



MEDIA ALERT

Garden Conservancy Grant to Help Restore Historic Swan House Boxwood Garden at Atlanta History Center

NOVEMBER 19, 2015: The Garden Conservancy and the Atlanta History Center are pleased to announce that the Garden Conservancy has provided a grant for the restoration of the iconic Swan House Boxwood Garden at the Atlanta History Center. The \$20,000 grant will help the History Center replant and restore the historic character of the Philip Trammell Shutze-designed boxwood garden to its original 1930s appearance.

The Garden Conservancy and Atlanta History Center first started talking about the Boxwood Garden and whether the Garden Conservancy might assist with restoration last spring, when the Conservancy's Society of Fellows visited Swan House and surrounding gardens at the History Center as part of a Fellows garden-study tour of Atlanta. The History Center submitted a detailed proposal in June, and today the Garden Conservancy awarded a grant to help restore the historic Boxwood Garden, with support from participants of the Fellows tour and other sources.

The walled Boxwood Garden was designed by Philip Trammell Shutze (1890-1982), one of Atlanta's most prominent 20th-century architects, known for his neo-classical architecture and landscape design. As he did with all of his projects, Shutze designed Swan House as well as the surrounding landscape. Purchased by the Atlanta History Center in 1966, Swan House is considered one of Shutze's master works. The entire property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Boxwood Garden sits on the cross-axis between two façades, with two vastly different architectural styles—one Italian Baroque, the other Georgian neo-Palladian—and helps transition between their vastly different styles. Entered via an elegant flight of stone stairs and reminiscent of an Italian monastic cloister garden, the 120-foot long by 72-foot wide garden is divided into symmetrical quadrants featuring a graceful fountain at the center. Each quadrant features a parterre containing a secondary path system; the center-facing section of each quadrant is planted with boxwood, echoing the architectural detail in the fountain's shape.

The outer-facing section of each parterre is separated by a narrow path and features a wide planting bed of English ivy, edged in lirioppe, punctuated with standards of white-flowering wisteria. Crape myrtles line the long sides in five-foot wide raised perennial beds, drawing the eye down to the terminus of the garden, where twin pairs of ionic columns support broken pediments flanking paired urns and a center surmounted by an eagle. A central gravel path through the Boxwood Garden leads to a native woodland beyond.

The Boxwood Garden, a key component of the historic integrity of Shutze's design for the house and its landscape, underwent extensive restoration in the 1990s. All gardens are living works of art,

constantly growing and evolving; even restored gardens periodically require additional work to maintain the spirit and intent of the original design.

About the Garden Conservancy: *Founded in 1989, the Garden Conservancy is the nation's leading nonprofit organization dedicated to saving and sharing outstanding American gardens for the education and inspiration of the public. It helps outstanding private gardens become public, and existing public gardens manage natural and manmade challenges. The Garden Conservancy's signature Open Days program provides access to hundreds of private gardens across America; its lectures, tours, and symposia offer a source of contemporary ideas in gardening, design, and preservation. The Garden Conservancy is headquartered in Garrison, NY, with a West Coast office in San Francisco. For more information, visit gardenconservancy.org*

About Atlanta History Center: *Founded in 1926, the Atlanta History Center is an all-inclusive destination featuring the Atlanta History Center Museum, one of the Southeast's largest history museums; two historic houses, the 1928 Swan House and the 1860s Smith Family Farm; the Centennial Olympic Games Museum; twenty-two acres of Goizueta Gardens; the Kenan Research Center; the Grand Overlook event space; Swan Coach House Restaurant and a museum shop. In addition, the History Center operates the Margaret Mitchell House. Located in Midtown Atlanta, the two-acre campus features tours of the apartment where Margaret Mitchell wrote her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *Gone with the Wind*; an exhibition highlighting the life of Margaret Mitchell; a *Gone with the Wind* movie exhibition; and a museum shop. For information on Atlanta History Center offerings, hours of operation, and admission prices, call 404.814.4000 or visit AtlantaHistoryCenter.com.*

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