

East Side
Arts
Council

March 10, 2015

977 Payne Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55130

651•774-5422
FAX: 651•774-5502

Dear CIB Community Facilities Task Force members,

I am writing on behalf of the East Side Arts Council. Our organization brings a wide range of arts programs to the East Side including concerts, art for youth and families, and art in public places.

This letter is in support of the CIB proposal for the St. Paul – Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen - Keller Regional Park, which requests funding to refine and advance a Design Development process leading to the Installation funding and Initial Construction Phase of the China Garden. We support this China Garden project and urge you to approve the requested funding.

The China Garden amenity is valuable to our constituency because it is a project that creates a great addition to the East Side, celebrating a global friendship with China and the garden will provide a space for people to gather and enjoy Phalen – Keller Regional Park, increasing its spaces for concerts and arts events.

Sincerely,



Sarah Fehr
Executive Director

PAYNE PHALEN DISTRICT FIVE PLANNING COUNCIL

STRONG  SAFE  WELCOMING  CONNECTED  NEIGHBORHOODS

March 10, 2015

To: Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) Community Facilities Task Force

From: Board of Directors – Payne-Phalen District Five Planning Council

Submitted by Leslie McMurray, Executive Director on behalf of the Board



Re: St. Paul – Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen-Keller Regional Park

The Board of Directors of the Payne-Phalen District Five Planning Council strongly supports the St. Paul – Changsha China Friendship Garden to be developed at Lake Phalen. We are excited to have this project, which is approved in the city-adopted Master Plan, gain public interest, momentum and funding for its design and implementation. We write today to underscore the high level of local neighborhood interest in completing this planned feature in Phalen- Keller Regional Park.

Last November, our District Five Payne Phalen Environment Committee hosted a community forum on the potential for this China Garden. We found that this project enjoys broad appeal from across our diverse community. The location – the Payne – Phalen, the Keller-Phalen Regional Park is a highly valued key feature of our neighborhood that serves to draw in regional visitors and park users. This positively reinforces our local economic development. Our Payne-Phalen population is now nearly one-third Asian. As residents, we enjoy having aesthetic features in our public spaces that reflect our diverse cultures. For those of us who are Hmong, there is some excitement around recognizing the special historical and cultural ties with St. Paul's sister city relationship with Changsha, China. As a busy urban community with few undeveloped spaces, we are eager to have more beautiful, reflective public spaces in our local parks and neighborhood. As a very young neighborhood – about one-third of our residents under the age of 18 – we find the educational potential of the China Friendship Garden to be important for all of our young families.

We ask for your strong consideration for this project. We note that this request is for a funded design development and early implementation. This investment helps to secure additional public and private funds.

We appreciate your leadership in the CIB process and we thank you for your consideration of this proposal. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 651-774-5234 or d5-director@visi.com.

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FRIENDSHIP
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明州中国友好花园协会

c/o P.O. Box 251002

Woodbury, MN 55125

mn.china.garden@comcast.net

Website: mnchinagarden.org

www.uscpfa-mn.org

March 6, 2015

LETTER OF SUPPORT

Dear CIB Community Facilities Task Force members,

I am writing on behalf of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society (MCFGs).

This letter is in support of the CIB proposal for the **St. Paul - Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen-Keller Regional Park**, which requests funding to refine and advance a Design Development process leading to the Installation funding & Initial Construction Phase of the China Garden. We fully support this China Garden project and urge you to approve the requested funding.

MCFGs is non-profit and non-political organization, established in 2000, with a mission to establish China Friendship Gardens in Minnesota in order to further promote friendship and understanding between the peoples of China and Minnesota. We are one of the initiators of this CIB proposal.

This China Garden amenity is a valuable project to our constituency because it is a sister-city project between the City of St. Paul and Changsha, Hunan Province, China, a relationship that we have helped foster, along with the US-China Peoples Friendship Garden Society since 1988. The China Garden would be a welcomed amenity in Phalen Park.

Thank you for your consideration. 谢谢你们。



Linda Mealey-Lohmann 苗丽莲
President and Founding Director

The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organization

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Calligraphy for the "Yuan" character by C.C. Hsiao

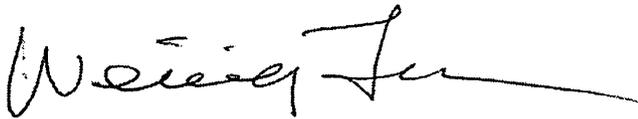
**Weiming Lu, FAICP, Hon. AIA
Urban Planning and Development Advisor
5800 St. Croix Ave. N.
Minneapolis, MN. 55422**

Dear CIB Community Facilities Task Force members,

I am one of the Advisors for the MN China Friendship Garden Society. And as former President, Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation, I have been involved in many City projects, including the redesign and rebuilding of the Mears Park, the reclamation of a brownfield into the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, and the rejuvenation of Lowertown to a new Urban Village.

I am writing in support of the CIB proposal for the **St. Paul - Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen-Keller Regional Park**, which requests funding to refine and advance a Design Development process leading to the Installation funding & Initial Construction Phase of the China Garden. I fully support this China Garden project and urge you to approve the requested funding.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Weiming Lu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Weiming Lu, FAICP, Hon. AIA
Urban Planning and Development Advisor**



Dear CIB Community Facilities Task Force members

I am writing on behalf of the **MN Dragon Festival** hosts yearly in ST Paul Phalen Park since 1996, our mission is to bring together the greater twin cities community in celebration of the diverse Asian Pacific Cultures through an annual event with various forms of Asian Pacific artistic, educational and, athletic activities through cultural performances, martial arts, the healing arts, and outdoor activities such as our famous and well known boat races.

This letter is in support of the CIB proposal for the **St. Paul - Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen-Keller Regional Park**, which requests funding to refine and advance a Design of the China Garden, we fully support this China Garden project and sincerely hope and urge you to approve the requested funding.

This China Garden amenity is a valuable project to our constituency by fostering trust and a sense of community among Asian-Pacific ethnic communities with a sense of pride respecting and honoring the dignity and value as part of our Asian-Pacific histories, cultures, and traditions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brenda Fong
Funding Director

3/9/2015



美中人民友好協會明州分會

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Peoples
Friendship
Association
of Minnesota**

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Margaret Wong

P.O. Box 251002
Woodbury, MN 55125

www.uscpfa-mn.org

March 9, 2015

Dear CIB Community Facilities Task Force members,

I am writing on behalf of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association of Minnesota (USCPFA-MN).

This letter is in support of the CIB proposal for the **St. Paul - Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen-Keller Regional Park**, which requests funding to refine and advance a Design Development process leading to the Installation funding & Initial Construction Phase of the China Garden. We fully support this China Garden project and urge you to approve the requested funding.

USCPFA-MN is non-profit, non-political, educational organization, established in 1974 to develop and strengthen friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and China. We remain strong in our mission and its fulfillment today.

This China Garden amenity is a valuable project to our constituency because it is a sister-city project between the City of St. Paul and Changsha, Hunan Province, China, a relationship that we have fostered since 1988. The China Garden would be a welcomed amenity in Phalen Park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours truly,

Walter Graff, Co-Chair