



First Capital Garden

A Semiquincentennial Celebration of Philadelphia's Past & Future as a World Heritage Garden City

The First Capital Garden is a \$10 million project to memorialize Philadelphia's 250- year history as a world heritage garden city and to celebrate its evolving future

The project is conceived as a global partnership involving China, Hong Kong and Taiwan and is designed as a historical complement to the \$100 million China National Garden opening in the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington DC in late 2019

The project highlights three distinct stages in Philadelphia's history:

1776

Features: A Lenni Lenape longhouse and garden featuring traditional crops from heirloom Lenape seeds
A Quaker farmhouse and garden featuring period flowers and crops from heirloom Quaker seeds
A Chinese pavilion and garden featuring tea and exotic botanical imports prized in the colonies

Educational Focus: Lifestyle & ecological sustainability of the Lenape native inhabitants
William Penn and Philadelphia's cultural exchange with the Lenape & China
Establishment of the nation's first arboretums with plants from China
Ben Franklin's deep well of inspiration drawn directly from China

1876

Features: Google Arts & Culture digital recreation of the Chinese Pavilion at the Centennial World's Fair
Permanent exhibition of artifacts from the Chinese Pavilion

Educational Focus: The history of the first World's Fair to be held in the United States of America
Direct experience of the most popular exhibitions from the Centennial

The Next 100 Years

Feature: A program of international collaboration and academic exchange, based on the founding collaboration with China, Hong Kong and Taiwan but open to all international partners, to keep Philadelphia at the forefront of the digital cultural heritage preservation field globally

Invited Organizers

The overall organization and coordination among the 1776, 1876 & Next 100 Year elements will be the responsibility of an executive organizing committee including city officials (ex officio), invited organizers and the leadership tier of the respective three showcased elements. Invited organizers (and co-conveners of the executive organizing committee) include:

- USA250¹ (non-profit leading master planning for 2026 national campus in Philadelphia)
- National Constitution Center² (Declaration of Independence/Anniversaries theme)
- Pennsylvania Horticultural Society¹ (Horticulture as 'Unifier' theme)
- PHL IMPACT/ReGen 250 (dba for CPGP, a 501c3 established in 2011 and, since 2014, one of only 36 organizations since 2009 to enjoy U.S.-China EcoPartner status, competitively-selected and jointly awarded by the U.S. and PRC governments) (Project originator & four sub-themes)

1. THEMES

Themes & Sub-Themes (indented)	Overarching Theme	1776	1876	2026
Declaration of Independence	A more perfect union: the state of the American union has been, is now, and always will be a work in progress	Founding Fathers	Centennial Exhibition	Semiquincentennial
Religious Freedom/Inclusivity		Quakers & Dissenters	1 st Amendment @ Centennial	NCC Project (TBD)
Horticulture as 'Unifier'		Bartram's & Arboretums	Fairmount Park	Delaware River Watershed
Cult./Hort.Exchange: China		Tea & Exotic Botanicals	VR: Chinese Pavilion @ Centennial	The Tea Project
Cult./Hort. Exchange: Lenape		Outreach & Marginalization	VR: NA Indian Exhibit @ Centennial	First Reconciliation & Beyond
Innovation/Regeneration		Colonial Universities	VR: Patent Models @ Centennial	Documentaries & DCHP Collaboration

Leadership Tier* of Invited Supporting Organizations

1776

Museum Partner: The Museum of the American Revolution¹
 University Partners: The University of Pennsylvania (Fox Leadership International)¹
 The TriCo LIAISE Program (Bryn Mawr, Haverford, & Swarthmore Colleges)¹

1876

Museum Partners: The Philadelphia Museum of Art (East Asia Collection)¹
 The Hagley Museum¹
 University Partner: Drexel University (Academy of Natural Sciences. & Westphal College)³

Next 100 Years:

Museum Partner: The Franklin Institute²
 University Partner: Temple University (School of Tourism & Hospitality Management)²

KEY:

- 1 – proceeding toward Memorandum of Understanding.
- 2 – invited and in discussion
- 3 – invited

*

Leadership Tier MOUs to be in place by 7/4/2020;
 30 Orgs in Expert Tier to be invited 7/4/2020
 (1776 - 15; 1876 – 8; Next 100 – 7)