



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



# By the Numbers

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

**1,211,165**

visits to the Gardens,  
53% free of charge



**14,023**

accessions in the Gardens'  
living collection

**10,561**

different kinds of plants,  
10% wild collected origin

**\$7,996,681**

total admissions revenue



**29,998**

Gardens of Golden Gate Park  
Passes purchased to enjoy all  
three Gardens for 3 days



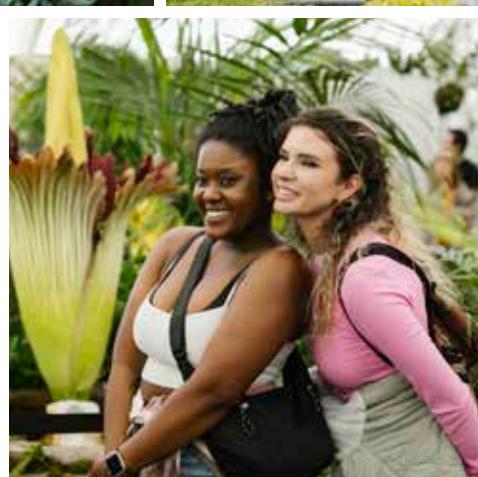
**30,182**

plants sold



**33,730**

children served through  
engaging programs



**1,557**

volunteers

**22,631**

volunteer hours

**114,977**

individuals served through  
public programs

**515**

tours led by San Francisco City  
Guides at the Japanese Tea  
Garden serving 6,548 people



To everyone who supported the Gardens of Golden Gate Park over the past year, THANK YOU!

Together, we advanced our strategic goals and welcomed more than 1.2 million visitors to enjoy the Gardens.

Thanks to the outstanding leadership and generosity of our Gala for the Gardens Co-Chairs Claire Myers and Nicola Miner, along with an expanded event committee, the 2025 Gala was the most successful ever!

This year marked the 10th anniversary of Flower Piano, our uniquely San Francisco music festival that has become part of the long tradition of music in Golden Gate Park. More than 77,000 people joined us to celebrate this milestone, including Presenting Sponsor, the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation, as well as Mayor Daniel Lurie.

At the Conservatory of Flowers, we welcomed more than 7,000 people to smell and witness the bloom of Chanel, the Corpse Flower. We've also been working to improve interpretive services and signage at the Conservatory.

At the Japanese Tea Garden, we added beautiful new pathways and garden space to improve accessibility and give visitors and the garden more breathing room. We launched public programs and private rentals with the completion of the Pagoda Plaza.

At the Botanical Garden, we hosted a well-attended ribbon-cutting celebration at the new nursery and made several improvements including new accessible pathways and a renovation of the Great Meadow restrooms. The premiere of Lightscape enchanted more than 180,000 people with a breathtaking mile-long trail of light, sound, and color.

Over the years, while federal funding has been a relatively small part of our budget, it has been critical for important projects such as a concept plan for the renovation of our Children's Garden, a comprehensive interpretive master plan, and collections management including a powerful database. These funds came through the Institute of Museums and Library Services (IMLS) which now has an uncertain future. The loss of this funding means that now, more than ever, we rely on the support of individuals and private foundations to support these core programs and special projects.

In addition to the increasing number of individuals and foundations who are supporting the Gardens, our volunteer corps is also growing with more than 1,500 dedicated volunteers contributing their time and skills over the past year. We're also growing our number of community and corporate partnerships, and more people are joining the Gardens as members. Our participation in the Museums for All Programs is also expanding with more people in need visiting the Gardens free of charge.

Even in tough times, people like you rally around the Gardens and all they have to offer our community and our visitors from around the world. You help us provide a peaceful place for reflection and calm, a celebratory space for meaningful gatherings of friends and family, an outdoor classroom for environmental education, and a platform for arts and culture intersecting with nature. The Gardens mean many things to many people, and we're grateful to ALL of YOU!

With gratitude,

Stephanie Linder  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Joseph Rothleutner  
GARDEN DIRECTOR, SF RECREATION & PARKS

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# Youth in the Garden

## CLIMATE EDUCATION IN THE GARDENS

In fall of 2024, the Gardens of Golden Gate Park was honored to be selected as one of six public gardens nationwide to participate in the Plants and Climate Change Education (PLACCE) peer learning program. Sponsored by the U.S. Botanic Garden and the American Public Gardens Association, PLACCE supports public gardens in developing plant-focused climate change education programs that can serve as national models.

Through this two-year initiative, our team has received \$50,000 in funding to develop, test, and share climate education curricula and resources. Our focus is incorporating climate education into our Children's Garden Multi-Visit Program, which engages K-3 students from across San Francisco. In January, Education Coordinator Nichole Davis joined the first in-person PLACCE cohort convening in Washington, D.C., marking the beginning of this transformative collaboration.

Already, this work is taking root in classrooms. In early spring, Nichole and Garden Educator Erick Monroy visited thirteen classrooms whose students participate in our Children's Garden program. These winter visits helped students build connections between their fall and spring garden visits, supporting learning about seasonality and plants. Seed dissections, sorting activities, and discussions on seed dispersal helped connect classroom learning to the natural world.

As we grow our climate education offerings, we are also deepening our commitment to bilingual education. This year marked a step forward in serving Spanish-speaking communities across San Francisco, largely through the efforts of Garden Educator Erick Monroy, a native Spanish speaker. At the California Academy of Sciences Rock Fund Family Night, Erick and San Francisco State interns welcomed more than 250 guests—primarily Spanish-speaking families from the Mission, Excelsior, and Bayview—with engaging hands-on plant science-focused activities.

