

*The*  
NATIONAL  
BONSAI  
FOUNDATION

*Annual Report* | 2019







---

## FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

Here is a sneak peek of one of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum's newest acquisitions: a 150-year-old buttonwood donated to care of the Museum by the CIA.

The buttonwood is currently hiding out in the Museum, where the staff is "declassifying" (preparing for public display) the tree.



## MISSION

The National Bonsai Foundation is a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1982 to sustain the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. It collaborates with the U.S. National Arboretum to offer financial support and counsel to the Museum.

This private/public collaboration between the Foundation and the Arboretum enables the Museum to promote the art of bonsai and penjing to visitors through masterpiece displays and educational programs while also fostering intercultural friendship and understanding.





---

## Dear Friends of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum

As we go to print with our 2019 Annual Report, we would be remiss not to pause on what is happening in the world around COVID-19. So much of what we've seen already in 2020 is everything we strive to keep in balance at the National Bonsai Foundation (NBF). As chaos, fear, sickness, and separation sweep our world, we think of the calm, peace, health benefits, and unity that bonsai offers humanity. As we face an uncertain future together, we find comfort in revisiting the successes of 2019 and find hope as we plan for the future.

A principal focus of NBF during 2019 was to make progress toward needed capital improvements to the Museum. Thanks to a generous gift from **Milton and Rosalind Chang**, NBF retained Reed+Hilderbrand and Trahan Architects and worked with U.S. National Arboretum Director **Dr. Richard Olsen** and his staff to develop a master plan to re-envision key Museum structures, including the **John Y. Naka North American Pavilion**, the **Yee-sun Wu Chinese Pavilion**, the **Yoshimura Center** staff worksite, and a new **Viewing Stone and Exhibits Gallery**.

We will be moving ahead in 2020 with fundraising efforts and the preparation of construction drawings to carry out the new master plan. **This will involve a major renovation of the Museum to help in its preservation as a national treasure.**

In August, the Museum entered into a formal "Sister Museum" relationship with the **Omiya Bonsai Art Museum** in Saitama City, Japan. **Dr. Richard Olsen** signed an agreement with the **Honorable Hayato Shimizu**, mayor of Saitama City, in a ceremony at the Arboretum attended by a large delegation of Japanese officials and invited guests. This new relationship will enable us to increase awareness of both museums as premier destinations to experience and elevate appreciation for the art.

---

With continuing support from **Barbara Hall Marshall and her family**, NBF expanded funding for the Museum's successful outreach programs to expose even more visitors to bonsai and penjing. Offerings included yoga, meditation, tai chi, drawing, and forest bathing. Each class concluded with a special tour of the Museum.

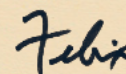
Thanks in large part to these events, as well as our regular blog postings, we saw many wins for our communications strategy. Both NBF and the Museum were featured in numerous media outlets throughout the year, including *The Washington Post*, WTTG Fox5, *Washingtonian Magazine*, WHUT, *Road Trippers Magazine*, and more.

From October 26 through November 17, the Museum hosted a retrospective exhibit of work by revered bonsai artist Nick Lenz. With funding from NBF, *Twisted Genius: The Eccentric Bonsai Artistry of Nick Lenz* featured ceramics and bonsai in a thought-provoking display. The exhibit was conceived by Curator **Michael James** and bonsai artist **Owen Reich** and curated by Museum Specialist **Kathleen Emerson-Dell** to introduce a new generation to Lenz's singular take on American bonsai.

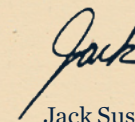
We at NBF are proud to be in partnership with the U.S. National Arboretum to assure that the Museum remains the finest place in America to view and appreciate the beauty and wonder of bonsai, penjing, and related art forms. We rejoice in knowing that the Museum is, as *Washington City Paper* readers put it, the "**Best Place to Bring an Out-of-Towner.**" Your ongoing support of the National Bonsai Foundation and the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum makes this all possible.

Please enjoy this Annual Report as it takes you on a pictorial stroll of a few of the majestic bonsai of the Museum.

With deepest gratitude,



Felix Laughlin  
NBF Co-President



Jack Sustic  
NBF Co-President

---



# NATIONAL BONSAI FOUNDATION BOARD & STAFF

The National Bonsai Foundation's Board of Directors and Executive Director work to achieve our mission and promote the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum throughout the United States and the world.

The NBF Board of Directors includes representatives from across the country and is supported by one full-time staff person. Together they advance the art of bonsai nationwide and foster global friendship and understanding by commending "peace through bonsai."

