

Design Advisory Committee for Phase II of St Paul Changsha China Friendship Garden  
As of 3/17/2022

Name	Organization	Email
<b>Ali Van (Female)</b>	MCFGs Board	<a href="mailto:alzvan@gmail.com">alzvan@gmail.com</a>
<p>ALI VAN feels motility. She lives in taxis and inspirits everyday. She is concerned with being here. North Oaks resident</p>		
<b>Romi Slowiak (Female)</b>	MCFGs Board	<a href="mailto:romislowiak@gmail.com">romislowiak@gmail.com</a>
<p>Romi Slowiak lives on the east shore of Lake Phalen and has fallen in love with this garden art form. She has been on the board of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society since 2015. St. Paul resident</p>		
<b>Linda Mealey-Lohmann (Female)</b>	MCFGs Board	<a href="mailto:linda.chinagarden@comcast.net">linda.chinagarden@comcast.net</a>
<p>Co-Founder of the MN China Friendship Garden Society (2005) and was its President from 2005 to 2020. She led MCFGs through Phase I fundraising (over \$1 million) and Phase I construction to the Grand Opening in 2019; and was project manager for the 9 Art Stones. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in East Asian Studies, a Master's Degree in Chinese Language and Literature, and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. She has done extensive research on China Gardens, Chinese culture and literature/poetry, over nearly 40 years and 23 trips to China. Woodbury resident</p>		
<b>Bill Zajicek (Male)</b> St. Paul resident	MCFGs Board	<a href="mailto:mcfgs@mnchinagarden.org">mcfgs@mnchinagarden.org</a>
<b>Brian Hammer (Male)</b>	MCFGs Board	<a href="mailto:brianhammer.mcfgs@gmail.com">brianhammer.mcfgs@gmail.com</a>
<p>Brian holds a PhD in human geography from the University of Washington in Seattle and has worked in the US-Asia Pacific global education arena for many years. He currently serves as Executive Director of think2perform Research Institute, a non-profit promoting emotional intelligence and ethical leadership based in the Twin Cities. Minneapolis resident</p>		
<b>Mary Warpeha (Female)</b> Shoreview resident	MCFGs Board	<a href="mailto:marywarpeha@gmail.com">marywarpeha@gmail.com</a>
<b>Bill Pesek (Male)</b> St. Paul resident	MCFGs Honorary Advisor	<a href="mailto:williampesekcity@gmail.com">williampesekcity@gmail.com</a>

<b>Jijun He (Male)</b>	Chinese Advisory Committee (CAC)	<a href="mailto:hejijun@hotmail.com">hejijun@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Christina Deng Morrison (Female)</b>	CAC	<a href="mailto:cdengmorri@yahoo.com">cdengmorri@yahoo.com</a>
<p>Christina has a Bachelor's degree in English, a Master's degree in Communications and a Master's degree in Eastern European Literature. She is the Founder and President of TJL International, a multilingual communications agency.</p> <p>Christina has been a Chinese Advisory Board member since 2017. She became a board member of MCFGS in 2021. As the Editor in Chief of Minnesota Chinese World, Christina has personally written or published many Chinese articles and news reports about the China Friendship Garden. Minnesota Chinese World was awarded "The Best Media" in 2019 at the Garden Grand Opening Gala Banquet.</p> <p>Christina also serves as the President of Sino-American Neocultural Exchange. She has successfully planned, hosted, or organized numerous large-scale Chinese cultural events in the Twin Cities since 2009.</p>		
<b>Ping Wang (Male)</b>	CAC	<a href="mailto:pwang118@gmail.com">pwang118@gmail.com</a>
<b>Meichun Jia (Female)</b>	CAC	<a href="mailto:meichundaily@gmail.com">meichundaily@gmail.com</a>
<b>Haoyu Zhao (Female)</b>	CAC	<a href="mailto:Haoyu.h.zhao@gmail.com">Haoyu.h.zhao@gmail.com</a>
<p>Haoyu Zhao is a Chinese landscape designer based off Minneapolis/Boston area, she recently completed her Master Degree of Landscape Architecture at Harvard Graduate School of Design. She also holds a Bachelor Degree of Engineering from East China University of Science and Technology in Shanghai. Her academic works received 2019 BSLA Student Merit Awards.</p>		