In the Children's Garden, Erick and interns provided Spanish language support for nine sessions serving Spanish speakers and learners. Thanks to intern Valeria, a second-grade Spanish immersion class visiting the Conservatory of Flowers was welcomed with an introduction entirely in Spanish—the first time we've been able to



offer such programming. This pilot effort was made possible by intentional planning and staff capacity building.

To support this work, Erick designed and led a specialized volunteer training on best practices for working with Spanish-speaking groups. Six bilingual interns and volunteers were equipped to support youth programs across the Gardens, significantly increasing our ability to deliver more inclusive experiences.

In addition to providing programs for school children, our team is preparing the next generation of educators. This spring, Nichole and Erick led outdoor learning workshops for two classes of elementary education credential students from San Francisco State University. The team also co-hosted sessions with our partners from Climate Corps Education Outside, welcoming 35 garden educators for training sessions in our Children's Garden as well as a mid-year skill-sharing session focused on outdoor teaching strategies.

From expanding climate literacy to advancing language access, our team is building a more inclusive and sustainable future.



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# Plants & Place

As the autumn season brought visitors to discover the yellows, oranges, and reds within our collections, like the cherry, beech and alder trees in San Francisco Botanical Garden and the ginkgo and new maple collections in the Japanese Tea Garden, they also found other exciting improvements. A variety of new, aromatic plants replaced old plant beds in our Garden of Fragrance, inviting visitors to circle the displays and enjoy the scents from every angle. New plantings are also finding their roots in the southeast corner of the McBean Wildfowl Pond, including select cultivars of Marguerite daisy (*Argyranthemum frutescens*), Ruby Cluster strawflower (*Helichrysum amorginum*), and Spanish lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*). The Conservatory of Flowers received a generous donation from the San Francisco

Orchid Society during Orchids in the Park including a variety of rare jewel orchids. Their contribution of nearly 100 accessions, including 70 new taxa, will be featured in 2026. In the Japanese Tea Garden, visitors enjoy exciting renovations that have expanded its spaces and improved accessibility, including a scenic new path that guides visitors from the entrance to the newly completed Pagoda Plaza. Collections highlights for the year include:

#### CHANEL, THE CORPSE FLOWER

The Conservatory of Flowers has a small, special collection of five corpse flowers (*Amorphophallus titanum*), native to the rainforests of Sumatra and one of the largest and most pungent flowering structures in the plant kingdom. When in bloom (roughly every 3-5 years, for only 48 hours!), it

emits a powerful stench often compared to rotting flesh, a clever adaptation that attracts pollinators like carrion beetles and flesh flies. Like her Conservatory sibling Scarlet two years ago, Chanel the Corpse Flower bloomed just after the Fourth of July, engaging 7,000 visitors over two days and nights in a rare and remarkable experience.

Chanel was a media superstar, garnering coverage from all angles including the Associated Press and Reuters as well as special coverage from regional media like KQED Science, San Francisco Standard, SFGate, NBC Bay Area, and more. A live cam captured every moment of the bloom and its visitors, with Gardens volunteers at interpretation stations answering questions and offering more information about this fascinating, charismatic, pungent and endangered-in-the-wild flower.





#### THE NEW NURSERY OPENS

In late May, we hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to formally launch operations at our new state-of-the-art plant nursery. Our new nursery replaces a 50-year-old facility and makes it possible to nurture our living plant collections and exchange rare plants from around the globe with other botanical gardens, governments, and nonprofits with the goal of preserving these species and saving them from extinction.

Working with award-winning design firm Siegel & Strain, we developed the new nursery and maintenance facility design. The new facility is approximately 40,000 square feet including growing space, a climate-controlled greenhouse, a seed room to store viable seeds from the Gardens and outside sources, and sanitary areas for plant propagation. The nursery uses 40% less energy when compared to the old facility and has eliminated natural gas usage completely, becoming one of the first all-electric nurseries in California. This shift to electric power has also allowed the Gardens to convert all small gas-powered landscape equipment to viable zero emission alternatives.

A functional nursery is critical to maintaining and growing our thriving plant collections. Worldwide, botanical gardens play a crucial role in protecting the world's plant biodiversity in the face of the extinction crisis. As habitats are destroyed, botanical

gardens are working to conserve and protect species that may otherwise be lost forever by cultivating, documenting, and sharing rare and iconic species. "The new nursery will provide us with the tools to address one of the planet's most urgent crises – shrinking biodiversity. We've achieved this milestone thanks to our partners at San Francisco Recreation & Parks and more than 150 donors who've contributed to this effort," says Stephanie Linder, CEO of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park.

#### A NEW PAGODA PLAZA

The Japanese Tea Garden has been undergoing exciting renovations to expand its spaces and improve accessibility. A renewed scenic path now guides visitors from the entrance to the new Pagoda Plaza, creating a more open atmosphere and a gathering space for taiko performances, bonsai demonstrations, and other cultural events.

Our redesigned Pagoda Plaza surrounds the Japanese Tea Garden's historical pagoda, which won the California Preservation Foundation's 2023 Preservation Design Award for Craftsmanship/Preservation Technology. The vision for the plaza was created by award-winning Japanese Garden designer Hoichi Kurisu, who oversaw the construction of this harmonious area which features Tatsuyama stones donated by the Matsushita Stonemason Co.,Ltd from Takasago, Japan, with support from the National Chamber of Commerce of Japan.

Tatsuyama stone has been used as a building material in Japan for more than 1,700 years. We offer special thanks to Hoichi Kurisu and Kurisu LLC for these incredible designs, and our colleagues at San Francisco Recreation and Parks for their ongoing care of the Japanese Tea Garden.

