THE ARBORETUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Cultivating the connection between people and plants

FROM THE CEO

Fiscal year 2001-02 was the year that we set our eyes on the prize–the future of our institution. Quietly we've been crafting significant evolutionary changes for The Arboretum by hiring, developing, and empowering staff, by creating and working with our knowledgeable Advisory Board, and by working with our partners at the LA County Department of Parks and Recreation. Its new visionary and very supportive director, Tim Gallagher, joined the department in 2002.

Developing our long-range conceptual plan continues to excite and inspire. Realization of this plan will reinvigorate almost all aspects of The Arboretum from the beautification of our gardens and collections to the creation of multifaceted learning experiences about the critical relationships between people and plants.

We shared early stages of the plan in meetings with several interest groups whose support was virtually unanimous. I'm sure that friends and members of The Arboretum will be interested in the preview of the plan printed in this report.

In the past year we've also been energized by the visionary work produced by Garza Group in the areas of branding, marketing, and graphic communication. We look forward to further collaboration with Garza Group next year. I would also like to thank and acknowledge The Arboretum's organization of volunteers, Los Voluntarios, for their many contributions in the past year.

Over the last few years we have expanded our relationships with the Chinese and Latino communities. This past year we reached out to the Korean community with a Korean garden at our Baldwin Bonanza. This, coupled with our improved educational programs and the continuation of our Ethnobotanical Lecture Series, are some of the efforts aimed at establishing and broadening The Arboretum's connection to its wider community.

In working toward fulfillment of its mission The Arboretum is an active advocate for the world of plants, for increased public understanding of the importance of plants, and for responsible conservation and ecological policies and practices. I look to our bright future and see nothing but success. I see children learning to cherish plants, our life sustaining partners; and I see the diverse make-up of LA looking to and embracing our institution as its own botanic garden; I see our world not just existing, but thriving at a higher level of well-being, in part because of our sound goals, priorities, and efforts.

I hope that all of you feel as proud and energized as I do about our beloved Arboretum and that you will join me in ensuring its evolution to greater beauty and enhanced community service.

Respectfully,

Peter C. Atkins

Peter C. Atkins
Chief Executive Officer

In preparing for many dramatic changes proposed for The Arboretum's immediate future, 2001-02 was an important year of transition. Staff additions, team building, analysis, research, and planning were all focused on a single goal: to ready us for movement on many fronts simultaneously in the coming year. At the heart of these changes is our conceptual plan for the evolution of The Arboretum's collections, gardens, and historical section, all of which will enhance the visitor experience in a myriad of ways. Now beginning the fifth of its six phases, the entire plan will near completion by the end of calendar year 2002.

FRIENDS

We hope you'll share our enthusiasm as we look toward completion and gradual implementation of the wonderful conceptual long range plan that Nancy Power and her team are developing to guide our evolution as one of the world's truly fine arboreta and botanic gardens.

We appreciate the support of Michael Antonovich and the other County Supervisors and the contributions of County staff, including Director Tim Gallagher and Assistant Director Olene Ewell-White of the County Department of Parks and Recreation, and of the entire Arboretum staff and its host of volunteers.

We thank Peter Atkins for his vision and leadership.

And on behalf of the foundation trustees, I invite your input and involvement, and–as always–thank you for your interest and support.

George A. Brumder
President, Board of Trustees
Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation

DEAR ARBORETUM SUPPORTERS

One of my great pleasures in coming to Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation was the county's involvement with and support of The Arboretum and other botanical sites. A unique and special place, the Arboretum offers a tremendous opportunity to reach the families and youth of our community, in addition to visitors to our area.

With the assistance of the membership of the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation I believe we have a great future. A future that will bring continued growth and expansion in public outreach and educational opportunities. Additionally, we all look forward to the developing plans for the future renovation of The Arboretum itself.

Partnerships, collaborations and common goals are all within the future of the Foundation and the Department of Parks and Recreation. I personally look forward to working with the Foundation members and the Department in moving forward significant improvements to The Arboretum.

Together we can make this a premier botanic garden of Los Angeles County.

Tim Gallagher
Director of the County Department of Parks and Recreation

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In Memory of Kay Tearington
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Los Voluntarios

Members of Los Voluntarios, a.k.a. Los Vols, can be found throughout The Arboretum helping in many ways. They assist in the Gift Shop and the gardens; they arrange flowers in the Rotunda, the Queen Anne Cottage and Peacock Café; they give historical and botanical tours to school groups and adults; they propagate plants; and work behind the scenes booking tours, and answering questions by phone.

