

# Freer House Report: Fall, 2017

Dear Freer House Members and Supporters,  
Here is an update on our recent accomplishments – made possible by your support!  
*William Colburn, Director, The Freer House*

## Garden Project Moves Forward

The exciting garden revitalization project took a major leap forward this summer. Flat paving stones to create areas for outdoor events have now been installed. The pavers are Lake Erie sandstone salvaged from circa 1900 Toledo sidewalks which beautifully compliment the original stonework of the Freer House. A seat bench and masonry columns crafted by expert masons of bluestone from Pennsylvania will hold the future iron gates and fence. The subtle colors of the stone range from lilac to rust and grey to slate blue, echoing the colors of the original Freer House stonework.



Landscaping and plantings reflecting Freer's choices for his garden, a combination of Asian and American plant varieties, will be installed in the courtyard and the front yard. An exact replica of the missing iron railing, designed by Freer's architect, Wilson Eyre, in 1906 for the Peacock Room porch but removed in the 1960's, has been painstakingly recreated by James Viste of Edgewise Forge, putting a finishing touch on this unique project. The garden is expected to be largely complete by October. The design plan is by Fred Knight, K.C. Runciman Landscapes and installation by W. H. Canon Landscape Company. A dedication event for donors and Freer House members will take place in Spring, 2018.

Donations are still needed to secure a stone Japanese lantern as a centerpiece for the garden, similar to the one Freer received from Yamanaka & Company that resides today outside the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

To support the garden project with your generous donation, contact William Colburn at [william.colburn@wayne.edu](mailto:william.colburn@wayne.edu)

## Freer and Indian Art Event a Great Success.



Brinda Kumar

The exceptional quality of the Freer House lecture series reached another high note with the June 4<sup>th</sup> presentation by Brinda Kumar, PhD, Assistant Curator, Modern and Contemporary Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York. Dr. Kumar's lecture, *From Traveler to Aesthete: Charles Lang Freer and Indian Art*, delved deeply into Freer's seminal travels in India in 1894 and highlighted his pioneering contributions to the appreciation of Indian art in the West.

Held at the DIA, the program included a performance by renowned classical Indian Odissi style dancer, Sreyashi Dey. The post lecture reception at the Freer House featured a unique marketplace of artisan crafts from India sponsored by Tribalfare. Guests enjoyed chai tea, mango lassi and Indian sweets while viewing a special exhibit on Freer, Detroit and India. Co-sponsored with the Friends of Asian Arts and Cultures/DIA, the program attracted over 200 people.



Sreyashi Dey

continued on reverse



Thomas W. Brunk, (L) John Douglas Peters (R)

**Michigan Historic Preservation Network to Host Fall Event at the Freer House.** The Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN), the state-wide preservation advocacy organization, will hold their Fall benefit event at the Freer House, Saturday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. The event will include presentation of two distinguished awards to Thomas W. Brunk and John Douglas Peters for their outstanding contributions to the preservation of the Freer House and the Hecker (Tierney) House next door, both now owned by WSU. Dr. Brunk and Mr. Peters serve on the board of the Freer House and have been invaluable supporters over several decades. For ticket information visit: [www.mhpn.org](http://www.mhpn.org)

**Freer Gallery of Art Grand Reopening.** The Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian, will reopen on October, 14<sup>th</sup> after being closed for renovations for 18 months. In celebration of the reopening, the Smithsonian will release a new book on Freer entitled, *Charles Lang Freer: A Cosmopolitan Life*, by Lee Glazer. The publication will include information on the Freer House illustrated with photos by Alexander Vertikoff.



Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian

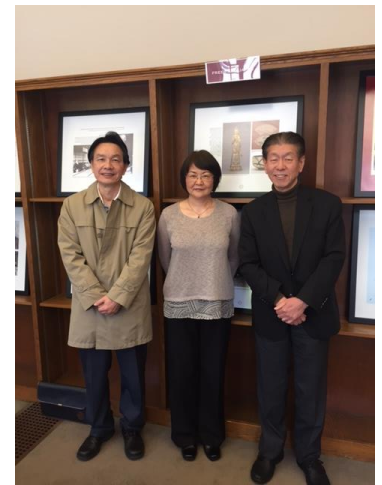
As a salute to the Freer Gallery, the Freer House Spring, 2017 lecture, presented by Detroit cultural historian Geoffrey Drutchas before a sold-out audience, highlighted the design and construction of the Freer Gallery of Art and the history of its placement on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.



Kaley McAlpin (2<sup>nd</sup> L) with Freer House Volunteers

**Staff and Volunteer Update.** After 15 months of outstanding service, we bid farewell to Kaley McAlpin, Research Assistant, as she headed to Georgia State to begin her PhD in Public History. Over the summer, the Freer House benefitted from the great work of UM Museum Studies Program student intern, Andrew Smutek. The Freer House extends a special welcome to new volunteers: Gail Powell, Barton Malow Construction; and Ryan Cunningham, Eleanor and Edsel Ford Estate.

**Next Freer House Event: Saturday, November 4, 1:00-5:00pm!** Timed to coincide with the grand opening of the DIA's new Japanese art gallery, the Freer House will host a special one-day exhibition by Japan born, Detroit based artist, Hiroko Lancour. Inspired by Freer's affinity for Japanese art and culture, Ms. Lancour (long time Freer House member & volunteer) will display her intricate and beautiful art in multiple locations in the building; the first time original art has been exhibited in the house since Freer's death in 1919. Guided tours will be available. The event is free and open to the public.



(L-R) Kazuo Ishikawa, Hiroko Lancour, Takashi Omitsu

**Your support makes a difference!**

For membership and additional information contact William Colburn or Rose Foster at 313-664-2500 or [William.colburnwayne.edu](mailto:William.colburnwayne.edu), [rmfoster@wayne.edu](mailto:rmfoster@wayne.edu)  
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