

Request for Funding for Phase II

“Liu Ming Yuan” | St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden of Whispering Willows & Flowing Waters, Phalen Regional Park



Overview

- **Liu Ming Yuan** is the first Sister-City China Garden in Minnesota
- MN China Friendship Garden Society Board is **50% Asian**
- Recognizes ethnic diversity of St. Paul and reflects Asian community in St. Paul
- Visible public space **reflecting cultural identity**
- **Liu Ming Yuan** is an Art Form that can touch the human spirit regardless of background
- Collaboration of **Chinese and Hmong communities** in design and use
- Reflects **Hmong ancestral connection to Changsha**, sister-city - unique in the world
- 5-year Sister-Park relationship with Yanghu Wetlands parks and 35-year Sister-City relationship with Changsha (1988-Mayor Latimer)

Phase I – Completed in 2019

- Xiang Jiang Pavilion - replica of 1 of 4 famous pavilions in China & Granite Entrance Archway
- Hmong Heritage Wall - pink granite sculpture with MN Hmong & Changsha Hmong cultural symbols
- Features and poetic inscriptions have deep cultural symbolic meaning
- Cultural & performance venue - Chinese dance, Qeej and Hmong Dance, Chinese painting exhibition, poetry contests, 5K run, & more
- All-volunteer MCFGS Board raised \$1.5M – 400 supporters

Phase II

- Community input on Phase II design
- Adding culturally significant performance and gathering spaces
- Hmong Plaza design complete; construction will begin Spring 2023; to be completed for September 2023 Grand Opening
- Other features: Lakeside Moon Gate Entrance, Chinese Moon Bridge, Xiang Jiang Mountain Stream and Bridge, Donor Wall, Moon Viewing Platform, Chess Table sitting area
- Garden is drawing increasing partners and members of all communities to connect and learn

Funding Needs

- Budget: \$4.6M. Have \$1M in hand.
- Have sufficient funds in hand to construct **Hmong Plaza** in Spring 2023; seeking private funds for Hmong art sculptures
- Seeking \$1,400,000 Legacy and \$2,200,000 Bonding for Phase II construction
- MCFGS is conducting the **Building Bridges Capital Campaign**
- MCFGS is seeking other partners for fundraising and cultural programming

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Moon Gate Entrance

Phase II Features 2023-2025



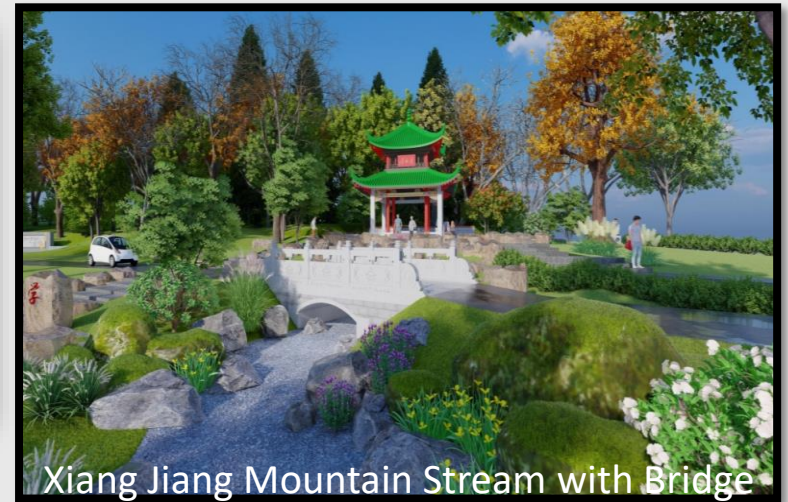
Hmong Plaza- construction to begin 4/2023



Moon Viewing Platform



Chess Table Area



Xiang Jiang Mountain Stream with Bridge



Donor Wall near Archway



Chinese Moon Bridge (connecting Picnic Island)