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**Sent:** Monday, August 08, 2016 4:11 PM  
**To:** Planning and Sustainability Commission <psc@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Cc:** Bloom Stephen D. <sbloom@japanesegarden.com>  
**Subject:** CC2035 Testimony - Portland Japanese Garden view corridor

Planning and Sustainability Commission, City of Portland

Commission Members,

**I am writing to you today to request that the Portland Japanese Garden's 1963 panoramic view be added to the Central City Scenic Resources Inventory of Protected Views.** The Portland Japanese Garden should be allowed to restore and then protect its original panoramic view. The Garden was designed specifically around an expansive panoramic view encompassing the International Rose Test Gardens in the foreground, the downtown skyline in the middle-ground, and the Cascades in the far-ground. This view is central to the Garden's original design for the pavilion and terrace orientation, as well as a critical component of the psychological distancing from the world that creates the healing experience of beauty and tranquility that is at the heart of the Garden's value to our community.

As a native Oregonian, the Portland Japanese Garden has been an important part of my life since childhood when my parents first introduced me to its pleasures. The Garden was a must see part of every visit to Portland for them from our home in the Rogue Valley. The family photo albums are peppered with photographs of those many visits - the view from the terrace of the city and Mt. Hood, my brother and me next to a favorite Maple tree as we all grew into maturity, and my late parents walking the garden's paths hand-in-hand.

When I returned to Portland in 2000 to take up my position as Chief Curator at the Portland Art Museum, the first thing I did was join the Garden membership to support its continuance. It has been a source of solace and renewal every week since for me. I made the Garden a must visit site for every professional visitor/guest to the Museum from major contemporary artists to the Directors of FRAME, the French American Museum Exchange organization. Its unique qualities and authenticity made it a memorable part of their Portland experience. At retirement from the Museum, I was invited to join the Garden Board of Trustees and I have been happily involved in the first expansion of the Garden since its founding over 50 years ago. It is in that capacity and with my commitment to the cultural institutions of our city that I write in support of the Gardens inclusion in the protected views inventory.

The Portland Japanese Garden has become known internationally as the best Japanese garden outside of Japan. It is a world-class treasure for our community and the nation. Our community and an international group of donors are currently making a \$33,500,000 investment in the Garden and its facilities to make certain it continues to serve future generations as a world-class garden and cultural education center. It is our generation's responsibility to assure that the vision of the founders of the Garden and the vitality of it's place in our community's heart is preserved and prospers.

**Please protect the view around which the Garden was designed and which is so essential to its beauty and tranquility.**

Sincerely,  
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