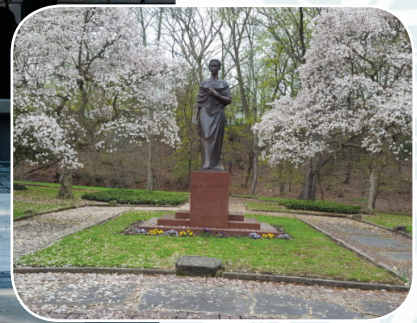




CLEVELAND CULTURAL GARDENS FEDERATION



*Celebrating Northeast Ohio's
cultural heritage, promoting
peace through mutual understanding
since 1916.*

2023 Annual Report

Dear friends of the Cleveland Cultural Gardens:

As we reflect on the success of the past year, it's hard not to show our gratitude to our gardens and to our partners. They have helped us realize our dreams and given us hope for the future.



Our gardens have moved forward on significant projects, including the construction and dedication of the Pakistani Garden, installations in the French, Carpatho-Ruysn, and Vietnamese Gardens, and the completion of design plans in the Colombian and Scottish Gardens. We commend them for their hard work and their commitment and look forward to seeing these beautiful Gardens blossom.

The Gardens also helped make our flagship event, One World Day, a huge success, in conjunction with our One World Day production team led by Johnny Wu. The 77th One World Day in 2023 was our biggest ever, drawing tens of thousands of visitors, and 1,500 marchers from more than 50 cultures in our Parade of Flags.

Our success would not be possible without our partners. Thanks to a grant from Cuyahoga County, the Cultural Gardens Federation is moving forward on a long-desired project: the construction of a comfort station in the Gardens. The City of Cleveland has partnered with us in creating design plans, and our hope is for construction to be completed by the end of 2024. We are grateful to the county and the city for their support.

The Federation, thanks to support from the Cleveland Foundation and the Abington Foundation, also will be growing its educational programs in 2024. We'll begin with the development of a curriculum guide to the Cultural Gardens, so that educators throughout Northeast Ohio will know how they can use and teach what's in the Gardens.

We also hope to offer more educational series for adults, and we salute the Greek Garden for giving us a great example with its speaker series featuring Socrates and Plato, and the Golden Ratio this past summer.

Internally, the Federation has taken steps to build capacity to better serve the community and its Garden members. We have increased committee membership significantly and will continue to do so as we move into the future. We've also continued to make our website more user friendly so that we can interact with you more easily.

These are just a few of last year's highlights. This report will illustrate the many happenings in the Gardens and Federation in 2023 – the World on Stage concert series, Juneteenth in the African American Garden, Opera in the Italian Garden, the Liszt Concert in the Hungarian Garden, our Installation Dinner and more - and provide a glimpse of what's to come. Enjoy and thank you.

Sincerely,



Wael Khoury, MD
President, CCGF

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Marketing: Dan Hanson
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Pierre Bejjanni (vice president)

The Federation is grateful to the community volunteers who help us maintain our gardens. In 2023, they included students from John Carroll University and Beaumont School, and others from the Trust for Public Land and KeyBank who provided gardening help.

Thank you as well to our 100-plus One World Day volunteers who helped with set-up and tear-down and assisted gardens and attendees in myriad ways. Members of the Cleveland Photographic Society also provided their services to OWD in order to record this joyous day for us, and we are in their debt. They are: Mark Horning, Mari Nalls, David Ciborek, Deborah Willis, Tom Malinchak, Greg Nold and Scott Morrison.



Arts, education and growth in the Gardens

The Cultural Gardens blossomed in many ways in 2023. The year saw the construction and dedication of the Pakistani Cultural Garden, a tremendous effort six years in the making; a new education series in the Greek Cultural Garden; the recognition of the African American Cultural Garden for its place on Cleveland's Civil Rights Trail; and the beginnings of new Federation projects related to a curriculum guide to the Gardens for teachers and a self-guided audio tour. At our World on Stage series, in addition to diverse mix of Asian, African, European and Middle Eastern music and dance, we introduced a "Glenville's Got Talent" contest at Community Night.

