



From our Executive Director

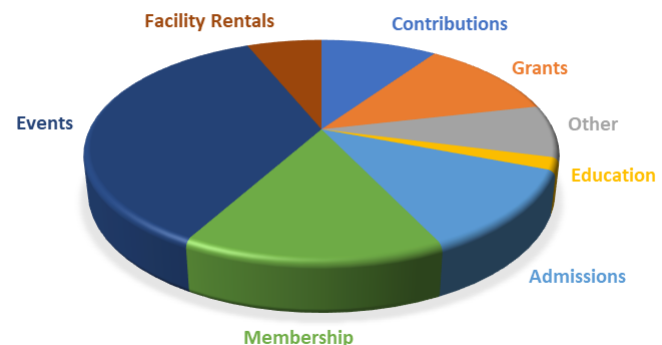
I once heard that “Gardening is a performing art...the slowest performing art”, and I’d have to say that in my first year as Executive Director at Heathcote Botanical Gardens, there are some things that respond rapidly, while others do so relatively slower. Personally, I lean toward the rapid, but I’m learning that in any good garden, both are worth the wait.

As we closed out our fiscal year September 30, 2023, having planted, watered, and cultivated many things here at Heathcote both plants or relationships, I’d like to share with you some of what took root last year and likewise, seeds that will be sown in 2024. I invite you to join me for a brief stroll in the garden to see how we’ve grown in 2023:

GARDEN LIFE

**YEAR-END REVENUE WAS
\$363,375
UP 9% FROM 2022**

FISCAL YEAR 22-23 REVENUE



Admissions 25,000
Membership 385

Volunteers 226 = 8,466 hours
\$130,292 financial value

Staff 6 dedicated members maintain the Gardens daily



GIFT SHOP

We found that the gift shop had sustained considerable termite damage despite our best efforts to keep the building pest free. It took several months of appointments and strategy sessions to find a contractor to remediate the problem in conjunction with the pest control company. We undertook a financial campaign to cover the costs we'd incur and to our delight, you contributed nearly \$40,000 and it looks like we'll be able to start renovations in April. Thank you to those who contributed.



HORTICULTURE PROJECTS & UPDATES



- Additional **uplighting installed** in the bonsai pavilion.
- **Expansion of the main lawn** with additional trees and plantings
- **Removal** of the main lawn **Laurel Oak**
- **Garden entrance refresh** with plantings and irrigation.
- Herb Garden relocation
- **New bonsai stands** in the Japanese Garden
- New **Butterfly Garden arbor** installed by Eagle Scouts
- Pioneer House cleaning and inventory
- Donation of **4 additional bonsai** expanding the collection to **128**: Literati Pink Pixie Bougainvillea, Banyan F. Macrocarpa, Cascade Dwarf F. Natalensis by Ficus authority Jerry Meislik, and Cascade Bucida Spinosa that was originally styled by John Naka in the early 1970s.
- **Secret Garden** construction in the old Herb Garden with the addition of a **Cinderella carriage**.
- **Security lighting** installed back parking area.
- **Upgrade of Wi-Fi** capabilities garden wide.

GARDEN OF LIGHTS

Garden of Lights is a seasonal favorite and our largest fundraiser.

- **9th Annual**
- Nearly **12,000** Attendees
- **27 Volunteer Illuminators** crafted each display.
- **12-nights** open to the public
- **1 additional night** for individuals with **cognitive & developmental difficulties**
- Garden of Lights raised **\$119,000**



GROWING INTO 2024

New & Exciting

- Bonsai Networking Monthly Meetings
- Building our reputation with intention as the largest public display of Bonsai in the US
- Butterfly Garden updating with plantings and irrigation
- Creation of an Education Committee
- Digital Membership
- Grow Getters Walking Club for members 7:30-9a Wednesdays
- Japanese Garden renovation
- Launch of Garden Room Sponsorship opportunities
- New Donor Management System
- Orchid Bee study and corresponding educational programs
- Secret Garden and Cinderella Carriage venue rental
- Signage – smart plant identifiers, directional and educational signs
- Youth Bonsai Club





- Volunteer Appreciation February 27th
- Tea in the Gardens March 10th – **SOLD OUT** event!
- Annual Membership Meeting March 27th
- Bonsai Bike Fest May 4th
- Bonsai or Bust Expo September 14th
- Fall Garden Fest October 12th & 13th
- Garden of Lights November 29th- January 4th

BIG NEWS!

One of our **generous volunteers** who is a Master Gardener and dear friend. To fast pace the **signage project** they will donate **\$5,000** as a matching challenge toward the **\$21,000 needed** to bring the project to completion. This will help us inventory our plant collections and bring them up to date. Most importantly, education is a vital part of Heathcote's mission, and having smart signage that links to biological and regional information electronically is state of the art and priceless. **Would you consider donating to this project?** Think about the impact of imparting this knowledge for generations to come. **We can't do it without you.**

"To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow." -Audrey Hepburn

As you can see, we have a lot going on in the Garden this year, and as they say, "it takes a garden village". I hope we'll see you soon strolling amongst the living art that fills the grounds of Heathcote. So, until then,

Here's to the Garden life,

Vicki Hoyos
Executive Director



PS Just a quick reminder that the **Annual Meeting for Heathcote Members** is scheduled for **March 27th 10:00-11:00 a.m.** in the bonsai pavilion. Light morning refreshments will be served, so bring a friend or two. We'd love to share our passion with them as well.