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PLANNING & SUSTAINABILITY

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Planning and Sustainability Commission,

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 is designed specifically around an expansive panoramic view encompassing the rose gardens in the foreground, the downtown skyline in the middle-ground and the Cascades in the far-ground. This view is critical to the healing experience of beauty and tranquility that is at the heart of the Garden's value to our community.

I have been a tour guide at the Garden for 12 years and I know how excited and in awe our visitors can be when they view Portland from the veranda of the Pavilion. We talk to them about how Professor Tono, the original garden designer, called our Mt. Hood Portland's Mt. Fuji, illustrating another cultural connection between our two communities. The concept of "borrowed scenery" is very important. The distant view isn't actually borrowed or bought, but rather captured alive. And so it must remain alive as an important scenic resource for our garden, our city and our many visitors from all over the world.

The Portland Japanese Garden is the best Japanese garden outside of Japan! It is a world-class treasure for our community. Our community is currently making a \$33,500,000 investment to make sure it continues to serve future generations as a world-class garden and cultural center. **Please protect the view that is so essential to its beauty and tranquility.**

Mary Reece



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