But amid declining federal funding, the fate of the world's first public bonsai museum rests on generous support from the private sector. The Board and staff's utmost priority is to raise funds on behalf of the Museum so its rich history is preserved, its peerless legacy is protected, and a future is prepared for a new generation to appreciate the gift of a small tree in a pot.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Mr. Felix B. Laughlin, NC  
*Co-President*

Mr. Jack Sustic, MI  
*Co-President*

Marybel Balendonck, CA  
*Vice President*

Dr. Carl Morimoto, CA  
*Vice President*

Mr. Daniel Angelucci, MI  
*Secretary*

Mr. James Brant, PA  
*Treasurer*

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dr. Johann F. Klodzen

## EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS

Mr. Charles Croft, VA  
Mr. Mark Fields, IN

## HONORARY DIRECTORS

Dr. Thomas Elias, CA  
Mr. Jiro Fukuda, Japan  
Mr. Yun Hua Hun, China  
Mrs. Naemi Iwasaki, Japan  
Mrs. Barbara Hall Marshall, MO  
Mr. Yasuo Mitsuya, Japan  
Mr. Kazuo Moriyama, Japan  
Mr. F. Chase Rosade, PA  
Mr. Hiroshi Takeyama, Japan  
Mr. Changbao Xin, China  
Ms. Keiko Yamane, Japan

## BOARD

Mr. Christopher Cochrane, VA  
Mrs. Julie Crudele, MD  
Mr. Edward Fabian, FL  
Dr. Joseph Gutierrez, VA  
Dr. Karen Harkaway, NJ  
Mr. James Hughes, MD  
Dr. Richard Kahn, VA  
Mrs. Cheryl Manning, CA  
Mr. Brussel Martin, MS  
Ms. Ann McClellan, DC  
Ms. Pauline Muth, NY  
Mr. Douglas Paul, PA  
Mr. Larry Ragle, CA  
Dr. Errol Reese, FL  
Mr. Glenn Reusch, VA  
Mrs. Solita Rosade, PA  
Dr. Deborah Rose, MD  
Mr. William Valavanis, NY  
Mrs. Janice Vitale, VA  
Mr. Stephen Voss, DC  
Mr. Jack Wells, FL  
Mrs. Jane Yamashiroya, HI

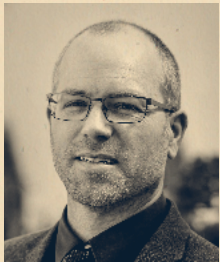
## IN MEMORIAM

*Solita Rosade was a dedicated board member of the National Bonsai Foundation and a tireless champion of bonsai art and preservation. She is remembered by her husband, F. Chase Rosade, an NBF honorary director, and the worldwide bonsai community.*



## NATIONAL ARBORETUM & MUSEUM STAFF

Museum staff wear many important hats: caring for the invaluable bonsai and penjing collections, designing innovative educational programs, and representing the Museum to the public. They are truly the face of this Museum and our trees, and each visitor's experience rests in their hands.



**Dr. Richard T. Olsen**  
*Director*

*“Unlike ephemeral, seasonal displays of riotous color and texture in our flower borders, bonsai transcend fleeting flowers and fads and enthrall across all seasons and ages.”*



**Mr. Michael James**  
*Curator*



**Ms. Kathleen Emerson-Dell**  
*Museum Specialist*



**Ms. Erin Holden**  
*Gardener*



### OLD AND NEW

The Museum staff care for trees that have been in the collection since the Museum's founding as well as new acquisitions like this Cork Bark Chinese Elm, generously donated in 2019 by Melvyn C. Goldstein.



### WITH CARE

Curator Michael James leads apprentice Andrew Bello in repotting *Goshin*, the Chinese juniper forest bonsai. Mr. James leads volunteers and staff in all aspects of bonsai care and maintenance, including training, potting, and soil nutrition.



*The*  
**SPIRIT**  
*of*  
**BONSAI**

*We return to the Museum  
for a long-awaited stroll  
among the bonsai.*



Words from bonsai master  
*Saburo Kato*







The first-time observer of bonsai is fascinated seeing what could be a large tree in a miniature size. His or her imagination can be led on endless journeys to mystical places: old-growth forests, windswept cliffs, or lush, green valleys.







The enthusiast is eventually captivated by experiencing the beauty of nature through the rhythm of another living thing whose life span can exceed our own.







