Arboretum 'Building a More Beautiful Future' with $60 Million Campaign

Public Phase Involves Bee/Pollinator Center, Chinese Garden Walk, Snyder Building Preservation & More

Chanhassen, Minn. (Oct. 2, 2014)—The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation has announced the beginning of the public phase of an ambitious five-year $60 million “Building a More Beautiful Future” fundraising campaign, aimed at transforming the public garden and education and research center into a life-changing destination for horticultural discovery and environmental learning to serve generations to come.

The Arboretum Campaign officially began in 2011 with a private donor effort that to date has already garnered $45 million of the $60 million goal. Now the Arboretum is reaching out to the public for the remaining $15 million to be raised by September 2016.

“The Arboretum Campaign means working together as a community to make a difference for future generations,” said Jeannine Rivet, Campaign Chair and Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation trustee.

“We are proud to be a part of the lives of generations of Minnesotans who value our rich horticultural heritage,” says Ed Schneider, Arboretum director and professor at the University of Minnesota. “We believe the stakes are high for the Arboretum to grow and meet the needs of a changing world.”

Here’s a snapshot of some of the vital projects and programs included in this campaign:

- The Tashjian Bee and Pollinator Discovery Center. With initial funding from two generations, the late Alice Tashjian, her son Joe Tashjian and his wife Kay, this new center will be dedicated to research and community outreach on the vital life-preserving role of bees and other pollinators on this planet.
• **Farm Garden and Red Barn.** This proposed center will encompass the area near and including the Arboretum's iconic Red Barn and transform it into a learning hub on sustainable farming and landscaping, as well as a demonstration site for urban food production. This will be a year-round center for events and educational programming for all ages.

• **Eastern Drive.** This new multi-use roadway will branch out from the Arboretum's Three-Mile Drive and connect the proposed Farm Garden and Red Barn, Bee & Pollinator Discovery Center and Spring Peeper Meadow with other Arboretum core buildings and gardens.

• **Hsiao Chinese Garden Walk.** Meant as a serene transition from the hectic modern world to a peaceful and tranquil environment, this garden walk will wind around a wetland pond and through a landscape dotted with weeping willows, peonies, daylilies and other plantings and vegetation of Asian origin, as well as a bridge and open air pavilion. Initial funds for the Garden Walk were provided by the Fred and Jennie Hsiao family. Naming opportunities for garden walk elements are available.

• **Snyder Building Historic Preservation& Improvements.** This Edwin Lundie-designed historic landmark serves as a multipurpose center at the Arboretum, bustling with vital activity. It encompasses Andersen Horticultural Library, Meyer-Deats Conservatory, an auditorium and classrooms for Arboretum events, the charming Tea Room, Fireplace Room and staff offices. Improvement plans include much-needed temperature and humidity controls, ADA-accessible restrooms and energy-efficient lighting.

• **Expanded Conservatory.** The expansion of the Meyer-Deats Conservatory in the Snyder Building would highlight plant displays in varying climate ecosystems – from desert setting to alpine to tropical rainforest; along with educational programs.

Several features of the Arboretum Campaign already have been completed. These include the Sculpture Garden, Bog Walk endowment, a dazzling new Grand Entry Plaza and Gatehouse at the Arboretum entrance, three new visitor rest areas/ Circulator stops along the Arboretum's Three-Mile Drive, and the renovated Woodland Azalea Garden and Waterfall.

For information on contributing to the Arboretum Campaign, visit [www.arbcampaign.org](http://www.arbcampaign.org) or call the Development office at 612-301-1263. Mailing address is: Arboretum Campaign, 3675 Arboretum Dr., Chaska, MN 55318.

*The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the largest public garden in the Upper Midwest, is part of the University of Minnesota's College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences. It is located 9 miles west of I-494 on Highway 5 in Chanhassen. Open daily except for Thanksgiving & Christmas Day. Admission: $12 for ages 13 and older; free for ages 12 & younger and free for members.*