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ONE EXTRAORDINARY GARDEN



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The Ruth Bancroft Garden Celebrates Opening New Visitor and Education Center

July 8, 2019 Walnut Creek, CA – The world-renowned drought tolerant Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek held a public Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for over 300 Garden members and the public to celebrate the opening of its new Coit Family Visitor and Education Center on Wednesday, June 26, 2019.

Walnut Creek Mayor Cindy Silva, and Mayor Pro Tem Loella Haskew were on hand, along with the Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, to formally Cut the Ribbon and recognize the opening of the new 5,000 square foot Center, the first permanent building ever constructed at the Garden. The \$5 million Coit Family Visitor and Education Center was completed with the support of over 400 individuals and private foundations. The Center will help welcome visitors year-round and provide a generous indoor multi-purpose classroom, community meeting space and special event site, as well as an office for the Garden staff.

Created nearly 50 years ago by Walnut Creek pioneer Ruth Bancroft, the Garden was donated to the public in 1992 with the aid of The Garden Conservancy. The Ruth Bancroft Garden now attracts over 15,000 visitors every year to experience its unique design and stunning collection of drought-tolerant plants from all over the globe.

The new Center has ADA accessible restrooms and meeting facilities, and access to the Garden with new paved and decomposed granite paths. The Center will help the Garden offer more workshops and

educational programs for children and students of all ages. Canyon Design Build of Moraga was the project contractor, and Lutsko Associates of San Francisco was the landscape design firm for the new Center.

The Coit Visitor and Education Center helps fulfill the Garden's mission to preserve Ruth Bancroft's exceptional example of garden design and further develop Ruth's stunning collection of water-conserving plants for the education and enjoyment of the public.

The Ruth Bancroft Garden, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization that owns and operates the Garden and a full-service retail drought tolerant nursery and raises funds necessary to sustain the Garden. The Garden is located at 1552 Bancroft Road in Walnut Creek, and is open to the public Tuesday through Thursdays from 10 AM-4 PM, and Fridays through Sundays from 10 AM- 5PM, with self-guided tours, docent-led activities, and a unique nursery offering hard-to-find water-wise plants especially adapted to the Bay Area.