

A Message from the Executive Directors, Gretchen Bartzen and Billie Hopper.

It was five years ago that we took on the role of Co-Executive Directors at the Garden. At that time the Garden needed someone to “be there” to lead it onward. We have welcomed the opportunity to work with a talented, generous staff and volunteer family to grow membership, visitors, and the Nursery, which enables the Garden to continue to flourish.

In 2016 we continued to grow operations to support the Garden’s mission: to preserve and develop Ruth’s exceptional collection and garden design, and to inspire and educate the wide world. This Annual Report reminds us that there would be no growth without the tremendous passion and

dedication of those who work in the Garden and those behind the scenes supporting us—planning, planting, contributing, creating, teaching and nurturing. At a recent Member Coffee we met one of our newest members, four year old Eduardo. He asks to visit the Garden every week “because it is the most beautiful place in the world.” It is a thrill to see the Garden through Eduardo’s eyes, and to know we are all a part of helping the Garden “be there” for him and for so many others. We are grateful to all of our members, volunteers, and supporters who were there for us in 2016.

2016 YEAR IN REVIEW

Community Engagement

Last August, 200+ Garden members and friends met on a Saturday in downtown Civic Park in Walnut Creek. Led by local clay artists Donna Billick and Amanda Larson and the Center for Community Arts in Walnut Creek, they created colorful succulent-themed tiles to be incorporated in two 20’ long mosaic “Welcome Walls.” These community built

murals will be completed in conjunction with the Garden’s new Visitor and Education Center in 2018. A sample of one of the mural panels is now on display at the Garden.



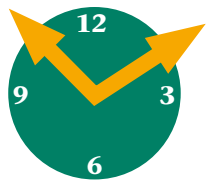
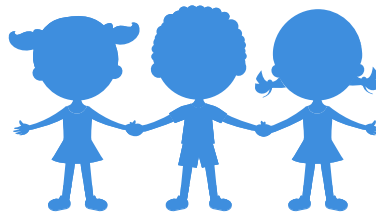
“The Bold Dry Garden”

A lush coffee table book by Johanna Silver and photographed by Marion Brenner, was published by Timber Press in September. The book recognizes Ruth Bancroft’s historic contribution to horticulture and received enthusiastic reviews by many publications including The New York Times, Architectural Digest, the San Francisco Chronicle, Pacific Horticulture, Better Homes and Gardens and numerous specialty garden blogs. You can purchase the book at the Garden, or wherever books are sold.



469 children

toured the garden, with support from the Quest Foundation



8,085 hours logged in by over 185 volunteers

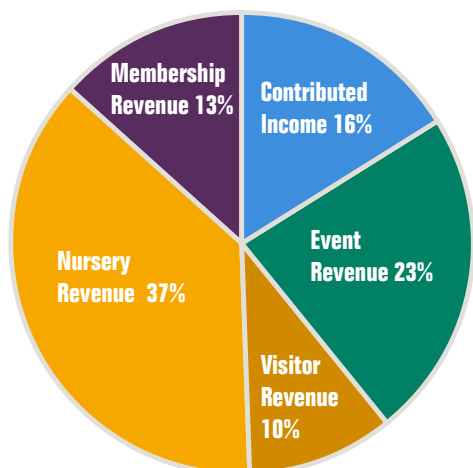


Improvements

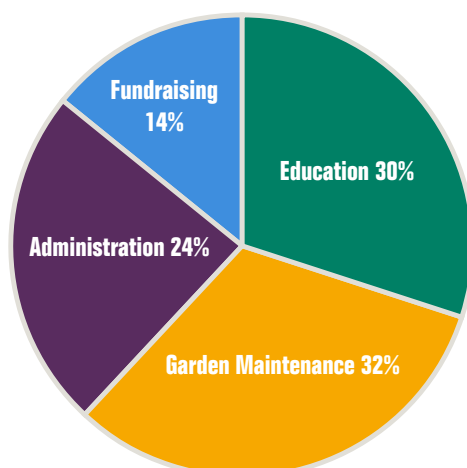
Well, pump, and water storage tank installed on Garden property with grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

15,000 Visitors

toured the Garden, a 15% increase from 2015.



2016 INCOME: \$626,927



2016 EXPENSES: \$546,124

Visitor and Education Center Project Progress in 2016

Thank You also to the many Visitor and Education Center donors who have participated in the Campaign thus far. Contributions totaled \$818,000 in 2016. We will be publishing a complete list of donors to the Campaign in a Campaign Newsletter in August. Donors to date can also be viewed on the Garden website.