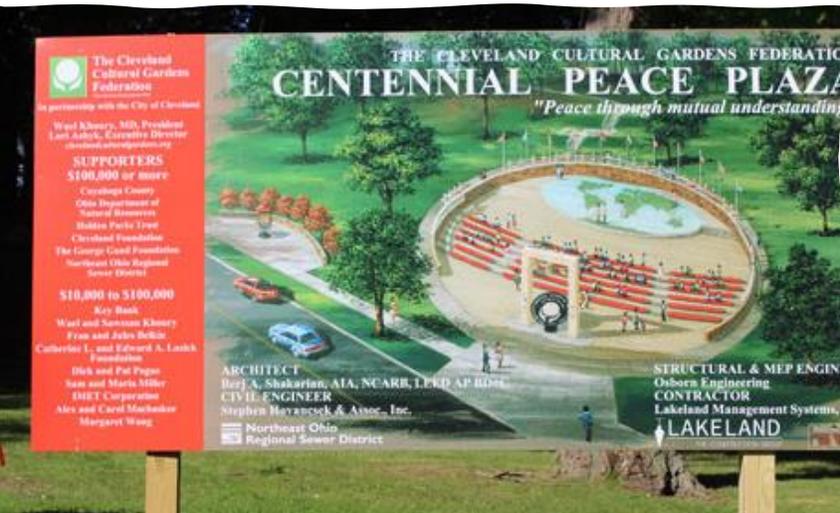




# Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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# About the Cultural Gardens.....

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The Cleveland Cultural Gardens were launched in 1916 with the establishment of the British Garden (originally called the Shakespeare Garden). That tribute to the literary arts inspired civic leaders to create gardens that would celebrate cultures the world over.

Immigrants from Europe, particularly those who arrived after World War I, built the upper gardens on East Boulevard. Since then, new waves of immigrant groups have designed, funded, built and maintained gardens to pay tribute to their native lands. They've hailed from Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

There are now 33 developed gardens and nine more being created. Each is sponsored by a non-profit ethnic or cultural organization. The Gardens feature symbolic landscaping, monuments and sculptures of artists, writers, composers, philosophers, statesmen and women, and scientists.

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation is the 501c3, non-profit umbrella organization that works to preserve and promote all the Cultural Gardens. It acts as a liaison to the City of Cleveland, owner of the public Rockefeller Park, and to partner institutions.

The Federation's mission is "peace through mutual understanding."



## **Executive Board:**

President: Dr. Wael Khoury

Vice Presidents: Tom Turkaly, Mehmet Gencer, Paul Burik

Past Presidents: Sheila Crawford, Paul Burik

Executive Secretary: Tom Strohmann

Recording Secretary: Paula Tilisky

**Members:** Connie Adams, Pierre Bejjani, Yvonne Conwell (community liaison, at-large), Carl Ewing, Qaisra Haider, Dan Hanson, Debbie Hanson, Dozia Krislaty, Eddie Ni, Sam Tanious, George Terbreck, Svetlana Stolyrova

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**Advisory Board:** John Anoliefo, Famicos Foundation; Hanna Belsito, Destination Cleveland; Kelly Falcone-Hall, Western Reserve Historical Society; Joan Katz Napoli, Cleveland Orchestra; Lenora Inez Brown, Cleveland Leadership Center; David Fleshler, Case Western Reserve University; Joe Cimperman, Global Cleveland; Carina Van Vliet and Heather Hodges, Cleveland Council on World Affairs; Ken Kovach, ICC-WIN; Victoria Mills, Doan Brook Partnership; Dr. Nizar Zein, Cleveland Clinic; Richard W. Pogue, Jones Day; Alex Machaskee; Valarie McCall, City of Cleveland; Alexander Lackey, City of Cleveland; Chris Ronayne, University Circle Inc., Jules Belkin. Jill Koski, Holden Forests and Gardens.



# The Cultural Gardens

African American

Albanian

American

American Legion Peace Garden of States

Armenian

Azerbaijani

British

Chinese

Croatian

Czech

Ethiopian

Estonian

Finnish

German

Greek

Hebrew

Hungarian

Indian

Italian

Irish

Latvian

Lebanese

Lithuanian

Peace Garden of the Nations

Polish

Romanian

Slovak

Serbian

Slovenian

Syrian

Rusin

Russian

Ukrainian

Turkish

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## Gardens approved and in development:

Colombian

Egyptian

French

Korean

Mexican

Native American

Pakistani

Vietnamese

Uzbekistan

**Growth and anticipation characterized the Cleveland Cultural Gardens in 2019. The visible achievements were many and a sign of things to come. Among the notable events of 2019:**

- \* The CCGF neared completion of its Centennial Peace Plaza (see page 6).
- \* The Cultural Gardens Federation board approved the establishment of gardens representing Colombia, Uzbekistan, France and Egypt. (Mexico was approved in January 2020).
- \* The Ethiopian Cultural Garden, featuring a mosaic tile mural depicting five different aspects of the country's history and culture, was dedicated. The Ethiopian ambassador to the United States and many other dignitaries attended the festive ceremony.

