

**WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS BREAKS GROUND ON
2-ACRE, WORLD-CLASS JAPANESE GARDEN;
FIRST PUBLIC JAPANESE GARDEN IN LOUISVILLE;
TRI-ARROWS ALUMINUM COMMITS \$1 MILLION**

The \$22 million project is to be completed over 24 months with craftsmen from Japan meticulously constructing elements of the garden that include a Japanese Tea House, water fall and pond, bonsai garden and red arched bridge.



Renderings are available for download:
https://bit.ly/WBG_JapaneseGarden

On September 29, 2022, Waterfront Botanical Gardens officially broke ground on Louisville's first public, authentic Japanese Garden designed by renowned landscape designer, Shiro Nakane. The \$22 million world-class Japanese Garden will sit on a 2-acre site just north of the current Graeser Family Education Center and will be built by Japanese craftsmen over the course of 24 months.

Mr. Nakane was on hand to celebrate the ground-breaking with the Deputy Consul-General of Japan, Masahiko Mitsumoto, elected officials and over one hundred botanical garden supporters, board members, staff and donors. Mr. Nakane spoke not only of the distinctive design of Japanese Gardens, but also about the bridging of cultures that takes place when a Japanese Garden is constructed outside of Japan. He shared, "The apparent admiration and esteem enjoyed by the Japanese garden throughout the world is presumably attributable to the recognition of its universal artistic merits, which transcend all racial, religious, and cultural differences."



Waterfront Botanical Gardens also announced that Japanese-owned company, Tri-Arrows Aluminum, has made a \$1 million commitment to the Japanese Garden.

Tri-Arrows is owned by a consortium composed of [UACJ North America](#), a wholly owned subsidiary of UACJ Corporation and Sumisho Metalex Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary of [Sumitomo Corporation](#).

WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS BREAKS GROUND ON 2-ACRE, WORLD-CLASS JAPANESE GARDEN; FIRST PUBLIC JAPANESE GARDEN IN LOUISVILLE; TRI-ARROWS ALUMINUM COMMITS \$1 MILLION

”

“I join Kentuckians across the commonwealth in thanking Tri-Arrows Aluminum for stepping up and making a generous commitment to the Japanese Garden project at Waterfront Botanical Gardens in Louisville,” said Gov. Andy Beshear.

“This garden is going to be a unique, world-class destination that will attract visitors and enhance the already-rich cultural life of Louisville and Kentucky as a whole. The support of Team Kentucky partners like Tri-Arrows Aluminum is what makes ambitious projects like this possible and provides one more inspiring example of people coming together to build a better Kentucky.”



The garden will include a traditional Japanese Tea House, designed to introduce the Japanese tea ceremony, one of the most prestigious and symbolic rituals in Japanese culture. Also planned for the Japanese Garden is a summer house, a Zen garden, and a zig zag bridge over a small lake. The Cornelian cherry tree, a type of flowering dogwood, will be featured in a few areas of the garden.

The gardens will also include a bonsai garden, with 24 trees donated by the late Tommy McCurry and an additional 6 trees donated by the Chicago Botanic Garden.



**WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS BREAKS GROUND ON
2-ACRE, WORLD-CLASS JAPANESE GARDEN;
FIRST PUBLIC JAPANESE GARDEN IN LOUISVILLE;
TRI-ARROWS ALUMINUM COMMITS \$1 MILLION**

The bonsai garden has been sponsored the Graeser family in honor of their parents, Emil and Nancy Graeser. “We are deeply grateful to the Graeser family for their ongoing support in providing vision and resources to bring the gardens to life, and in honoring their parents, Emil and Nancy Graeser, who have been big supporters of our project since the beginning.” said Kasey Maier, president and CEO of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens.

The Graeser Family Bonsai Garden has been designed to balance the traditional design of the adjacent Japanese Garden and the surrounding contemporary design of the Waterfront Botanical Gardens, weaving in design aspects from both spaces. The intent is to create a truly unique garden that celebrates the individuality of each bonsai while also creating an experience that is distinctive to the Waterfront Botanical Gardens. The space includes a winding path with small garden “rooms” for rest, reflection and contemplation about the artful bonsai, and a larger plaza that can be used for educational and social gatherings. The Bonsai House will be used for maintenance and protecting the trees during the winter.



Japanese Garden landscape designer, Shiro Nakane, is working closely with the Waterfront Botanical Gardens team and Perkins & Will, the Waterfront Botanical Gardens Master Plan Architects. Mr. Nakane is the son of renowned traditional Japanese landscape designer Kinsaku Nakane.

Shiro Nakane has been following in his father's footsteps since becoming president of Nakane Garden Research and Landscape Consultant Firm, headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, in 1995. This is Mr. Nakane’s fourth visit to Louisville to see the site of the Japanese Garden and meet with the WBG team. He will return several times to oversee the garden’s construction.



**WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS BREAKS GROUND ON
2-ACRE, WORLD-CLASS JAPANESE GARDEN;
FIRST PUBLIC JAPANESE GARDEN IN LOUISVILLE;
TRI-ARROWS ALUMINUM COMMITS \$1 MILLION**

”

“The beautiful thing about this project is that it celebrates both individuality and connectedness. We are humbled to have a work by Shiro Nakane in our great city, and so appreciative of the donors whose generosity has made this Japanese garden, and the overall Waterfront Botanical Gardens possible,” said Mayor Greg Fischer. “In the end, this project will give Louisvillians an opportunity to see ourselves and our beloved home with new eyes, while also giving guests another reason to visit.”

For more information about the Waterfront Botanical Gardens or to inquire about the Japanese Garden, please visit www.waterfrontgardens.org.

About the Waterfront Botanical Gardens

Waterfront Botanical Gardens is being built on a 23-acre site located in Louisville, Kentucky, at the intersection of River Road and Frankfort Avenue, just east of downtown. The site is a former landfill that was closed in the 1970s. It was capped at that time with approximately 25 feet of dirt and fill material covered with grass planting. A full environmental assessment was completed in 2013 and a thorough plant inventory was conducted.

In 2001, Waterfront Botanical Gardens, Inc. – formerly known as Botanica, Inc. – learned that it was the beneficiary of a trust established by member Helen Hargan, a local gardener with a desire to see a botanical garden and conservatory built in Louisville. Hargan’s gift reshaped the focus of the organization and plans for Louisville’s Waterfront Botanical Gardens were underway.

Harrigan’s gift inspired similar gifts from other donors and their families such as Emil and Nancy Graeser, George Duthie in memory of his wife, and Ellen T. Leslie for the Leslie Botanical Classrooms.



Japanese Garden
WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS

**WATERFRONT BOTANICAL GARDENS BREAKS GROUND ON
2-ACRE, WORLD-CLASS JAPANESE GARDEN;
FIRST PUBLIC JAPANESE GARDEN IN LOUISVILLE;
TRI-ARROWS ALUMINUM COMMITS \$1 MILLION**

Thus far, the project has raised over \$25M from public and private donors.

The Waterfront Botanical Gardens are free and open to the public. For hours of operation events and program and parking/accessibility information, visit waterfrontgardens.org.

###

Contact

Kasey Maier, President & CEO
Waterfront Botanical Gardens
502.648.1558
kmaier@waterfrontgardens.org

Street Address

1435 Frankfort Ave, Louisville KY 40206

Mailing Address

PO Box 5056, Louisville KY 40255