A close bond develops between the caregiver and the bonsai. In return for the caregiver's love, the bonsai portrays the utmost beauty of nature. The love one has for bonsai then expands to encompass nature in all its many forms.



This is the Spirit of Bonsai.







Dr. Richard T. Olsen, director of the U.S. National Arboretum, and the Honorable Hayato Shimizu, mayor of Saitama City, signing the declaration.

## *Sister Museum Declaration*

On August 5, 2019, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, located at the U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC, officially became a “Sister Museum” to Omiya Bonsai Art Museum of Saitama City, Japan.

## MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS & APPRENTICESHIP

### MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

The Museum’s many bonsai and penjing require constant care—and we are endlessly fortunate to have a team of dedicated volunteers who assist the Museum staff with this important work. Through their collective skill in the art of bonsai and gardening, our collections not only thrive today but are preserved for future generations to enjoy.

Jennifer Amundsen  
Ross Campbell  
Young Choe  
Olivia Cook  
Chuck Croft  
LeAnn Duling  
Sachiko Furlan  
Brian Gottlieb

Joseph Gutierrez  
Dick Hammerschlag  
Richard Kang  
David Lieu  
Stephanie Mark  
Julie Pascu  
Theodore Pickett  
Mike Rainwater

Steve Smith  
Akiko Sprague  
Lori Sullivan  
Janice Vitale  
Alexander Voorhies  
Richard Winchester

### THE FIRST CURATOR’S APPRENTICESHIP

The First Curator’s Apprenticeship supports the Museum and aims to train the next generation of bonsai leadership. The position was established in 2011 to honor Robert Drechsler, the first curator of the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. A grant from Toyota Motor North America and the Sally Foss and James Scott Hill Foundation financed the 2019 apprenticeship.

Andrew Bello, an Illinois native with a passion for horticulture, was the 2019 First Curator’s Apprentice. After his apprenticeship, Andrew temporarily served as a U.S. National Arboretum agricultural research science technician. He started as the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum’s assistant curator in June 2020.

*“I am extremely grateful to the National Bonsai Foundation and the Arboretum for offering this amazing, one-of-a-kind opportunity to further my skills as a bonsai professional. I am grateful to Toyota and the Hill Foundation for their generous support of this position. My life and career path have benefited immensely from my experience, and I will be forever thankful to all involved in the process.”*

— Andrew Bello



## EXHIBITS & PROGRAMS

Our ever-changing schedule of Museum exhibits and programs helps us reach new, diverse audiences.

NBF provides financial support for the bonsai exhibits that are displayed in the Mary E. Mrose Exhibits Gallery, as well as related events and programs held throughout the Museum. We also publicize exhibits and events through media outreach, the NBF website, social media, and *Museum Messages*—our monthly e-newsletter featuring Museum updates, class and workshop schedules, bonsai history, blog content, and more.

### *Sakura Orihon*

Diary of a Cherry Blossom Journey  
FEB. 16 – APR. 7, 2019

### *Tai Chi & Bonsai*

APR. 7, MAY 5, SEPT. 8,  
OCT. 6, and NOV. 3, 2019

### *Ikebana International Exhibit*

Spring Flowers with a Japanese Twist!  
APR. 12 – 22, 2019

### *Mindfulness Amongst the Bonsai*

APR. 14, JUNE 9, and NOV. 10, 2019

### *Forest Bathing in the Collections*

APR. 18 and OCT. 19, 2019

### *Yoga & Bonsai*

APR. 20, MAY 25, JUNE 22,  
SEPT. 28, and OCT. 12, 2019

### *Potomac Bonsai Association Festival*

MAY 3 – 5, 2019

### *World Bonsai Day*

MAY 11, 2019

### *Sketching in the National Collections*

MAY 18 and SEPT. 14, 2019

### *Bonsai Bling: Azalea Bonsai in Bloom*

MAY 25 – JUNE 2, 2019

### *National Symphony Orchestra Chamber Concert*

JUNE 1, 2019



### NICK LENZ EXHIBITION

Featuring trees from many private collections, the exhibition highlighted well-known themes in the Nick Lenz oeuvre, including whimsy, drama, and wilderness.

