



THE FREER HOUSE

71 East Ferry, Detroit, Michigan 48202 | 313-664-2500

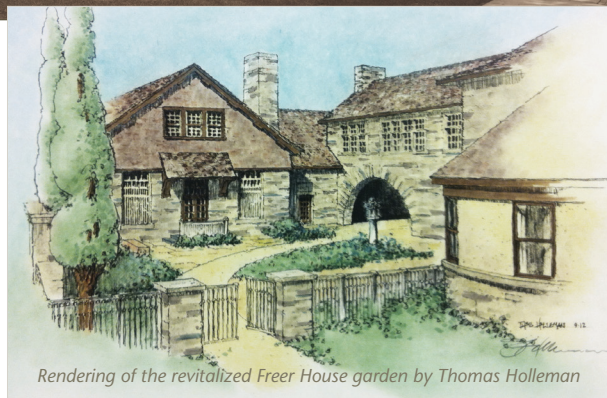
An International Landmark... A World Class Lecture Series



Cultivating History: Revitalizing Freer's Garden



Freer House and Garden by C.M. Hayes Photography, 1910.
Charles Lang Freer Papers, Freer Gallery of Art.



Rendering of the revitalized Freer House garden by Thomas Holleman

Sunday, April 3, 2:00 pm

LECTURE 2 PM

RECEPTION & TOURS 3:30 - 5 PM

AT THE FREER HOUSE

71 East Ferry Street

General Admission \$15

Freer House Members \$10

Students \$ 5

SPACE IS LIMITED *Reserve your seat today!*

Contact Rose Foster at

313-664-2509 or rmfoster@wayne.edu

Speakers

David Michener, PhD

Associate Curator, University of Michigan

Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum

Fred Knight

Principal, K.C. Runciman Landscapes

James Viste

Owner, Edgewise Forge, LLC.

Adjunct Faculty, College for Creative Studies

"Mr. Freer's garden and grounds are those of a man who has traveled far and seen much."

– Detroit Sunday News Tribune, Sept. 5, 1897

In 1895, Freer set out to create a truly unique garden. He turned to his friends, artist Thomas Wilmer Dewing and his wife, celebrated flower painter Maria Oakey Dewing, French born landscaper Eutrope Ferrand, and architect Wilson Eyre, Jr., to give his city lot the feel of a rambling country estate. A blend of Eastern and Western plant varieties reflected Freer's interest in "points of contact" between Asian and American art. In 1920, the Merrill-Palmer School acquired the house. The gardens and courtyard were converted into an outdoor play lot for the nursery school children. Today, the Freer House is working to revitalize the gardens, evoking Freer's original vision and updating it to create an inviting and sustainable environment, open to visitors and special events.

This lecture features three professionals leading the Courtyard Garden Revitalization Project: **David Michener, PhD**, will present his analysis of Freer's original planting and the selection of suitable modern day varieties; **Fred Knight** will discuss the garden plan he helped create; and **James Viste** will detail the process of restoring the missing cast iron Peacock Room porch railing and creating historically appropriate fencing. Come learn more about this exciting project.

Map and details on back

EVENT SPONSORS



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



The Freer House Garden Revitalization Project has begun but we need your support to complete it!



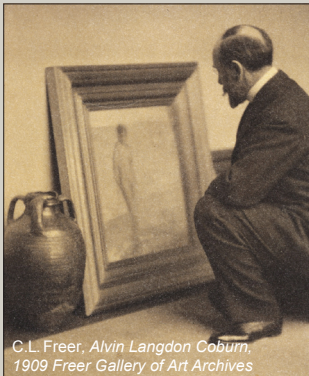
For information on
this exciting project and
how you can help,
see the enclosed brochure.

To contribute by phone
with credit card,
call Rose Foster at
313-664-2509



<http://instagram.com/thefreerhouse>

THE FREER HOUSE, MERRILL PALMER SKILLMAN INSTITUTE



Charles Lang Freer (1854-1919) made his fortune in railroad freight car manufacturing in Detroit. His remarkable shingle style residence on East Ferry Ave. was designed in 1892 by Wilson Eyre, Jr. Freer's home contained one of the world's greatest collections of Asian and American art, including works by Whistler and the Peacock Room. Freer bequeathed his collection to the Smithsonian where it is housed today at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.



The Freer House (1892) is ranked as one of the most important historic buildings in Michigan. Its fine architectural detail and rich cultural history are both locally and internationally significant. The Freer House is also recognized for its role in child and family development as the home of the renowned Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute since 1920.

The Freer House membership organization works to preserve this landmark through public events, tours and fundraising for restoration. Recent accomplishments include the reproduction of original paintings for the main hall and parlor and a new historically appropriate roof. Current goals include the courtyard garden and the Whistler Gallery restoration projects.

For information contact: Director, William Colburn
william.colburn@wayne.edu or 313-664-2511

Reception Location: Freer House
71 East Ferry St., Detroit, MI 48202
(One block north of the DIA)



Parking is available behind the Freer House. Travel south on John R. to access WSU Lot 35. Pay \$7 at the gate with credit or debit card.