

**For Immediate Release:**

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Architects' rendering of east view of planned Visitor and Education Center, The Ruth Bancroft Garden, Walnut Creek, California

## Visitor and Education Center Receives New Challenge Grant

By Gretchen Bartzen, The Ruth Bancroft Garden Executive Director

July 21, 2016

The Ruth Bancroft Garden has just received a new \$25,000 Challenge Grant to help the Garden reach its goal of raising \$2.5 million to build a much needed first-time Visitor and Education Center! This Challenge is offered by The Garden Conservancy, a national organization which preserves outstanding American gardens for public use. The Ruth Bancroft Garden was the inspiration for the creation of The Garden Conservancy in 1989 and was its first preservation project. The Garden Conservancy Board has generously offered a dollar for dollar challenge for all new gifts and pledges to this historic building project, up to the next \$25,000 received, starting June 22, 2016.

The Garden has already raised \$2.1 million, or over 80 percent of the \$2.5 million goal needed to complete the project, from over 250 generous individuals, and 7 foundations. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> matching grant that has helped the Garden raise over \$2 million in the last year and a half.

Earlier challenge grants have come from the Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation and the Herbst Foundation of San Francisco. Then the Erik and Edith Bergstrom Foundation of Atherton offered two \$25,000 challenge grants last summer, which were successfully met by many generous members and new friends in September and December of 2015.

Groundbreaking for the new Visitor and Education Center will happen in mid-September or early October, pending final Design Review and building permit hearings to be held in July and September or October.

If you are interested in learning more about the project or making a pledge or gift to help meet this wonderful Challenge Grant, please contact Billie Hopper, [billie@ruthbancroftgarden.org](mailto:billie@ruthbancroftgarden.org) or click on this link: <http://www.ruthbancroftgarden.org/rbgarden/pages/VisitorandEducationCenter.html>

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