Other accomplishments this past year include:

- Securing a Priority US Trees Conservation Award (a joint initiative between ArbNet, Botanical Gardens Conservation International, The Morton Arboretum, NatureServe, and the United States Botanic Garden) for wild collection and preservation of Mendocino cypress (*Hesperocyparis pygmaea*), an at-risk species endemic to just a few ecological occurrences in Mendocino and Sonoma counties. This is a collaborative project where seeds will be placed in the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden seed bank and seedlings distributed within a network of California gardens. This is the first conservation project that will take root in our new nursery complex.
- Completing several projects in the Botanical Garden, including the renovation of the Meadow Restroom and extensive pathway work which enhances accessibility of the Gardens and improves our visitor experience, changing grades and ramps to ensure all designated paths of travel are fully compliant with current Americans with Disabilities Act regulations.

The Gardens of Golden Gate Park continue to surprise and awe, fueling our mission to connect people to plants, the planet, and each other. Your support helps us achieve our vision for new collections and exhibits, expand public access and programs, improve horticulture and facility maintenance, and play a larger role in global conservation efforts.



# Flower Piano

The summer of 2025 marked the 10th anniversary of Flower Piano at San Francisco Botanical Garden—an open-air experience inviting participants to enjoy our plant collections while visiting 12 pianos spread over 55 acres. With special thanks to our program partner, Sunset Piano, Flower Piano has become a unique San Francisco tradition that connects music, nature, and community.

This inclusive interactive music festival is an extraordinary gift to the City and all our visitors; it would not be possible without the support of donors, sponsors, members, and volunteers. Generous supporters of the 10th Anniversary of Flower Piano include Presenting Sponsor Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation, as well as Lead Sponsors the Elman Legacy Foundation, and the John and Marcia Goldman Foundation, Campbell Foundation, Ingrid Tauber and Frank Taforo, True Wind, Zoox, and Emmanuel Chao. In addition to financial contributions, 153 volunteers contributed 963 hours over 10 days, a 22% increase in volunteers and a 9.5% increase in volunteer hours compared to 2024.

Due to public enthusiasm, Flower Piano has grown into something truly extraordinary, garnering outstanding press including a feature on PBS News Hour in 2024, a spot on KRON4 News in 2025, and hundreds of other features on a variety of media over the last ten years, reaching a total audience of 344 million people this year across broadcast, editorial, and social media. Mayor Daniel Lurie joined us to issue a proclamation officially naming September 12, 2025 as "Flower Piano Day" in San Francisco to celebrate the 10th anniversary.



In 2025, more than 77,000 visitors experienced 126 scheduled Flower Piano performances during the 10-day event, a 7% increase compared to 2024, featuring a dynamic mix of musicians, poets, dancers, and ensembles from across genres and cultures. More than half of our guests attended for free, including San Francisco residents, participants in the Museums for All program, veterans, and active-duty military personnel.

Audiences this year appreciated a wide range of performances, from Latin Grammy-nominee Sam Reider in the Zellerbach Garden to Golden Gate Symphony's 70-piece orchestra conducted by Urs Leonhardt Steiner at Fountain Plaza, premiering a new work by composer Benjamin Gribble called Oleander. Visitors danced to salsa by Calito Franco & his Tumbao Anejo in the Great Meadow and explored the Redwood

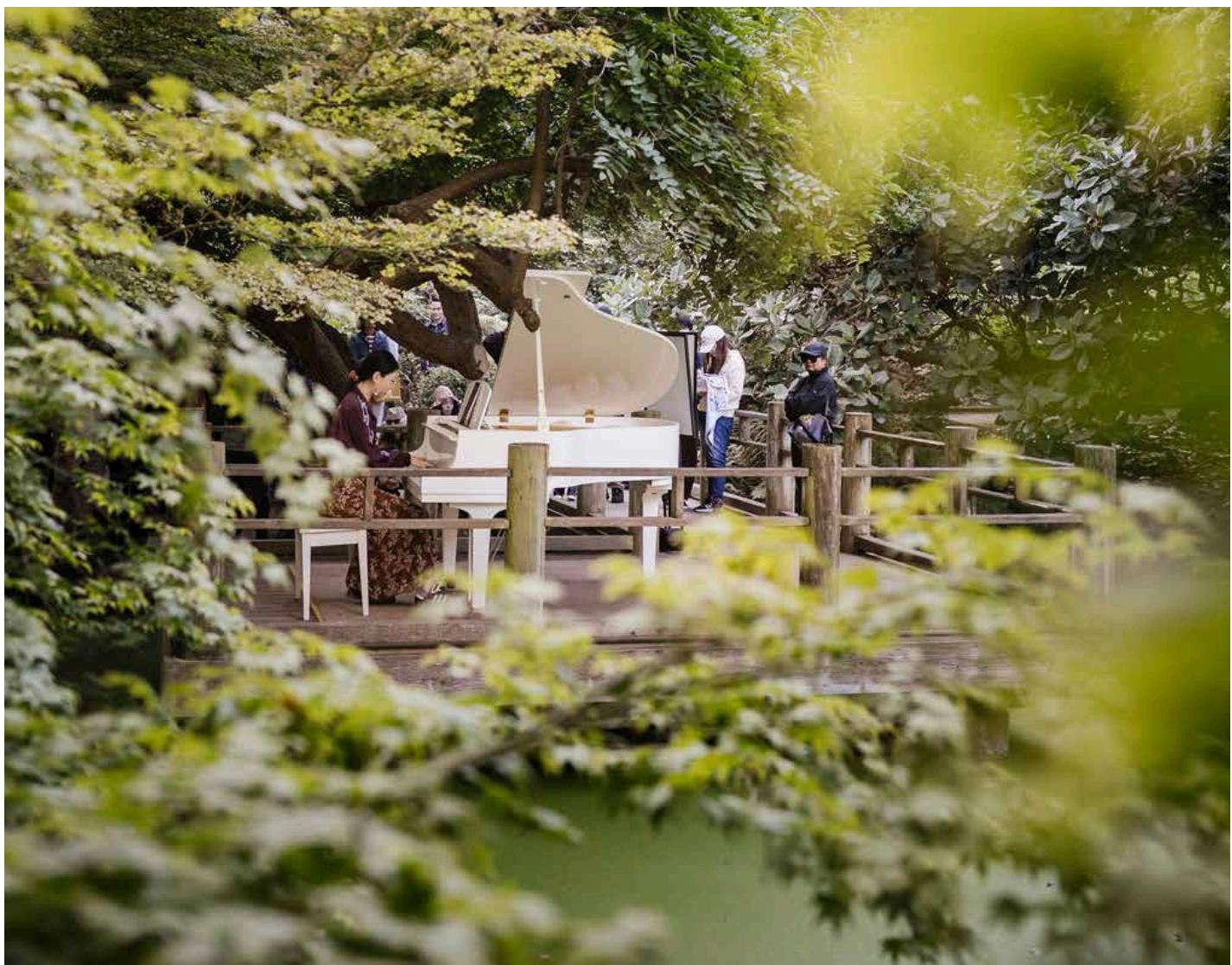
Grove to the sounds of opera arias, jazz standards, folk & tangos performed by Anna Muravitskaya and Naomi Stine. Other featured Flower Piano performers included new artists along with familiar favorites such as Tammy Hall, Sarah Cahill, Serene, and Diana Gameros.

