

We are deeply grateful to the following individuals for their gifts:

Anonymous (2)	Stephanie Kristovich
Patricia and Henry Alker	Jack Leibman
Paul Althouse	Sara and Ronald Malone
Cynthia Anderson and Dennis Welch	John B. McCallister
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Marsha Irwin and Richard Pesquiera	Herbert M. Weber
Cynthia Jamplis	Herbert Wetzel and Dr. Cherie L.R. Wetzel
Mary Anne Kayiatos	Peg Winston

**Asterisk indicates donor is deceased*

To share your intentions of including the Garden in your estate plans or to begin a conversation about joining this wonderful group, please contact Elisa Heikkilä, Associate Director of Development, at 415.661.1316 ext. 309 or ehaikkila@sfbg.org.



San Francisco Botanical Garden Society
at Strybing Arboretum

Golden Gate Park
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San Francisco, CA 94122

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"Intelligent and impassioned, Citizen Scientist is essential reading for anyone interested in the natural world."
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A San Francisco Chronicle Best Book of 2016

CITIZEN SCIENTIST

by Mary Ellen Hannibal

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