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ONE EXTRAORDINARY GARDEN



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New Visitor Learning Center Capital Campaign Kick-Off Presentation

April 7, 2015 Walnut Creek, CA – The world-renowned Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek presented plans for a \$ 2 million capital campaign to raise funds for its first Visitor Learning Center at a public Kick Off presentation for members and the public on March 26, 2016. To date, the Garden has raised \$1.23 million towards its \$2 million goal for the building project.

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that owns and operates the Garden and its full-time nursery and raises funds necessary for its preservation. The Garden is known for its unique garden design and for its stunning collection of drought-tolerant succulents, cacti, and water-conserving plants from all over the world. The new Center will help fulfill the Garden's mission to preserve Ruth Bancroft's exceptional example of garden design and to continue to develop her collection of water-conserving plants for the education and enjoyment of the public.

The evening presentation featured a short introductory video about the Visitor Learning Center that highlighted the history of the Bancroft family farm in Walnut Creek and how Ruth Bancroft came to start

her distinctive garden in 1972. With over 12,000 visitors and 1,700 members this year, the Garden is long overdue to provide a Visitor Learning Center to welcome visitors and accommodate year-round educational and social events to benefit its growing membership and the wider community.

The Garden's board of directors committed \$500,000 to begin the capital campaign which hopes to reach its goal in pledges by June 1, 2015. Three local foundations, the Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, the Herbst Foundation and the Barclay and Sharon Simpson Foundation have also made major commitments to the campaign. Board member Billie Hopper, and Executive Director Gretchen Bartzen are directing the Campaign on behalf of the board.

The Ruth Bancroft Garden is located at 1552 Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek, and is open to the public Tuesday through Sunday, from 10 AM-4 PM, with self-guided tours, docent-led activities, and a unique nursery offering hard-to-find water-wise plants especially adapted to the Bay Area. Interested parties may contact Gretchen Bartzen at the Garden office at (925) 944-9352, or gretchen@ruthbancroftgarden.org.