For the third year during Flower Piano 2025, the Celebration Garden in the Botanical Garden transformed into the Flower Piano Lounge featuring special performances from local headliners including Lavay Smith and the Red Hot Skillet Lickers, Kev Choice, Dred Scott & Cali Mambo, Sixth Station Trio, Sumi Lee

& Ramiro Boero, and more. The Lounge hosted a special 10th Anniversary Opening Night Event featuring Montuno Swing Salsa Band with Grammy Award-Winning Pianist Christian Tumalan.

In between scheduled programs, there were hundreds of hours of impromptu performances by community members of all ages and backgrounds, sometimes stealing the show with incredible moments of magic. "People finish playing and suddenly realize that they are surrounded by applauding strangers," says Sunset's Piano's Dean Mermell.

Flower Piano offered important opportunities to build new partnerships with community and arts organizations to extend our programming and reach. On the first weekend, children enjoyed discovering Opera Bear's Garden Party hosted by San Francisco Opera, performances by Plumrose Studio's students, henna art, and a musical augmented reality experience by Haunted Planet. On the second weekend kids found screen printing with Haight Street Art Center, instrument installation with Harmonic Drift, and Rabbit Hole Theater's whimsical puppet show and Garden treasure hunt.



## GARDENS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK



The second annual Flower Piano Fashion Show, in collaboration with the students and faculty of City College of San Francisco Fashion Department and others, inspired creative and adventurous Flower Piano-themed outfits and outrageous apparel. Visitors cheered on the contestants who strutted down a 20-foot-long catwalk in the Great Meadow to showcase their wild creations.

For the first time this year, we welcomed Flower Piano visitors to film screenings at the Helen Crocker Russell Library of Horticulture that told transformational stories relating to nature, music, and community. Featured films included *Twelve Pianos* and *Fall and Fly* with Dean Mermell & Mauro Ffortissimo of Sunset Piano; *The Secret Song* with Samantha Campbell & Doug Goodkin; and *Miracle in a Box* with Todd Oppenheimer of The Craftsmanship Initiative.

As in past years, we surveyed attendees and reviewed our impact to learn if we reached our goals to broaden community participation and deepen engagement. Through 569 respondents, we learned that 20% of attendees were new to San Francisco Botanical Garden and 43% were new to Flower Piano. Most visitors stayed for three to four hours and 99% would recommend San Francisco Botanical Garden to friends and family after attending Flower Piano.

Thanks to generous support, Flower Piano is one of the most celebrated events in San Francisco, recognized around the world. As a visitor told us this year, "I love the gardens and adding pianos and music made it even better!" We hope you will join us again next year, for 11 days celebrating the 11th Anniversary of Flower Piano, September 10-20, 2026.

For further information, sponsorship details for 2026, or any feedback, please contact Brendan Lange, Director of Advancement, at 415-661-1316 x416 or [blange@ggp.org](mailto:blange@ggp.org).





# Volunteers & Interns

Volunteers and Interns are instrumental in the success of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park.



We are grateful for the incredible generosity and dedication of our volunteers, interns, and fellows. This year, 1,557 individuals contributed 22,631 hours of service—planting, weeding, greeting, and engaging with visitors. Their commitment not only sustains the beauty of our landscapes but also strengthens the sense of community and civic pride.

#### **BETTER IMPACT: ELEVATING THE VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

With excitement we launched a new volunteer management system this summer. The migration to Better Impact

allows our volunteer program to continue to grow with the scale and complexity of the organization while building an improved experience for volunteers based on their roles and interests. Once volunteers have customized their preferences in Better Impact, they have shared that they are able to use the system easily on their smart devices and appreciate the ability to see a wider range of opportunities and accurately record their hours and engagements with visitors. We will continue to expand our usage of the features within the system in the upcoming year such as the eLearning

modules, online document library, streamlining the onboarding process, and finding opportunities to further enrich the volunteer experience.

