

January 27, 2016

Mayor Hales and Commissioners,

My name is Cathy Chinn, Immediate Past President of the Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association (PSSCA). In 2015 PSSCA requested a Benson Bubbler water fountain as a conveyance honoring the 15th year anniversary of the Lan Su Chinese Garden, a friendship project between Portland and our sister city of Suzhou, China. Lan Su Chinese Garden was built by Chinese artisans and is today a major Portland cultural institution drawing tourists to experience one of the most authentic Ming Dynasty Chinese Gardens outside of China.

In August 2015, I was honored to attend the gathering of the founders of both the Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association and Lan Su Chinese Garden. Mayor Bud Clark, Former-Commissioner Mike Lindberg, Former-PDC Executive Director Pat LaCrosse, Former-Portland Communication Director Jack McGowan, Former-Congressman David Wu, and Mr. Tang Ronglong of Suzhou Foreign Affairs came together at Lan Su Chinese Garden to look back on the 30th anniversary of their original efforts. With the exception of Mayor Bud Clark, these gentlemen formed the original group that met in Suzhou in summer of 1985 and started and grew both organizations over the years. They look back with pride at all that's been accomplished these last 30 years of exchanges between Suzhou and Portland. The Lan Su Chinese Garden is certainly one of those accomplishments, and one that Portlanders and visitors alike can enjoy.

Since the founding of the Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association in June, 1988, this sister city relationship has brought economic benefits to Portland and our region. As we speak, Portland schools are hosting approximately 150 students and teachers from Suzhou as part of ongoing yearly cultural and educational exchanges that bring Suzhou students to our city to learn firsthand about life in Portland and American society in general. Last summer, we assisted in making arrangements for Portland Development Commission Executive Director Patrick Quinton and his delegation to visit with Suzhou representatives to explore economic development opportunities, including promoting PDC's We Build Green Cities.

With the approval of the Council, this Benson Bubbler fountain will serve as a special symbol of good will of the people of Portland to the people of Suzhou, China. The City of Suzhou Foreign Affairs Office has informed our organization of plans to showcase this Benson Bubbler at the April 2016 Horticulture Expo in Suzhou, a regional event expected to draw millions of tourists.

Just a month ago, I was asked by the US Consulate Office in China to provide details and accomplishments of our sister city relationship to assist their efforts in highlighting our organization and further promote the City of Portland via social media in China.

The Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association looks forward to continued strong ties with our sister city of Suzhou, China. With the approval of the Council, our organization agrees to abide to the Grant Agreement and manage all shipping arrangements and other logistical considerations to transfer this Benson Bubbler to the City of Suzhou.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Chinn
Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association
www.portlandsuzhou.org