### *Sogetsu Ikebana Exhibit*

JUNE 20 – 23, 2019

### *Spirit of Literati Exhibit*

In collaboration with Potomac Viewing Stone Group  
JULY 7 – SEPT. 29, 2019

### *Introduction to Bonsai*

with Curator Michael James  
JULY 13 – 14 and  
JULY 27 – 28, 2019

### *Twisted Genius*

The Eccentric Bonsai Artistry of Nick Lenz  
OCT. 26 – NOV. 17, 2019

### *Children's Workshop*

Will It Be a Bonsai or a Big Tree?  
NOV. 16, 2019

### DIGITAL MEDIA STATISTICS

**4,740**

Email  
Subscribers

**7,961**

Facebook  
Followers

**1,553**

Bonsai Circle  
Members

**1,934**

Instagram  
Followers



## DONORS

Thank you for your gift, and we look forward to working with you in 2020.

Without donations to NBF, the Museum could not make claim to be one of the finest museums in the world for this art form. These are all of the donors who have given so generously in support of the Museum.

### *Guardian of the Future* *Over \$50,000*

Marybel Balendonck, CA  
Edward & Lynn Fabian, FL  
Barbara Hall Marshall, MO  
Deborah Rose, MD  
Jacquelyn & William Sheehan, MD  
In Memory of Janet Lanman  
Toyota Motor North America

### *Legacy Steward* *\$10,000 - \$50,000*

Joseph & Sophia Abeles Foundation  
California Bonsai Society  
James Coriden, DC  
Robert Drechsler, MD  
James Hughes, MD  
The Kaneshiro Family Partnership  
Felix Laughlin, NC  
Larry & Nina Ragle, CA  
Errol Reese, FL  
Jack Sustic, MI  
Roy & Jane Yamashiroya, HI

### *Preservation Ambassador* *\$5,000 - \$9,999*

American Bonsai Society  
Daniel & Rose Angelucci, MI  
Richard Berk & Susan Sorenson, PA

Peter Bloomer, AZ  
Brandywine Bonsai Society  
Jim & Linda Brant, PA  
Claire DeGroot, VA  
Jack Douthitt, WI  
Peter Drewliner, HI  
Christopher & Tiffany Eich, CA  
Joseph Gutierrez, VA  
Margaret Holton, WA  
George Hutson, FL  
Chin Fun & Florence Kwok, VA  
Brussel Martin, MS  
Mid Atlantic Bonsai Societies  
Theodore & Mary Eugenia Myer, ME  
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
Jack Rubenstein, VA  
Marilyn Stevenson, CA  
Leland Vanderpool, FL  
Robert & Janice Vitale, VA  
Alan & Kathy Walker, LA

### *Capital Director* *\$1,000 - \$4,999*

Thomas & Louise Armitage, VA  
Roy Ashitomi, HI  
Susanne Barrymore, CA  
Bonsai Society of Greater New Haven  
Bonsai Society of Upstate New York  
William K. Bortz, DC

Theresa & Alan Boyden, IA  
Brookside Bonsai Society  
Ross Campbell, MD  
Paula Chiplis, MD  
Joan Clark, TN  
Christopher Cochrane, VA  
Julie Crudele, MD  
Paul Eder, MD  
Fort Walton Beach Bonsai Society  
John Ganoung, CA  
Richard Gardner, WA  
Bernie Gastrich, NY  
Donetta George, DC  
Joe Graviss, KY  
Cyril Grum, MI  
Frederick & Joan Harris, HI  
Colien Hefferan, VA  
David Hockstein, MD  
Dave Hull, NC  
David Inglish, CA  
Larry Jackel, CO  
Richard Kahn, VA  
Margareta Limburg, NY  
Alan & Helene Magruder, IA  
Sei-ichi Matsui, VA  
Ann McClellan, DC  
Bill McGee, MD  
May McNey, CA  
Arschel Morell, MD  
Thekla Morris, FL  
Roy Nagatoshi, CA  
Betsy Nakanishi, HI  
Network for Good  
Cesar Portocarrero, MD

Potomac Viewing Stone Group  
Glenn Reusch, VA  
Reginald Rose, MS  
Pierre Ruffieux, MD  
Steven Schrum, NC  
Bradley Smith, DC  
Susquehanna Bonsai Club  
William Valavanis, NY  
Warren Yamamoto, HI