#### **YALE ENVIRONMENTAL FELLOWS ENGAGEMENT GROWS**

For the third consecutive year, we were thrilled to expand our involvement with the Yale Environmental Fellow program by hosting three Fellows this year. Juhi Parekh, Kimberly Martinez, and Vic Collins joined the Gardens for 12 weeks to work with Interpretive Program Manager Lindzy Bivings, helping us advance the Interpretative Master Plan and Strategic Plan through projects such as wayfinding and mapping in the Botanical Garden. Yale Fellows spent their time both learning and sharing their knowledge with staff and visitors. In addition, Fellows joined the incredible journey of Chanel the Corpse Flower's bloom in the Conservatory of Flowers, helping to engage the nearly 7,000 visitors who experienced this rare and remarkable bloom. We are grateful to the Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation for sponsoring the Yale Environmental Fellows and initially providing this wonderful connection.

#### **NEW NURSERY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM LAUNCH**

This year, we relaunched the Nursery Volunteer Program. We recruited sixteen volunteers to join the program in July by hosting Nursery Program Information Sessions led by Plant Propagation Manager

Jessica Fernandez and Nursery Specialist Eli Feldman. The Information Sessions held at the new Nursery taught community members about the phytosanitary practices that are crucial to growing plants that will both enhance our collections and help us support global conservation efforts, while recruiting volunteers to join the program. We look forward to the continued growth and impact of this program.

#### THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION: SERVICE GROUPS IN THE GARDENS

Volunteer service groups bring people together with a shared purpose—making a meaningful impact while building lasting connections. Whether it's focusing on the details by weeding or tackling big mulching projects, these groups exemplify the power of teamwork. This year nearly 1,000 individuals joined the Gardens as part of a group event hosted by organizations such as Ernst & Young, Deloitte, OLLY, Dodge & Cox, Amazon, Joele Frank, and University Medical Partners. In addition to the nearly 3,000 hours these groups volunteered at the Gardens, they also contributed nearly \$25,000. Together, these efforts not only enhance the beauty of the Gardens but also demonstrate the incredible impact that collective generosity and collaboration can achieve. We are excited to continue to host groups seeking ways to connect and collaborate.

#### THOUSANDS OF MOMENTS OF DISCOVERY: INTERPRETIVE VOLUNTEERS

Every interaction is an opportunity to spark curiosity and create lasting memories. Our interpretive volunteers are at the heart of these experiences, welcoming visitors, sharing stories, and building connections that turn a simple visit into something unforgettable. Together, volunteers have engaged thousands, fostering a sense of wonder and belonging for more than 20,000 guests this year.



Interested in volunteering?

Visit [gggp.org/volunteer](http://gggp.org/volunteer) to learn more and to complete the online application. We have many opportunities!





# Programs & Partnerships

## SHARP & FINE AT THE JAPANESE TEA GARDEN

In 2025, the innovative San Francisco-based dance theater company Sharp & Fine collaborated with the Gardens of Golden Gate Park to offer three performances in the Japanese Tea Garden, including a unique set of vignettes on the mornings of November 4 and 5. Modular scenes directed and choreographed by Sharp & Fine co-directors Megan and Shannon Kurashige featured the company's physically exuberant and distinctively theatrical style with live improvised music, inviting new perspectives on the Garden's beloved spaces.

Bay Area dance reviewer Jen Norris wrote, "The dancers are dressed in pedestrian clothing and dark rubber-soled shoes, as if they were strolling through the park when the urge to express their experiences in movement overcame them. . . . Viewers perch on rocks or low walls facing the soaring red and yellow pagoda, under which a drummer with drum kit and several saxophonists are assembled. A tall yellow-leaved Gingko stands guard, backed by puffy white clouds and a cheerful blue sky, as birds chirp and brooks babble nearby. It is idyllic."





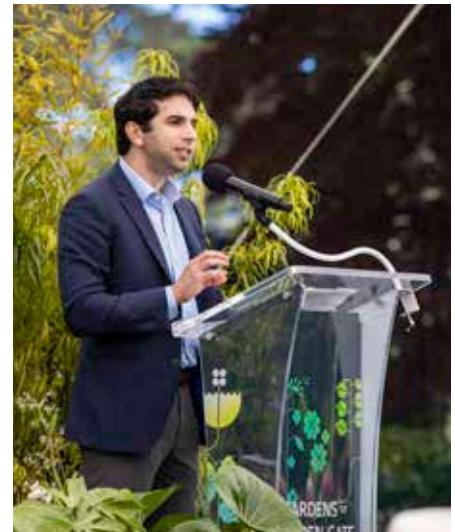
#### GALA FOR THE GARDENS

It was a sunny, balmy, and warmly received day in the Celebration Garden. Extra-special thanks are in order for board member and Gala co-chair Claire Myers for her leadership, profoundly inspirational words, and decade of dedication to the Gardens. Claire and co-chair Nicola Miner led a dynamic Gala Committee, and staff did a fabulous job planning and executing a seamless and fun day. Special guest speaker Ferris Jabr's words on the evolution and beauty of earth, alongside the wonder of home gardening with native plants, and the interconnectedness of all living things was a moving testament to the importance of public gardens and our mission. Together, we raised over \$610,000, making this the most successful Gala for the Gardens ever!

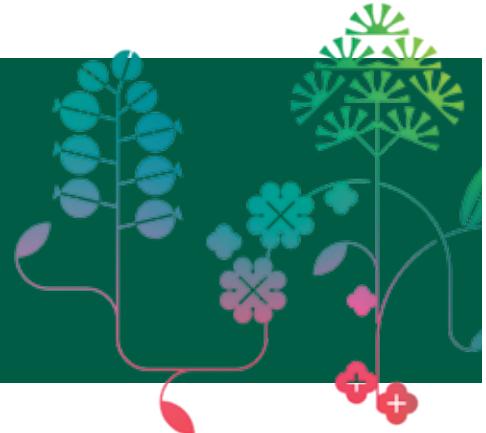


#### FERRIS JABR AND ED YONG IN CONVERSATION

Following the Gala, in partnership with Green Apple Books on the Park, special guest speaker Ferris Jabr presented and discussed his acclaimed book, *Becoming Earth: How Our Planet Came to Life*, with Ed Yong, Pulitzer winning writer and author of *An Immense World* and *I Contain Multitudes*. In his book, Jabr reveals a radical new vision of Earth where lush forests spew water, pollen, and bacteria to summon rain; giant animals engineer the very landscapes they roam; microbes chew rock to shape continents; and microscopic plankton, some as glittering as carved jewels, remake the air and sea. The thought-provoking conversation between two award-winning science writers was a resounding success and the largest book event we've ever held.



