

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Dear 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.

My relationship with the Garden is one that has evolved over many years – initially, I started as a volunteer but within two years was working full time under the Garden Curator as the Project Manager/Assistant to the Garden Curator. Through this position, I am able to support my passion for the Garden as a way to connect people to nature through gardens. The underlying rich aesthetics and varied philosophical values which combine to inform Japanese gardens are wonderful guidelines for the modern challenge of respecting and connecting to nature. Regardless of the chaos in the world the Portland Japanese Garden is a healing place where one is able to find a moment of calm, appreciate the beauty of nature, and engage in a dynamic cultural community. The view at discussion here (SW06), is a view like no other that exists in Portland, or in any major public garden on the West coast where the visitor is immersed in a tranquil and healing environment and then reconnected to the urban, local, and regional expanse of nature in a single view. This connection to downtown Portland, to the foothills, and to Mt. Hood and Mt. St. Helens is an invaluable asset that requires protection for future generations to experience.

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.**

Sincerely,  
Desirae D. Wood

Desirae D. Wood  
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# 1971 View from Portland Japanese Garden: 30,000 visitors





# 2016 view from Portland Japanese Garden: 400,000 visitors