(More year in review on the following page...)

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**2019 Year in review**



## Among other notable events of the year:

- The African American Garden sponsored its annual Juneteenth celebration featuring symbolic ceremonies, music and dance, and the Hungarian Cultural Garden welcomed the Aurora School of Music to perform at the yearly Liszt Concert.
- The Italian Garden played host to the Cleveland Opera and the Cleveland Ballet in its garden, drawing about 3,000 people who picnicked, enjoyed some wine and great music.
- \* The Federation began public tours of the Cultural Gardens. and continued to offer customized school and group tours.
- Part of what makes the Gardens so special is the tender loving care shown to each garden by its sponsoring organization. These groups work tirelessly to raise funds for maintenance, restoration and repair of their gardens, in addition to planting flowers, weeding, cleaning out fountains and other chores. In 2019, two gardens restored pavement or walkways, while others repaired fountains or sprinkler systems (all at significant cost); the Rusin, Hungarian and Romanian Gardens worked on updating their design plans, while still others had new electrical boxes installed and the German Garden restored a wrought iron gate.
- \* At least half of the Cultural Gardens welcomed volunteer groups who participated in clean-up days throughout the spring, summer and fall.

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*Students from Lake Catholic High School helped with a fall clean-up*





## Celebrating a new Cultural Garden

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The Ethiopian Cultural Garden, dedicated on Aug. 24, 2019, is the latest Garden to officially be welcomed into the Cultural Gardens family. It is the first Garden to represent an African country.

The Garden's primary feature is a mosaic tile mural, created by Yetimgeta Zerihum, considered one of Ethiopia's greatest living artists. He attended the dedication, along with H.E. Fitsum Arega, U.S. ambassador to Ethiopia.

The mosaic tile artist, Ernesto Spinelli, also celebrated the unveiling of the mural, along with Mayor Frank Jackson, Cleveland City Council President Kevin Kelley, City Council Rep. Kevin Conwell, and many others.

It was a great day for the city and the Cleveland Cultural Gardens.

# The Centennial Peace Plaza comes to life

The project was conceived in 2016 at the centennial anniversary of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens. That's when board members pondered, "wouldn't it be nice to have a central gathering area for events, and to commemorate the generations of hardworking immigrants who have made these gardens such a treasure?" By 2019, the funds were raised, a contractor was chosen, and work began.



2020 will introduce our long-awaited, \$1.1 million Centennial Peace Plaza in the Cultural Gardens. We are proud to have completed the 300-seat amphitheater so that we can better serve our community with arts and educational programming.

The idea for the plaza was conceived in 2016, the centennial anniversary of the Cultural Gardens. A group of board members thought to honor our past by developing a plaza, which would also serve generations to come.

After design planning and fundraising in the years following, the CCGF published bids in April 2019 and followed with a groundbreaking in May. Lakeland Management Systems LLC of Painesville was chosen as the general contractor. Platform Contracting and Pompili Precast Concrete also played major roles in the plaza's construction. Cleveland Public Power provided electrical work at no cost.

The plaza features a stage, bench seating, a circular wall and an entrance medallion with the CCGF motto, "peace through mutual understanding." It is located midway through the Martin Luther King Boulevard stretch of roadway, across from St. Casimir's Way. The plaza features green infrastructure components.

Many thanks are owed to Berj Shakarian, the project's architect, and to a dedicated plaza committee. It includes Dr. Wael Khoury, Paul Burik, Tom Turkaly, Mehmet Gencer, Asim Datta, Sheila Crawford, Carolyn Belogh and Lori Ashyk.

Many thanks also to our many donors who made the Peace Plaza possible. They are listed on the next page of this report.



*The Peace Medallion, which adorns the entrance to the plaza, under construction.*

# Thank you to our many plaza supporters.

## *\$100,000 and higher*

City of Cleveland  
Cleveland Public Power (in-kind)  
Cuyahoga County Council  
Holden Parks Trust  
Cleveland Foundation  
George Gund Foundation  
Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
Northeast Ohio Sewer District

## *\$50,000*

Key Bank

## *\$25,000*

Fran and Jules Belkin  
Wael and Sawssan Khoury  
Christine and Mehmet Gencer

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## *\$10,000 - \$20,000*

The Shakarian Family  
Richard Pogue  
Alex Machaskee  
Edward and Catherine Lozick Foundation  
Margaret Wong  
Sam and Maria Miller Foundation  
University Hospitals  
Third Federation Foundation

## *\$5,000 to \$10,000*

Hungarian Development Panel  
PTAK-Burik Trust  
Sheila and Bob Crawford  
Dr. Rajanit K. Datta  
Cuyahoga Community College  
Medical Mutual  
Eddie Ni and Ling Ling Ni/Chinese Cultural Garden  
Oanh Loi Powell and Mike Powell  
Syrian Cultural Garden  
Donations in memory of Ben Stefanski