Thank you to everyone who helped make our *Gala for the Gardens* a marvelous success! Together we raised \$613,829 for the Gardens of Golden Gate Park.



## GARDENS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### MOTHER'S DAY IN THE CELEBRATION GARDEN

On May 11 in the Celebration Garden, the Young Women's Choral Projects of San Francisco — an award-winning musical organization that centers joy, musical learning and empowerment — put on a Mother's Day Concert with 1,170 people enjoying the performance over the course of the afternoon.

### IN A LANDSCAPE

The Gardens and our partner, the Trust for Public Land, welcomed back *In A Landscape: Classical Music in the Wild*, a nonprofit outdoor concert series to San Francisco Botanical Garden on May 21. Founded in 2016 by classical pianist Hunter Noack, *In A Landscape* transports a 9-foot Steinway grand piano on a flatbed trailer to scenic locations all over the Western US. This was the fourth performance offered by *In A Landscape* in the Botanical Garden to date, with attendees exploring the

surrounding environment while listening to the music through wireless headphones, creating an immersive experience that fosters a connection with the music, nature, and with one another.

### GAMELAN IN THE GARDEN

Gamelan in the Garden, presented by Gamelan Sekar Jaya with the Gardens of Golden Gate Park for the third year running on June 8, is a showcase of Balinese performing arts held in various locations in San Francisco Botanical Garden. Four of Gamelan Sekar Jaya's ensembles performed: Gender Wayang, Angklung, Dance, and Jegog, with songs, masked dances, and a marching Beleganjur ensemble, full of drums and crashing cymbals. Gamelan Sekar Jaya was joined this year by Harmonic Drift, an immersive and interactive percussion ensemble-on-wheels.



**BONPOP**

KOHO and Gardens of Golden Gate Park welcomed back the annual BonPOP Obon festival on August 31—a re-imagined Obon Odori event that welcomes everyone to experience the rich Japanese tradition of honoring ancestors through dance, song, and rituals. This inclusive event, which has its roots in the Chinese Ghost Festival of Buddhist and Taoist traditions, invites people of all religions, ethnicities, and cultural backgrounds to enjoy ceremonial foods, family traditions, and celebratory dancing under festival lanterns, accompanied by the sounds of taiko drums and traditional songs. The festival attracted more than 2,100 visitors, with partners such as the Consulate-General of Japan, and Haight Street Art Center amongst local vendors.

**BUTTERFLIES OF THE BAY AREA**

On September 27 in the Garden of Fragrance, author and illustrator Liam O'Brien discussed his new book, *Butterflies of the Bay Area and (Slightly) Beyond*, in conversation with Durrell Kapan, Senior Research Fellow at the California Academy of Sciences. The event was co-hosted with Green Apple Books on the Park. O'Brien, a past winner of *Bay Nature* magazine's Local Hero Award for Environmental Education, shared his treasure trove of stories and gorgeous, hand-drawn illustrations of the 135 species of California butterflies that live in the greater Bay Area.

**LITQUAKE**

On Saturday, October 18, we partnered with Litquake for an afternoon series of conversations, the Litquake Secret Garden, in the Garden of Fragrance.

2025 marked the fifteen-year anniversary of The Common, a literary magazine dedicated to deepening readers' sense of place. To celebrate, Nora Rodriguez Camagna and Amanda Mei Kim—two contributors to The Common's Farmworker Portfolio met to discuss and honor farmworker creativity and resiliency. In the current political climate, they invited us to look beyond physical labor to explore #FarmworkerLit inspirations and aspirations.

The next event featured Dani Burlison and Margaret Elysia, wildfire survivors and editors of Red Flag Warning: Mutual Aid and Survival

in California's Fire Country, who shed light on living physically, mentally, and emotionally amid ecological destruction, joined by firefighters-turned-memoirists Kelly Ramsey and River Selby for a group discussion.

The afternoon ended with writer Myriam Gurba and poets Caroline M. Mar, Wendy M. Thompson, and Mukethe Kawinzi, traversing themes of language, power, ancestry, and California's ecology in an event that was part poetic performance, part storytelling, part study of place.

**CITY GUIDES AT THE JAPANESE TEA GARDEN**

San Francisco City Guides partners with the Gardens of Golden Gate Park to bring the Japanese Tea Garden's history to life for thousands of visitors. Volunteer Guides lead daily walking tours that blend horticulture, architecture, and cultural history—connecting the Garden's design to broader stories of immigration, craftsmanship, and public space in San Francisco. City Guides tours emphasize close observation and careful storytelling, inviting visitors to slow down, notice details, and understand the Garden as a living landscape shaped over generations. This collaboration expands access to free, high-quality interpretation while deepening appreciation for one of Golden Gate Park's most cherished places. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to education, stewardship, and making San Francisco's cultural landscapes legible and welcoming to all.





# Leadership Transitions

With the recent adoption of Board term limits, several long-serving Board members have left the Board and we've welcomed many new Board members. Former Board members stay involved with the Gardens through our Redwood Circle.