### *Benefactor, \$500 - \$999*

American Bonsai Society - Houston Convention  
Kenneth Azuma, CA  
Donna Banting, LA  
Robert Blumenstein, VA  
Robert Ellis, PA  
Jim Greaves, CA  
Dennis Hoffman, WI  
Peter & Clare Kearney, VA  
Wynne Keller, ME  
Michael & Lunetta Knowlton, FL  
William & Karen Krouse, IL  
Nancy Morgan, WV  
Alfred Morrison, MD  
Melody Owens, NY  
Barbara Page, MI  
Julie Pascu, MD  
Pennsylvania Bonsai Society  
Sara Rayner Alms, MN  
Margo Reynolds, NJ  
Seiji & Della Shiba, CA  
Akiko Sprague, DC  
Lloyd Timblin, CO  
E. Godfrey Trammel, Jr., MD  
Elaine White, TX  
Diane Winters, CA

### *Patron, \$250 - \$499*

John & Kathy Adams, KY  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bayer, NC  
Norman Brenbridge, VA  
William Burd, IL  
Michael Colibraro, PA  
John E. Corn, Jr., IN  
Sherrill Houghton, DC

Heath Legrand, GA  
Nancy Luria, SC  
Harold Mahoney, NY  
Frank & Kathi Maisano, FL  
Mary Elizabeth McClellan, NH  
Anthony Meyer, OR  
Harry Miller, NM  
Mohawk Valley Bonsai Club  
Sandra Moore, MD  
Al Nelson, CA  
Northern Virginia Bonsai Society  
Richard Otsuji, CA  
Roger & Margaret Pezzuti, ME  
Steven Suzuki, HI  
Nancy Yogi, HI  
Kiyoko Yoneda, CA

### *Sponsor, \$100 - \$249*

Moises Agosto-Rosario, MD  
Carolee Bier, ME  
Bonsai Society - Kalamazoo  
Tucker Braddock, MD  
Thomas Brown, NY  
Marjorie Brunner, PA  
Ken & Joyce Buechele, NC  
Burtonsville Garden Club  
Ross Clark, KY  
Judy Cody, PA  
Frances Coleman, MS  
Stephen Colley, CA  
Martha Ellett, VA  
William Faquin, MA  
Freddy Feliz, VA  
Mark Fields, IN  
Eric Gibber, MA  
Karen Gladding, DC  
Stephen Janick & Russell Palmer, DE  
Dick & Freddi Hammerschlag, MD  
Helen & Floyd Hasselriis, NY  
Warren Hill, TN  
Paul Keough, NY  
James Kilgore, DC  
Andrew Leonhard, NC

Matthew Lesko, DC  
Long Island Bonsai Society  
Rex Looney, VA  
Richard Meszler, MD  
Mid-Michigan Bonsai Club  
Judy Muench, MI  
Christopher Pazoles, NC  
Shirley Quan, CA  
Diane Raynes, DC  
In Honor of Ross Campbell  
A. Michael Richman, CA  
Paul Savage, UT  
Leonard Schwartz, NJ  
Carola Seiz, VA  
Karin Simmat, PA  
Stephanie Spahlinger, DC  
James Stopfer, NY

### *Friend, \$35 - \$99*

Katsumi Arms, MI  
Shila Bello, IL  
Chris Corbett, VA  
Yvonne Dailey, MD  
Alan Estrada, CT  
Jennifer Hatcher, VA  
Margaret Hilton, MD  
Trevor Keller, MD  
Howard Lambert, IL  
Hugh Livengood, DC  
John Maiorca, CO  
Steven Meyer, IL  
Brandy Piper, CA  
Frank Pucino, FL  
Eric Roadifer, WY  
Jimell Sanders, DC  
David Scavone, VA  
Charles Shyrock, MD  
Steve Smith, VA  
Share Solow, PA  
Larry Stephan, IL  
Joan Sweet, MD  
Samantha Symon-Rabicoff, VA  
Michael Voss, CA  
Mickey & Richard Walker, NC  
Simon Wibowo, CA  
Lois Yu, TN  
Marc Zimmerman, MA