As always, thanks to the Italian Garden for its Opera in the Italian Garden which took place in September in 2023, and delighted the crowds with popular arias and Broadway tunes. The Hungarian Garden presented its Liszt concert in June with the Aurora School of Music, and the Mexican Garden celebrated Mexican Independence Day at the plaza in September.

Our One World Day event was joyous—bigger and better than ever. We were proud to welcome so many Northeast Ohioans to explore the Cultural Gardens. This is a day for all the Gardens to shine, and we thank all of those who participated and supported us in this community celebration. Nearly one-third of our survey participants at One World Day said it was their first time in the Gardens; it has become a great way to promote this great treasure and to make people aware of all we have to offer.



GiaHoa Ryan stands in front of the new white marble statue in the Vietnamese Garden (photo by Ken Kovach).



The dedication ceremony for the Pakistani Garden at One World Day 2023 (photo by Dan Hanson)



City Council Representative Kevin Conwell performs with his band, the Footprints, in the African American Garden. (photo by Mark Horning.)

Snapshots

One World Day: 53 cultures and 1500 people in the Parade of Flags, 40 gardens participating, more than 40,000 attending.

World on Stage: More than 10 cultures celebrated, performance groups from world-wide cultures, hundreds attending five events, including an international music competition.

The Cultural Gardens

African American * Albanian * American * Armenian * Azerbaijani * British * Carpatho-Rusyn * Chinese * Colombian * Croatian * Czech * Egyptian * Estonian * Ethiopian * Filipino * Finnish * French * German * Greek * Hebrew * Hungarian * India * Irish * Italian * Korean * Latvian * Lebanese * Lithuanian * Mexican * Native American * Pakistani * Peace Garden of the Nations * Peruvian * Polish * Romanian * Russian * Scottish * Serbian * Slovak * Slovenian * Syrian * Turkish * Ukrainian * Uzbekistan * Vietnamese





A performer with a children's dance group in the India Garden at One World Day on Aug. 27, 2023. Photo by Mari Nalls.

Thank You

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation could not do the work of promoting our diverse Northeast Ohio community without the generous support of our donors, large and small, throughout the years. We especially want to thank those who helped make 2023 a year of growth and excitement.

*Cuyahoga County Council & Administration
The City of Cleveland & Councilman Kevin Conwell
The Cleveland Foundation
Holden Parks Trust
Key Bank
Cuyahoga Arts & Culture
Ohio Arts Council
The Lozick Foundation
The Harry & Emma Fox Charitable Foundation
Margaret W. Wong & Associates, LLC
Lou Frangos
Northeast Ohio Sewer District
Cuyahoga Community College
Cleveland Public Library
Destination Cleveland
Cleveland People*

Thanks as well to Dottie and Donald Zito, Mehmet Gencer, Bill Jirousek, Katherine Macsuga, Sharon Schnall, Christopher Blake, Carol Mandato, Rich Sarosi, Kristina Boykin, Brenda and Frank Smolen, Ludmila Hyvnar and Edward Almquist.

Promoting diversity, fostering an understanding of global cultures, and growing beautiful gardens.

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation provides support services to our member gardens and hosts programs, such as the World on Stage performing arts series and One World Day, a one-day event which features a Parade of Flags and ethnic food, music, and dance in each of our Gardens. These programs help nourish an understanding of the many cultures that call Northeast Ohio home. We appreciate your support for:

Growing our Gardens (general operating support)

General operating support helps fund staffing, and the day-to-day operations of the Federation: administrative overhead, advocacy and planning for garden-wide infrastructure improvements, information and referrals and marketing. We also fund insurance for our gardens and develop educational materials and programs.

Programs

Your gift can help support One World Day and World on Stage, which showcase the many talents and treasures of our many diverse cultures and promote the understanding of international performing arts.

If you would like more information about what we do or would like to donate to a specific program such as One World Day, please contact us at 216-220-3075. You can also visit our website at www.clevelandculturalgardens.org and click on the "support us" tab.

The Cleveland Cultural Gardens Federation is a 501c3, non-profit organization, which relies on donations and grants for its operations.

