

Rehabilitation Recommendations for Scroll Garden at Deepwood

Brief Project Description

Hire a preservation architect to analyze and propose corrective treatment of key historical features within Deepwood's Scroll Garden located in Salem, Oregon, as well as identify foundries and provide cost estimates for rehabilitating each feature.

Historic Resource Details

Established in 1874, Deepwood was home to several prominent Salem families. In 1925, owner Alice Brown hired Lord & Schryver to design five formal gardens on the 5-acre property - the Great Room, Spring Garden, Scroll Garden, Teahouse Garden, and Secret Garden. In 1973, Deepwood was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1990, a Historic Landscape Report was produced with an Addendum in 2012. Current uses include garden tours, weddings, teas, photography, and community events.

Who owns property?

In 1972, the City of Salem purchased the Deepwood property (historic house and gardens.) Since 2005, Lord & Schryver Conservancy (LSC) volunteers have helped maintain the historic gardens alongside City Parks Department staff. Since 2017, LSC secured funds for and completed 3 distinct historic restoration projects involving arbors, walls, and pathways - each conforming to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties.

Applicant Overview

The mission of the Lord & Schryver Conservancy (LSC) is to preserve, interpret, and steward the legacy of landscape architects Elizabeth Lord and Edith Schryver who operated the first female-owned landscape architecture firm in the Pacific Northwest. From 1929 to 1969, they created over 200 public and private gardens including Deepwood's Scroll Garden. In 2020, LSC offered mission-relevant cultural, educational, and arts programs to over 3,000 people of all ages, education, and income levels.

Project Budget

\$2600

How Funds Would Be Used

Funds would be used to hire a preservation architect to provide technical advice on how to restore key features in the Scroll Garden at Deepwood without damaging historic materials and negatively impacting its character. Specifically, the architect would evaluate the existing condition of the historical features, recommend how to repair and/or replace broken parts,

identify foundries and other quality suppliers, address any non-contributing features, provide cost estimates, and provide a detailed written report. The architect would focus on these features:

Project Description and Timeline

1. Ornate Iron Fence: A 3' tall ornate iron fence runs approximately 120 feet along both the north and south perimeters of the Scroll Garden. The fence sits atop and is bolted to, a low brick wall. The iron fence was originally a balustrade on a demolished building in Portland, gifted to the homeowner in the early 1930's. It is said that Edith Schryver designed the two intricate scrolled boxwood hedges to echo the wrought iron fence. A 2007 restoration attempt in which 55 aluminum replacement parts were welded to the original iron framework was unsuccessful. Since 2007, 11 of the 45 decorative ornaments have broken off as well as several finials. The city has a small inventory of broken pieces to use in the restoration process; however, a high-quality iron foundry must be identified to produce the remaining missing pieces. Additionally, some modern stabilization may need to be added in a sensitive manner to protect the iron ornaments and prevent future breakage.

2. Brick Wall Supporting Iron Fence: A 12 -18" tall brick wall supports the iron fence, enclosing the garden on three sides. Over time, the wall has become crooked and unstable, bricks have become loose or fallen out, and the mortar has been damaged. The city has a small inventory of historic bricks to use in the restoration process; however, additional bricks may be required, and the appropriate mortar mix is identified by a brick masonry expert before repairs can begin.

3. Brick Patio: An 8 x 8 ft circular brick patio is located at the west end of the Scroll Garden. The patio once held a large decorative urn on a small, raised platform. The patio is uneven and needs to be stabilized. There are broken and missing bricks as well.

4. Missing Decorative Urn: A large urn was purchased by Lord & Schryver in Manila in 1935 as a gift for Alice Brown, Deepwood's owner at the time. Due to the risk of vandalism, the original urn has been removed for safekeeping. We are considering having a replica urn produced and installed and need guidance on how to proceed.

5. Water Feature: A 1945 Scroll Garden drawing shows a reflecting pool on the north side of the garden that was never installed. In the 1980s, volunteers added a large cement water bowl in this spot. The bowl is not original, requires volunteer time to maintain, and is a mosquito breeding ground. We need guidance on whether this water feature should stay or be removed.

We will hire a historic preservation architect to prepare guidelines for repair and ongoing maintenance of the historic features within Deepwood's Scroll Garden, in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The consultant must have expertise in 1) ironworks including using reversible modifications to stabilize fragile parts; 2) brick masonry; 3) replacing missing historical features, 4) action required on non-contributing features.

The LSC Executive Director will be the primary point of contact with the consultant. She will provide the consultant with historic drawings, photos, and documents, conduct site visits, and

help fundraise. LSC volunteers, including several who helped develop the 2012 Addendum to the 1990 Deepwood Historic Landscape Report will be involved as needed.

The project will begin upon receipt of the requested NTHP funding. We expect the project to be completed in three-four months.