The volunteers in the historical group maintain the Adobe, Depot, and Queen Anne Cottage. Los Vols also assist in special events like the Baldwin Bonanza. For information about joining Los Vols, call (626) 821-4623.

Printed on 50% recycled paper including 30% post-consumer waste

DESIGN: GARZA GROUP COMMUNICATIONS EDITORIAL: STUART I. FROLICK PHOTOGRAPHY: CLYDE REAVIS, FRANK MCDONOUGH, DAN O'BRIEN, WEI-NEG CHEN, YOLANDA HUANG

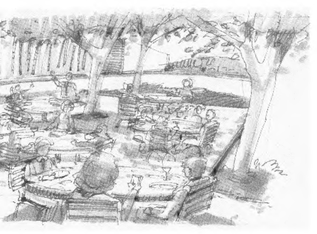
Planning for our future

Last year The Arboretum contracted the Santa Monica-based landscape design firm of Nancy Goslee Power & Associates to develop a long-range conceptual plan for the future of our institution. The plan proposes a wide range of enhancements and improvements to our current offerings, and suggests ways for us to create new kinds of enjoyable and educational experiences at The Arboretum. The plan will evolve through six phases, the first four of which are now complete. Virtually all aspects of the visitor experience are considered, from entrance and parking, to a Visitor Center and tram routes; from a new restaurant and kitchen garden, to a eucalyptus forest and Asian collection garden, to name just a few examples.

In addition to revising and beautifying the physical aspects of our property, the plan goes much further. It recommends that ethnobotany—the relationship between people and plants—offers a particularly relevant focus for all of our learning-based activities. This theme can be integrated throughout our visitors' journeys in a variety of imaginative, interactive forms. For example, in special events celebrating a geographical region of the world we would link its terrain, climate, and indigenous people, with their culture's unique uses of native plants for food, clothing, shelter, and medicine. In a region as culturally diverse as Los Angeles, we believe the ethnobotanical message will strike a timely and resonant chord—both with our local communities, as well as with our neighbors worldwide.

1. Entrance Drive: *Driving through a grove of trees with dramatic plantings on both sides, the proposed new entrance signals the visitor's approach to a special place. The sense of anticipation is heightened by a clear view of the Arrival Plaza and a garden trellis that connects and softly shields an arc of proposed new buildings. These include the visitors' center, gallery, gift shop, library, and restaurant.*

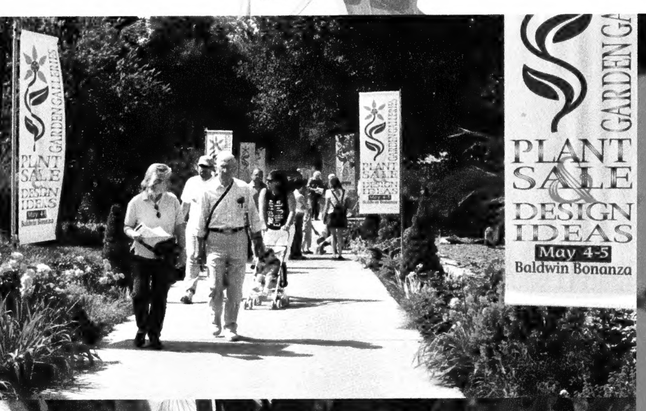
2. The Promenade: *The Arrival Plaza is a place of meeting and orientation; its central focus, a tower, is visible from all points in the gardens. The promenade provides access to the buildings on one side, gardens and collections on the other. A continuous watercourse runs along the walkway, adding a natural cooling element to the environment. The soothing sound of water flowing along its steps or weirs masks the noises from Baldwin Avenue.*



3. Dining Terrace: *At the southern end of the promenade, the watercourse spills into a restful pool. Underneath a grove of sycamore trees, a proposed dining terrace overlooks a kitchen garden that will supply fresh vegetables and herbs to the new restaurant. The terrace is designed with views toward the San Gabriel Mountains as well as close proximity to the site of The Arboretum's summer evening music series.*

4. Pavilion: *A proposed Southeast Asian-influenced pavilion stands atop Tallac Knoll. The multi purpose structure may serve both as a place to rest and enjoy refreshments during the day, and as a central meeting place for special events at night. Situated among the gardens and collections, it will enhance an environment ideal for celebrations of cultural diversity and the world we share with plants.*

All specifications in the conceptual plan are proposed and subject to change.



FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Arboretum is co-governed and financially supported by Los Angeles County and The Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation.
For your information, we summarize the Foundation's balance sheet and operating statement for the year ending June 30th:

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITIONS	JUNE 30, 2002
Assets	
Cash	$ 243,628
Investments, at fair market value	2,650,676
Other assets	525,936
Total Assets	**$ 3,420,240**
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	$ 83,135
Unrestricted	2,367,578
Temporarily restricted	757,806
Permanently restricted	211,721
Net Assets	3,337,105
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	**$ 3,420,240**

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2002
Revenue	$ 875,053
Net assets released from restriction	75,468
Total Revenue	**$ 950,521**
Expenses	
Administration	$ 121,923
Fundraising	$ 318,007
Program	984,806
Total Expense	**$ 1,424,736**
Decrease in unrestricted net assets	(474,215)
Decrease in temporary restricted net assets	(75,468)
Decrease in net Assets	(549,683)
Net assets beginning of year	**$ 3,886,788**
Net assets end of year	**$ 3,337,105**

GRANTS, MAJOR GIFTS, AND LOANS

ADA Compliance Grant: The Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office granted $175,000 to The Arboretum for improvements towards ADA compliance.

J.P. Getty Preserve L.A. Grant: The Arboretum was recipient of $63,500 from the Getty's Preserve LA Grant program. Funds will be used to develop a plan to ensure the integrity of our historic buildings and expand public access. A Preserve LA implementation grant will be applied for upon completion of the plan.

Warren and Alyce Williamson underwrote an art exhibition, "Cross Pollination" for $25,000.

Jameson Grant for $20,000. A portion of this grant will underwrite the Japanese Iris Festival and the Mediterranean Gardening Symposium, as well as to publish The Arboretum's newsletter and calendar.

The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust awarded The Arboretum $20,000 for the purchase, installation, and training required to upgrade our plant record-keeping software to an international standard.

Valley Crest Tree Company, one of our corporate partners, donated $25,000 toward completion of the stone pathways in the Herb Garden.

Three sculptures were given to The Arboretum on long-term loan by sculptors Bret Price and Jerry Walberg. Both artists have global reputations and have offered their contacts to expand our collection. A recently formed sculpture committee will advise on future policies regarding such art objects.

HIGHLIGHTS AT-A-GLANCE

Exhibits and special events

Baldwin Bonanza, held May 3-5, attracted more than 4,000 people—a 35% increase in attendance over last year. Corporate sponsors increased by four hundred percent, and we welcomed 57 new memberships.

Los Angeles County Department of Education Environmental Education Fair in March was attended by more than 2,500 people.

Mother's Day Open House at the Queen Anne Cottage. Free tram rides were offered all day.

Cross Pollination Exhibit: Flower sculptures created by 50 artists from California and New York were featured in this exhibition underwritten by Warren & Alyce Williamson. Every Sunday in November, additional activities taught kids about the process of cross pollination, and allowed them to produce their own imaginary flowers.

A Chinese New Year Celebration and Tea Ceremony took place each Sunday last January. Co-sponsored with American Chinese Television (ACTV), the tea product was donated by The LA Chinese Tea Association. Admission was free.

The second annual Gourd Fair was co-sponsored with the California Gourd Society last September. The event brought artists, gourd growers, gourd musicians, crafters, and the horticultural community together to celebrate some of the many ways that people (ethno) use plants (botanical) to better our lives.

Education

Courses for kids: Arboretum Adventures for Kids Summer Camp. Campers created nature crafts, toured the gardens, and learned about The Arboretum's collections. Sessions were held in the Rad Rainforests and Tropical tree houses or The Patchwork Garden.

Programs

Classes were taught in Mandarin and Spanish and the number of children participating in our programs this year, both more than doubled from last year. Introduction of classes about gardening and cooking in a Mediterranean climate included Fresh! Celebrating the Table.

Research Division

Ethnobotany: The Arboretum continued its successful ethnobotanical lecture series with lectures by Wade Davis, Mark Plotkin, Mark Acuña, and Amanda McQuade Crawford.

Senior Biologist, Jim Bauml, attended the annual meeting of the Society for Economic Botany at the New York Botanical Garden.

Orchid collection: Thanh Pham, Plant Nursery Worker, completed an inventory of our orchid collection. An addition of 1,456 orchid accessions brought our total to over 3,000.

Did you know?

Pesticide use at The Arboretum has been reduced by 40%... A green waste recycling program and a hazard tree evaluation program were implemented in the past year... Our aquatic gardens were drained and cleaned for the first time in 20 years... The planting of the renovated herb garden was completed; a generous gift from Valley Crest Tree Company contributed to the flagstone paths... A new garden landscape, the "Blue Garden" was designed by Nancy Goslee Power. Monrovia Growers donated most of the plants and Arboretum staff completed the installation of the irrigation system and the plantings... According to available statistics, The Arboretum's web site www.arboretum.org is averaging 9,000 "hits" per week.