

# The Cleveland Cultural Gardens



The Cleveland Cultural Gardens is a unique phenomenon not only in America but also in the world. One of the City of Cleveland's many parks, this 254-acre tranquil, ravine-like setting spans two miles between University Circle, Cleveland's re-

nowned cultural center, and Lake Erie. The land was donated to the City by John D. Rockefeller in 1896 as a part of the celebration of the City's first centennial. The Park was designed by prominent landscape architect Ernest W. Bowditch.

The Gardens evolved during the early 1900s. The Shakespeare Garden was the first to be built in 1916. Ten years later, Leo Weidenthal, editor and publisher of the Jewish Independent, conceived the idea of a garden chain that would represent the many cultures of the world and stand as a symbol of brotherhood. Under the leadership of Weidenthal and President Charles Wolfram, the Federation was formed and the Gardens entered a long period of growth.

The Gardens were developed as a joint effort between Cleveland's ethnic communities, the City of Cleveland and the Federal Government – namely the Work Progress Administration (WPA). This is one of the aspects that sets this park aside as a historically significant place; it is a living memorial to the role WPA played in the recent US history and to the notion of multi nationalism that was surfacing at the time. This cultural diversity has been the foundation of Cleveland and of this Country. Therein lies the significance of the theme of the Gardens "Peace through mutual understanding" as stated by Clara Lederer in her book about the Gardens "Their Paths are Peace", published in 1954.

Today, the Cleveland Cultural Gardens include fountains, decorative ironwork, and over 60 sculptures. A total of 36 cultures are currently represented. Among the newest gardens are the Syrian garden, begun in May of 2011, and Albanian garden, begun in 2012.

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

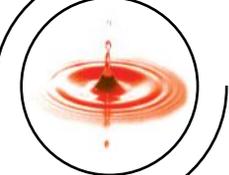


We look forward to working with everyone as we raise fund, design and construct our wonderful Vietnamese Cultural Garden. We invite all to join our team.

For more information, contact us at:  
[giahaoaryan@yahoo.com](mailto:giahaoaryan@yahoo.com), 216. 651-6748  
 or [oklpowell@gmail.com](mailto:oklpowell@gmail.com), 440.319.5566

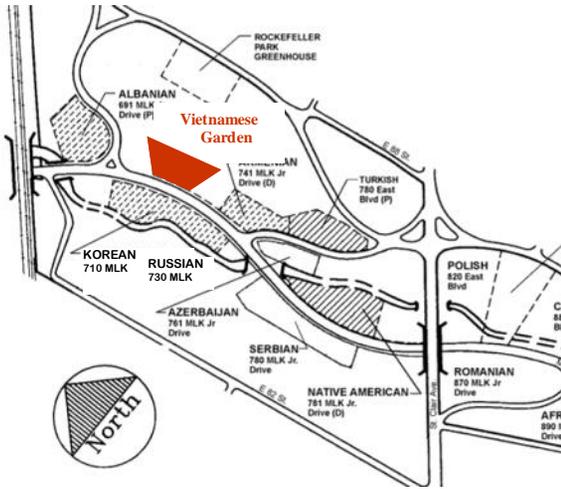


Sponsored by:  
 The Friendship Federation  
 of American Vietnamese



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

## THE VIETNAMESE CULTURAL GARDEN



The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation (CCGF) announced in November, 2012, the acceptance of the Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese (FFAVN) as the sponsoring organization within the CCGF committed to work toward the development and creation of the Vietnamese Cultural Garden.

Located toward the North end of Martin Luther King Blvd., on the East side of the street, the Vietnamese Cultural Garden is proud to join the CCGF. Our goal is to share the culture and traditions of the Vietnamese people, thereby fostering understanding, friendship, and cooperation among the peoples of various nations.

We thank you for your support and look forward to making this Garden a reality.



*Our temporary Garden during the 2016 One World Day, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens*



### The Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese

The Mission of the Friendship Foundation is "to build bridges of friendship" between the peoples of Vietnam and Asia with the peoples of the United States and other peoples of the world. The Foundation promotes ties of understanding and good will through volunteer work and other initiatives in Vietnam and the US.

The Friendship Foundation has conducted many charitable and humanitarian activities both in Vietnam and in the US. The Foundation has sponsored almost 1,000 volunteers who have journeyed to Vietnam over the last 20 years to help hospitals, orphanages, homes for the disabled, schools, remote rural villages, medical clinics, and other agencies helping the poor. The Foundation has provided some \$20 million of assistance to Vietnam in the form of scholarships, school supplies, funds for the needy, food, clothing, housing, toys, art supplies, medical equipment, instruction and lectures, surgeries and medical procedures, and services of various kinds.

## Support the Vietnamese Cultural Garden



Please print your information and return this section to the Vietnamese Cultural Garden at the address below.

Annual Friends & Supporters:

- Individual \$25       Family \$50  
 Business \$100       Corporate \$250  
 Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Benefactors:

- Pearl \$2,500       Rubies \$5,000  
 Jade \$10,000

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to:**

Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese  
Memo—Vietnamese Cultural Garden

**Mail to:**

Vietnamese Cultural Garden  
2234 West Boulevard  
Cleveland, OH 44102

*The Friendship Foundation of American Vietnamese (FFAVN) is a 501(c)(3) organization.*