

Freer House Bi-Annual Report: Fall 2013–Spring 2014

Dear Freer House Members and Supporters,

Our activities, projects and membership continues to grow and flourish! Here's an update on some key events and accomplishments of the past six months.

William Colburn, Director, The Freer House



(L-R): David Roden, Honorary Consul General, Republic of S. Korea; Betty Roden; Yukari Katayama; Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama, Consul General of Japan; Roy Norton, Consul General of Canada

1. The Freer House Welcomes Consul General of Japan to Detroit. On Culture Day, Nov. 3, 2013, a national holiday in Japan, the Freer House was honored to host a welcome reception for the new Consul General of Japan in Detroit, Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama and his wife Yukari Katayama. Dr. and Mrs. Katayama are familiar with the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. and were pleased to learn that Freer's Detroit home is being preserved and restored. Guests were treated to a dessert reception and a program highlighting the historical connections between Freer, Detroit and Japan. The event included guests from the Japan America Society, the Japan Business Society of Detroit, Wayne State, the University of Michigan and staff from the Consulate of Japan and the Freer House.



2. Freer House Documented by Award Winning Photographer.

In September, 2013, the Freer House was fortunate to engage the services of renowned architectural photographer, Alex Vertikoff. His list of clients includes the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the J. Paul Getty Museum and his photos have been featured in books and publications ranging from Architectural Digest to the New York Times.



Vertikoff spent more than 10 hours taking over one hundred shots of the interior and exterior resulting in 30 beautifully composed photographs of the Freer House. These photos, three of which are shown here, will be used for future publicity including exhibits, brochures and the newly updated Freer House website.





(L-R): Daisy Yiyou Wang; Thomas W. Brunk; David Hogge

3. Exploring Freer's Chinese Art and Travels.

On October 20, 2013, the Freer House lecture series explored the theme of Freer and China with an exceptional presentation entitled, *A Thousand Graces: Freer's Pilgrimage to the Buddhist Cave Temples at Longmen and his Collection of Chinese Art*. David Hogge, Head of Archives, Freer and Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian, gave an exciting recounting of Freer's journey to the interior of China in 1910-11. And Daisy Yiyou Wang, PhD, curator of Chinese and East Asian Art, Peabody Essex Museum, offered an in-depth look at Freer's pioneering interest in Chinese art and Buddhist sculpture



Program Hosts, Ed and Jeanette Sui with Freer House Director, William Colburn

in particular. Over 200 people attended the lecture at the DIA and 100 guests joined in a festive reception at the Freer House.



A new exhibit on Freer & China was installed in the former Peacock Room, displaying for the first time exceptional and rare photos taken during Freer's 1910-11 journey. The exhibit was co-created by David Hogge, Smithsonian, and Meghan Urisko of the Freer House. The exhibit and lecture program were co-sponsored by the Confucius Institutes of Wayne State and the University of Michigan, the Center for Chinese Studies at UM, the Detroit Creative Corridor Center, and the Asian & Islamic Forum/DIA, with additional support from the Americana Foundation.

Charles Lang Freer and Mrs. Dallam with unidentified Chinese boy in Gushan, Hangzhou, China, 1911. Freer Gallery of Art Archives

4. WSU Graduate Students Delve into Freer House History. Under the direction of Kim Schroeder, Lecturer and Career Advisor, School of Libraries and Information Sciences, with active guidance from Freer House scholar, Dr. Thomas W. Brunk, a group of three WSU graduate students volunteered time over the 2014 Winter semester to comb archives, libraries and online resources to further document the original construction of the Freer House. Using Dr. Brunk's prior research as a guide, Kassandra Gilbert, Jessica Jordan and Scott Crossman have spent hours exploring the history of many of the contractors, artisans, suppliers and designers involved in the creation of Freer's house and gardens in 1890-92. The information the students discovered will help inform future restoration and provide a database for continued research and documentation of the Freer House.

5. Volunteers Contribute to Freer House Success.

Docents and volunteers support the Freer House through serving as tour guides, assisting with events, and doing research and documentation for exhibits and programs. The Freer House is grateful to all of our fantastic and devoted volunteers, several of whom are included in this photograph. If you are interested in becoming a Freer House volunteer or tour guide, please contact William Colburn at 313-664-2511 or william.colburn@wayne.edu



(L-R): Chuck Demske; Carol Edwards; Kathleen Marcaccio; Sue Shoemaker; Christina Beaudette; Rebecca Savage; Rose Foster; Michael Coleman

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