## *\$1000 to \$2,500*

African American Cultural Garden  
Croatian Cultural Garden  
Hungarian Cultural Garden  
Svetlana Stolyrova  
Zenon and Dozia Krislaty  
Costanzo Mack Group  
Ken Quiggle  
Connie Adams  
Paul Burik and Family  
Estonian Cultural Garden  
Vietnamese Cultural Garden



*One World Day...our  
best ever*

*Sunday, Aug. 25,  
2010*

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**The weather was mild and sunny, the crowds were happy, the parade was jubilant... by all accounts, One World Day 2019 was one of the best celebrations ever in the 74-year history of the event.**

There were early indications that the 2019 One World Day would be a success: more gardens (35) registered to participate than ever before, and nearly all said they would increase their hands-on activities for the day; more cultures signed up to participate in our Parade of Flags; and all of our gardens eagerly committed to a commemoration of the Baltic Way.

Results exceeded expectations. The event drew about 30,000 people. Countries and cultures participating in the parade arrived with large marching units (which included dancers and musicians, all colorfully dressed), and individual gardens reported having more visitors and more of their scrumptious ethnic food sold than ever before. Music sounded from most of the gardens, which also offered dancing, kids' games and crafts, storytelling and more. Another bonus in 2019: the Russian Cultural Garden dedicated a bust of cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin as part of its OWD celebration.

During the parade, the Gardens remembered the day 30 years prior, when people in the Baltic countries of Estonia, Lithuania, and Latvia formed a two-million-strong human chain to link each of their capital cities. This was a peaceful demonstration against the Soviet occupation of their countries. Those gardens had asked if everyone at One World Day, especially those in the parade, could take a moment to join hands as a gesture of peace and solidarity in the world. So, for about 10 minutes during the Parade of Flags, participants turned to join hands with those behind them and in front of them; members of the crowd watching joined in; the human chain stretched about a half-mile down Martin Luther King Blvd. It was a stirring and profound moment.

Once again, we were honored to welcome a naturalization ceremony for new citizens of the United States at One World Day. Thanks to U.S. District Judge Solomon Oliver for officiating and to the Serbian Cultural Garden that hosted the opening ceremonies. Thanks as well to our 85-plus volunteers who helped with traffic coordination, transportation, set-up, clean-up and many, many other tasks. We cannot do One World Day without them!

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Many thanks to Johnny Wu, our OWD producer, and his team. They include volunteer coordinator Laura Tereshko, naturalization ceremony and parade coordinator Angela Shute Woodson, marketing coordinator Dan Hanson, performance coordinator Sheila Crawford, vendor coordinator Oanh Loi-Powell, and logistics coordinator Asim Datta. Also a great debt is owed to treasurer and team member Tom Turkaly.

Thanks as well to our many sponsors: the city of Cleveland, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture, Ohio Arts Council, the Fox Charitable Foundation, US Bank Foundation, Northeast Ohio Sewer District and Jeff Johnson (for donating tents and equipment), Thanks also to Mrs. Dorothy Adams and to all the residents of East Boulevard and surrounding streets.

**Fiscal year 2019 (Jan. 1 to Dec. 31)**

**Cultural Gardens Federation**

**Income: \$125,402**  
**Expenses: \$116,107**  
**Additional cash reserves: \$44,000**

**Centennial Peace Plaza**

**Overall project contributions since 2016: \$1.1 million (approx.)**

**EXPENSES: (some to be paid in 2020):**

**2019 Contract awarded to Lakeland Management Systems: \$798,000**

**Change orders and additional soil excavation: \$90,000 (approx.)**

**Owner expenses: Pre-construction design work, soil and materials testing, legal notices, printing, etc.: \$120,000**

**Total: \$1.08 million**



Breaking ground at the Centennial Peace Plaza site.

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# **Financial report 2019**

## *Moving into the future, with you*

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens will continue to thrive by becoming ever more inclusive and welcoming of new cultures, and by making Rockefeller Park a premier destination spot for neighborhood friends and visitors from all over the world.

Our future will involve the development of mobile app tours, teacher resource guides, discussions of multiculturalism in our new plaza, concerts, outdoor theater, and much more. The possibilities are endless for a cultural treasure whose full potential has yet to be realized.

We can't move forward, however, without the support of everyone who loves the Cultural Gardens. Your ideas, your volunteer participation and your financial support are needed to guarantee a healthy and vital future. We are excited to be of service and to share our mission and vision with all our partners and guests. Please join us!

For information about any of the CCGF's projects or events, or any of the Cultural Gardens, contact:

Lori Ashyk

Executive Director

Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation

216-220-3075

[l.ashyk@clevelandculturalgardens.org](mailto:l.ashyk@clevelandculturalgardens.org)

For a calendar of events, please check out our website at: [www.clevelandculturalgardens.org](http://www.clevelandculturalgardens.org)

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# *The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation 2019 Annual Report*