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>email</b>
<b>Thangying Chuyangheu (Male)</b>	Hmong Adv Committee	<a href="mailto:thangyingh@yahoo.com">thangyingh@yahoo.com</a>
<p>Ying Chu-Yang-Heu is the Chairman of the Hmong Advisory Committee for the MM-China Friendship Garden. Ying was born in March 15, 1956 in Laos. Ying was a Law School student in Laos.</p> <p>Ying is now a Business Owner in MN. And in Laos.</p>		
<b>Vallen Herr (Male)</b>	Hmong Adv Committee	<a href="mailto:koua2@hotmail.com">koua2@hotmail.com</a>

<b>Dona Yang (Female)</b>	Hmong Adv Committee	<a href="mailto:dona.yang@hotmail.com">dona.yang@hotmail.com</a>
<p>My name is Dona Vu Yang. I am a board member for Hmong Cultural Heritage Preservation Inc, and Hmong Advisory Group. I am also on Hmong Plaza Design Committee. I am currently working as Office Manager at Wellness Adult Day Care in St. Paul, MN. I speak Hmong, Lao, Thai, French, and English.</p>		
<b>Kao Lee Thao (Female)</b>	Hmong Adv Committee	<a href="mailto:kaoleethao@innerswirl.com">kaoleethao@innerswirl.com</a>
<p>Kao Lee Thao is a Visual/Public artist and 3D animator. All of her inspirations come from my dreams and personal experiences. With every stroke I leave behind a window into my soul, hoping to spark inspiration in others to transport viewers to a world of fantasy, reminding us not to forget what imagination can accomplish in life.</p>		
<b>Nelsie Yang (Female)</b> St Paul Resident	Ward 6	ward6@ci.stpaul.mn.us
<b>Tong Vang (Male)</b>	Former National Hmong Veteran's Organization	tongvang5562@gmail.com
<b>Jack Byers (Male)</b> St Paul Resident	District 5 Payne Phalen	director@paynephalen.org
<b>Stuart Knappmiller (Male)</b>	Community Rep (CR)	<a href="mailto:stuartknappmiller49@hotmail.com">stuartknappmiller49@hotmail.com</a>
<p>Stuart Knappmiller and his partner Mary Ellen raised two children in their home a block off the SW corner of Lake Phalen. For 45 years they've run, biked, canoed, swam, nordic skied most every day there. He has volunteered for a Living at Home Program, The Center for Victims of Torture, MN PTA, SPPS, St Paul Parks, Ramsey Washington Water Stewards, Lower Phalen Creek Project and lobbied for multiple environmental and justice NGO's. St. Paul resident</p>		
<b>Susan Klevan (Female)</b>	CR	<a href="mailto:seklevan@yahoo.com">seklevan@yahoo.com</a>
<p>I am an avid gardener experienced growing perennials and Minnesota native pollinator plants. I am a member of the Garden Club of Ramsey County, currently serving as treasurer. My background is in managing software for financial services firms. I have visited China and love that this garden in my neighborhood is bringing together a partnership between Changsha and Saint Paul and building relationships among people from different backgrounds. The chosen site and design for extending the garden to the lagoon with rocks, perennials and bridge</p>		

as well as the existing temple and arch are stunning. I am honored to be invited to serve on this community group for the Changsha China Friendship Garden.

St. Paul resident

**Jeff Vang (Male)**  
St. Paul resident

CR

[jeff.hmonghlc@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.hmonghlc@gmail.com)

**Jeffrey Lor**

Park & Rec Staff

[jeffrey.lor@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:jeffrey.lor@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

**Moua Xiong**

Parks & Rec  
Youth Commission

[Moua.Xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:Moua.Xiong@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

**Regina Rippel  
(Female)**

CR

[reginar99@yahoo.com](mailto:reginar99@yahoo.com)

I am retired and fill my days with part-time work and volunteering. One of those tasks is maintaining a community garden. This was a lot with a condemned house. After the house was demolished I developed this garden after the D5 got permission. I have also remodeled several homes and done many landscaping projects; I have a good eye for color and shape coordination. I am a world traveler and enjoy what other cultures have to offer.

St. Paul Resident