

## **UCLA Hannah Carter Japanese Garden Complete Position Statement**

It is important that UCLA hears from those concerned about the future of the Garden. Please take a moment to reach out to UCLA Chancellor Gene Block and the University of California Regents and urge an immediate halt to the Garden's sale:

**Ask that UCLA stop the sale of the Garden and work with the Coalition** to secure a public-private partnership to maintain and operate the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden for future generations to both learn from and enjoy. Please send a copy of any correspondence to the Coalition at [info@hannahcarterjapanesegarden.com](mailto:info@hannahcarterjapanesegarden.com).

UCLA Chancellor's Office  
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Los Angeles, CA 90095-1405  
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The Coalition to Save the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden strongly believes that the **Garden should be preserved and can be successfully operated and maintained through a public-private partnership, rather than destroyed**, a likely outcome of UCLA's planned sale.

Please feel free to use the following points summarizing the Coalition's advocacy position for your letters to the UCLA Chancellor and Regents:

- **The Hannah Carter Japanese Garden is a nationally-significant historic place.**  
Constructed between 1959 and 1961, the one-and-one-half hillside garden is among the largest and most significant private residential Japanese-style gardens built in the United States in the immediate Post World War II period. It is important for its landscape design as a Japanese pond-and-hill-style garden, associated with two of the most prominent designers of Japanese gardens, Nagao Sakurai and Koichi Kawana. It is also significant symbolically, as the first major Japanese garden built in Southern California following World War II, signaling a return appreciation of Japanese culture. Every effort should be taken to avoid the destruction of this extraordinarily rare garden.
- **The Hannah Carter Japanese Garden was donated to UCLA in 1964 to be cared for and maintained in perpetuity; UCLA should honor the donors' intent and terms of the agreement.**  
In September 2010, UCLA went to court to secure permission to remove the "in perpetuity" requirement within the original donation agreement for the garden, claiming changed circumstances. UCLA now intends to use proceeds from the sale of the garden as well as the adjacent Carter residence to support academic programs. This ignores key priorities stated within the 1982 gift agreement, as amended by UCLA and Mr. Carter. At that time, Mr. Carter agreed to allow UCLA to sell the residence in the future with proceeds to be invested by UCLA and used to support various priorities,

including clearly stating, as his first priority “to be used in perpetuity for the maintenance and improvement of the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden.”

- **Selling the garden to the highest bidder without any conditions or protections -- as currently planned by UCLA -- endangers the garden and severely limits its likelihood for survival.**

UCLA is planning to list the garden for sale sometime in early February and accept sealed bids through May. As a requirement for selling State-owned property, UCLA must accept the highest bid, regardless of the planned use or intent for the site. The sale of the garden is estimated to generate approximately \$5.7 million. This figure is based on an appraisal of the highest and best use of the property, a use that would produce the highest value for the property, regardless of its actual current use as a garden. Zoned agricultural, the one-and-one-half-acre hillside site could conceivably be redeveloped for a single-family residence, destroying the garden. If sold, at the very least, UCLA should place protective covenants or an easement as a condition of the sale.

- **Gardens and other significant landscapes in Los Angeles and across the nation have been successfully operated, maintained, and preserved through private-public partnerships -- all while serving educational purposes.**

In November 2011, UCLA first announced plans to sell the garden, citing rising maintenance costs, deferred maintenance, and the lack of attendance due to limited parking. To date UCLA has not reached out to garden, conservation or potential friends groups to explore potential partnerships to address these issues or look for creative ways to raise private funding to support the garden. Despite possible collaborations with Japanese studies and viable strategies to address long-standing parking issues, UCLA claims the garden “serves no academic purpose” and using it “for any public functions is highly problematic.”