At our June 2025 meeting the following outgoing Board members were recognized for their service:

Before retiring from the Board, **Dr. Joseph Barbaccia** had been a long-serving and dedicated Board Member since 1998 and volunteer docent since 1996. He served as Board Chair from 2002 to June 2004 and served as the chair of the docent council.



Author **Mary Ellen Hannibal** had served as a Board member since 2018. Prior to her board service, Mary Ellen wrote and edited the cover story for the Gardens' Leaflet publication for many years, using her expertise as an author and citizen scientist and her passion for nature to help tell the story of these special places.



**Delle Maxwell** has been a volunteer at the Gardens for decades and Board Chair from 2017-2023. Delle provided critical leadership, resulting in the transformative public/private partnership in 2022 that unified and enhanced the Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco

Botanical Garden. Delle and her husband Pat Hanrahan established the Maxwell-Hanrahan Endowed Fund for the Gardens and led the capital campaign to build a new nursery at the Botanical Garden. The Maxwell/Hanrahan Foundation is the lead sponsor of our annual music festival, Flower Piano, and funds our high school internship program.



**Claire Myers** had been a dedicated member of the Board of Directors for a decade, serving on the board since 2015. Claire served on our Philanthropy and Gala Committees throughout her tenure. In 2025, she brought fresh leadership to the Gala for the Gardens as co-chair and made it our most successful annual fundraiser ever.



**Cristina Mancini** had served as a dedicated member of the Gardens Board of Directors since 2022. Cristina served on the Gardens' Philanthropy Committee and provided valuable insights on the creation of the Gardens of Golden Gate Park's inaugural 5-year strategic plan. Cristina brought her talent, passion, and expertise for brand and storytelling to serve as a key member of the Rebranding Committee.



**Saul Nadler** had served on the Gardens of Golden Gate Park's Board since 2018. He championed philanthropic support of the Gardens' beloved annual music festival Flower Piano and the building of the new state-of-the-art nursery complex. In 2022, Saul served on the Strategic Planning Committee and as the Gala for the Gardens co-chair and has donated a plethora of plants and time to the Gardens in his capacity as President and CEO of Flora Grubb Gardens.



**WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME 7 NEW BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Jacqui Bos** is a former litigation senior associate at Morrison Foerster, a former SEC attorney, and an active community and environmental volunteer.



**Christopher Dydyk**, a San Francisco-based fine art photographer known for capturing the vibrant beauty of the city and its surrounding natural spaces.



**Janine Guillot**, a financial services leader with over 30 years' experience in banking, asset management, and pension fund management and serves as a leader and advisor to organizations building sustainable food systems.



**Scott Hanford**, Senior Growth Product Manager at Adobe, came to us through the BoardLead program and has a background in tech start-ups and finance.



**Tori Peterson** has experience in leadership roles on nonprofit boards and a background in business strategy, marketing, and finance, having held previous roles at Clorox and working in real estate investment.



**Carol Russo** has had an impressive career in public service, conflict resolution, education, and volunteerism, most recently at the U.S. Department of Justice as Regional Director of the Community Relations Service.



**Michael Ward** is a partner at the international law firm Morrison Foerster where he is co-chair of the firm's Food + Agriculture and Life Sciences + Healthcare Groups.



## GARDENS OF GOLDEN GATE PARK

### THIS YEAR BROUGHT ABOUT KEY STAFF TRANSITIONS AS WELL:

At our December 2025 Board meeting, we honored outgoing Recreation & Park General Manager **Phil Ginsburg** for 16 years of outstanding service, elevating San Francisco's park system to national prominence and strengthening the City's commitment to accessible, world-class public spaces. Phil has been a dedicated and collaborative partner to the Gardens of Golden Gate Park, supporting the transformational merger and shared mission.



In October 2024, after leading two record-breaking Flower Piano festivals, expanding and diversifying programmatic offerings, serving on the steering committee of Reimagining San Francisco, an initiative with the California Academy of Sciences, and many other partners, and leading early Lightscape planning work, Director of Programs & Partnerships **Jamie Chan** left her position at the Gardens to become the Executive Director of the Planet Bee Foundation.



In January 2026, after 15 years with the organization, **Vanessa Fajardo**, Associate Director of Visitor Experience, left the Gardens to take on a new role as Director of Retail for Alcatraz at Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, a model public/private partnership with the National Park Service. At the intersection of all aspects of visitor experience, Vanessa has played a pivotal role in building the systems, processes, teams, and programs that have transformed our three gardens into a unified institution in close partnership with San Francisco Recreation and Parks.



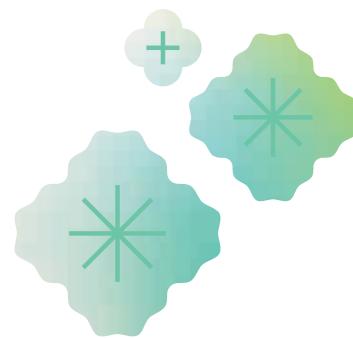
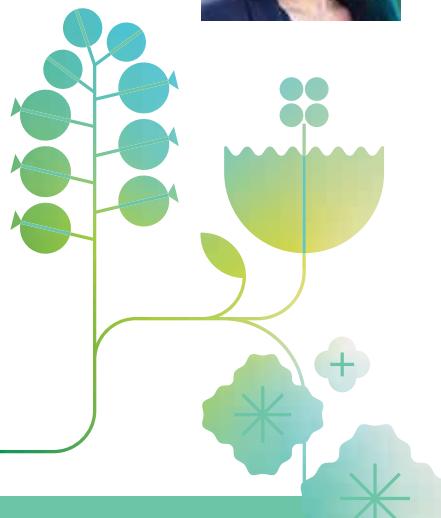
After nearly 8 years of dedicated service, **Ryan Guillou**, Director of Collections & Conservation, left the Gardens in June, 2025 for a career shift. Ryan's many accomplishments and contributions to the Gardens include: adding 22 new species of Magnolias to the living collection through the Magnolia grafting project; developing multiple successful grant proposals to the Institute of Museum & Library Service (IMLS), Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), and Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust; playing an integral role in the development of and fundraising for our new nursery; giving a multitude of tours, lectures, radio, and tv interviews to share the Gardens with the public; developing the collections concept for the Gardens.