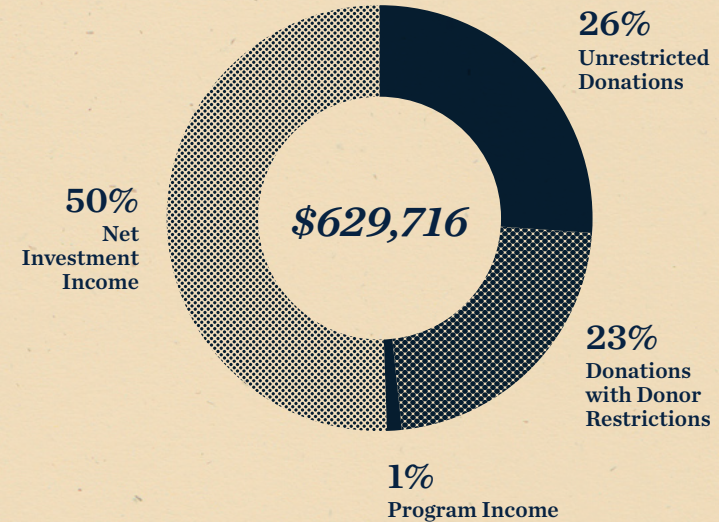


## FINANCIALS 2019

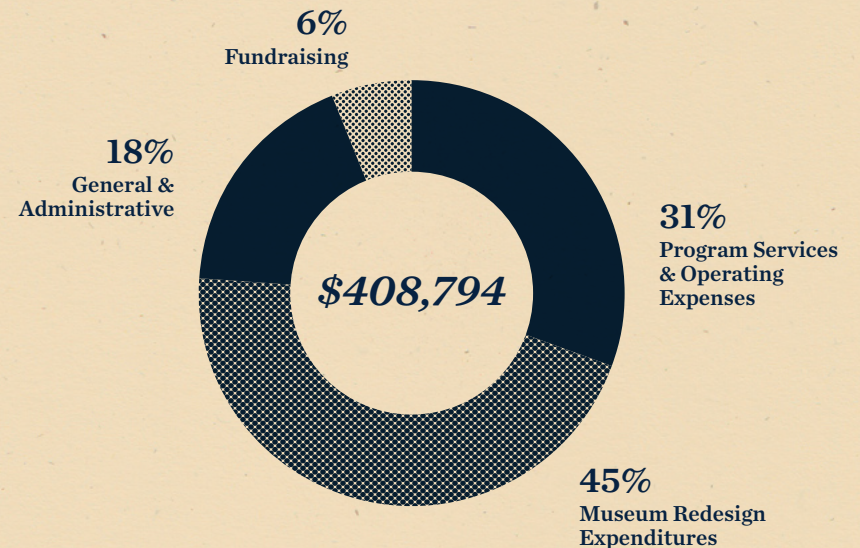
NBF strives for the best possible stewardship of your gifts. We are pleased to report that donations increased in 2019, and while expenses also increased from 2018, much of this was spent on design planning for improvements to the Museum.

<i>Revenue, Gains &amp; Other Support</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Unrestricted Donations</i>	\$164,088	\$145,873
<i>Donations with Donor Restrictions</i>	\$141,500	\$90,000
<i>Program Income</i>	\$7,855	\$4,362
<i>Net Investment Income</i>	\$316,273	(\$135,254)
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$629,716</b>	<b>\$104,981</b>
<i>Expenses</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>
<i>Program Services &amp; Operating Expenses</i>	\$127,057	\$130,051
<i>Museum Redesign Expenditures</i>	\$186,105	\$5,000
<i>General &amp; Administrative</i>	\$72,569	\$53,660
<i>Fundraising</i>	\$23,063	\$15,234
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$408,794</b>	<b>\$203,945</b>
<b>Net Changes in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$220,922</b>	<b>(\$98,964)</b>

### REVENUE OVERVIEW



### EXPENSES OVERVIEW





*PRESERVING  
A HISTORY.*

*PROTECTING  
A LEGACY.*

*PREPARING  
A FUTURE.*

Stay with us on our journey to  
safeguard the National Bonsai &  
Penjing Museum — your museum.



*Visit the Museum at the  
U.S. National Arboretum  
3501 New York Avenue NE  
Washington, D.C. 20002*

*Connect  
www.bonsai-nbf.org  
@NBFbonsai*

*For your reference*

*Goshin, Chinese juniper forest, John Naka  
—cover, back cover & page 11*

*Japanese black pine, Stanley Chinn—page 9*

*Chinese elm, Stanley Chinn—page 11*

*'Yamaki Pine, Japanese white pine 'Miyajima,'  
Masaru Yamaki—pages 13 & 16*

*Japanese yew, Reiji Takagi—page 14*

*Aronense azalea 'Kumiko,' Robert Drechsler—page 15*

*Sargent juniper, Kenichi Oguchi—facing page  
(the beautiful tree that inspired the Museum's logo)*

*Photography*

*Stephen Voss*

*Design*

*Polygraph*

*Printer*

*Mosaic*







*Sustaining and advocating for the  
National Bonsai & Penjing Museum  
at the U.S. National Arboretum*



*Goshin*, the world-famous forest bonsai, by John Naka in  
the Museum's North American Pavilion. (cover)