

Friends of the Japanese Garden is pleased that master carpenter Jay Van Arsdale will bring his expertise and his passion for this work to The Fence and Gate Project.

One of the most important keys to this project, Jay Van Arsdale is a licensed contractor and founder of Daiku Dojo (www.daikudojo.org). He teaches traditional Japanese hand tools and joinery at Laney College in Oakland and at Arques Boat School in Sausalito. He will use this project for shop sessions for his classes. In this way volunteerism plays an important role in completing this project.

Jay completed his MFA in Art at Mills College. He studied with Daiku Makoto Imai and subsequently has given demonstrations, authored (Shoji, Designing, Building and Installing Japanese Screens, Kodansha, '86), appeared on Japanese and U. S. TV, and is contributing editor for The Complete Japanese Joinery, Cloudpress '89. Jay has given presentations for The Japan Society, the San Francisco Asian Art Museum, the Exploratorium, Academy of Science, UC Berkeley School of Architecture and others.

Lakeside Park is a jewel in the heart of Oakland. In the park is the Japanese Garden, an oasis of beauty and serenity. The garden requires constant maintenance and renewal. The Fence and Gate Project is commencing fund raising to replace the old fence and gates.



The Japanese Garden is adjacent to the Garden Center building. Designed by Hisaichi Tsugawa, built principally by members of the Japanese-American community and donated to the City of Oakland in 1959, this garden represents a traditional Japanese-style garden.

A little history of restoration projects:

Since 1985 the Merritt College Aesthetic Pruning Club has been restoring and maintaining the Japanese Garden at Lakeside Park. In 1997 the Friends of the Japanese Garden arranged for the Merritt College Landscape Irrigation class to install an irrigation system in the garden. In 2005 Kezuro kai, an organization of Japanese and American woodworkers who practice the Japanese style of carpentry, replaced one of the three gates to the garden. The next year Jay Van Arsdale and his Laney College class of woodworkers replaced a small section of the fence. We now have an opportunity to replace the other two gates and all of the rest of the fence.



A view of the small section of fence and trellis constructed by the Laney College class of woodworkers in 2005.

The present north gate and part of the fence, made of painted fir and bamboo.



A model of the proposed new fence and gate by Jay Van Arsdale. It will be constructed of Western Red Cedar.



The final design of the new fence and gate will be approved by the Japanese Garden Advisory Committee.

Advisory Committee

The Fence and Gate Project

Audree Jones-Taylor, Director, Oakland Parks and Recreation

Bill Castellon, President, Friends of the Japanese Garden

Bruce Cobbledick, President, Oakland-East Bay Garden Center, Inc

Jim Ryugo, Building Services Manager, Public Works Agency, City of Oakland

Dennis Makishima, Horticultural Instructor, Merritt College

Jay Van Arsdale, Instructor, Contractor, Author

Dick Austin, Project Coordinator

August 2008

The Fence and Gate Project

for

The Japanese Garden

Lakeside Park
Oakland, California



Sponsored by Friends of the Japanese Garden

for information call 510 418 0968