In February 2025, we welcomed our new Chief Experience Officer (CXO) **Sarah Marsh**. Previously, Sarah worked as the CXO of The Void as well as the VP Customer Loyalty/Minister of Citizenship at KidZania, a fast growing educational and entertainment center for kids. Sarah leads the team responsible for education, interpretation, the Library, public programs, volunteers, retail operations, events, visitor experience, and admissions to increase earned revenue and advance the Gardens' mission.



In November 2025, new Curator & Conservation Lead, **Brandi Eide** joined the Gardens staff. Previously, Brandi worked at San Diego Botanic Garden, Desert Botanical Garden, UC Botanical Garden at Berkeley, and the Springs Reserve in Las Vegas. With more than 15 years of experience, Brandi has overseen living collections and conservation, horticulture teams, led major capital and renovation projects, and advanced interpretation, master planning, and sustainable landscape design.





# Financial Report

## Statement of Financial Position

As of June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

ASSETS	2025	2024
Cash & Investments	\$ 23,265,433	\$ 22,298,810
Accounts and Pledges Receivable	1,761,725	1,653,182
Property & Equipment	770,011	772,432
Other	1,547,915	508,343
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 27,345,084</b>	<b>\$ 25,232,767</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Current Liabilities	\$ 2,030,564	\$ 2,083,969
Noncurrent Liabilities	1,019,054	37,946
Net Assets	24,295,466	23,110,852
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 27,345,084</b>	<b>\$ 25,232,767</b>

## Statement of Activities

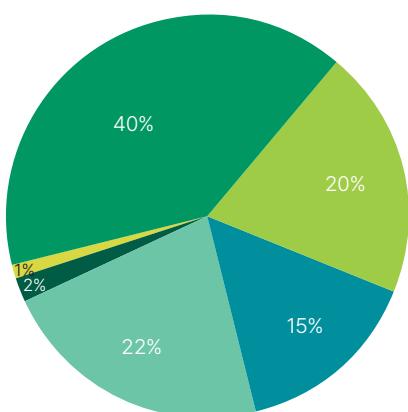
As of June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2025	2024
Contributed Income	\$ 3,915,403	\$ 4,900,706
Investment Income	1,942,276	1,785,321
Earned Income	1,416,669	1,296,364
Total Admissions Income*	7,996,681	7,945,896
In-kind Contributions	210,641	79,633
Other	140,495	300,635
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 15,622,165</b>	<b>\$ 16,308,555</b>
Net Admissions Income due to SFRPD	\$ (5,835,625)	\$ (5,830,239)
<b>Net Support and Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 9,786,540</b>	<b>\$ 10,478,316</b>
EXPENSES	2025	2024
Program Services	\$ 5,991,025	\$ 6,023,182
Fundraising & Development	1,697,673	1,168,332
Management & General	913,228	1,198,322
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,601,926</b>	<b>\$ 8,389,836</b>
Gift of New Nursery to City and County of San Francisco	-	\$ 6,102,209
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 8,601,926</b>	<b>\$ 14,492,045</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 1,184,614</b>	<b>\$ (4,013,729)</b>

## Sources & Uses of Funds

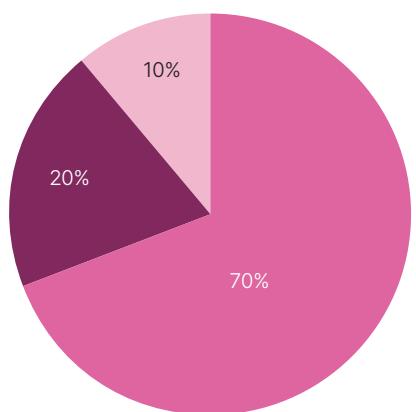
12 months ended June 30, 2025

SOURCES OF FUNDS
Contributed Income
Investment Income
Earned Income
Net Admissions Income**
In-kind Contributions
Other



## USES OF FUNDS

Program Services
Fundraising & Development
Management & General



\*Admissions receipts from Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden

\*\*Total admissions income – net admissions income due to San Francisco Recreation and Parks, which manages horticulture and facilities for the Gardens

Audited Results: Auditor, Baker Tilly US, LLP



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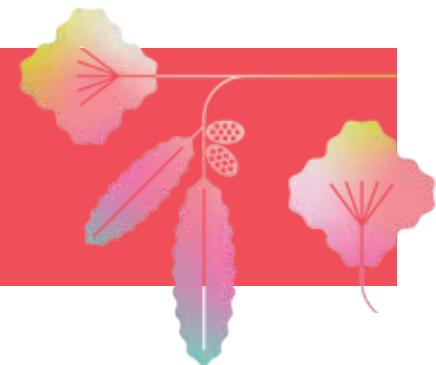
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Learn more about how you can help sustain this urban oasis for years to come by contacting Lynn Eve Komaromi, Director of Leadership Giving, at [lekomaromi@gggp.org](mailto:lekomaromi@gggp.org) or 415.661.1316 ext. 418.





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Each gift enables us to offer unparalleled opportunities for inspiration and learning. We would like to extend our gratitude to those who generously contributed to the Gardens.



## In memory of

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