

(11) **Encircling Corridor** 回廊 (Hui Lang)

This corridor shelters the east side of Knowing the Spring Courtyard. In the future, extensions on the north, east, and south will encircle the Southern Courtyard, and on the far side will be Gathering Together Hall 荟萃厅 (Hui Cui Ting), a meeting hall and banquet facility seating 200 people.

(12) At the northeast corner is the Waterside Pavilion, a sitting area overlooking the future lotus pond. The railing, with curved supports, is often called “Beautiful Ladies’ Balustrade” after the pretty women who lean over it to watch goldfish in the pond.

(13) This future corridor will border a lotus pond on the right. Continue over to the Main Gate to take the path to a viewpoint.

(14) Floating Clouds Pavilion 浮云阁 (Fu Yun Ge) will soar four stories and offer views of the Cascades and Olympics.

(15) **Pine and Plum Pavilion** 松梅亭 (Song Mei Ting)

This small pavilion was the first structure in the garden. Plum, which blossoms in winter, along with pine and bamboo, are the “Three Friends of Winter.” (Can you find the small plum blossoms carved in wood?) The pavilion’s tiles and woodwork were crafted in Chongqing, and along with stone quarried along the Yangtze River, were shipped here and erected by Chongqing artisans in 1999. Artisans of Changshu Ancient Style Garden Construction Corporation refurbished the pavilion in fall 2010.

Future Garden: See the plan for the future garden on a large map in the Visitor Center. It includes Floating Clouds Pavilion, a teahouse on a lotus pond, a stream rushing through a rocky gorge into a lake, pine and bamboo groves, and many smaller pavilions for pausing to enjoy the tranquil scenes.

Seattle Chinese Garden

is a nonprofit organization planning and building the Garden in cooperation with partners in China and Seattle, including:

Chongqing Municipal Bureau of Parks
Changshu Ancient Style Garden Construction Company
South Seattle Community College
Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation
Jones & Jones Architects • Krekow Jennings

**The Garden Is for Your Enjoyment
Help It Grow!**



Become a Member

All membership levels include one year of free admission to the Garden, invitations to events, a 10% discount in the shop, and discounts to some special events. Please join today in the Visitor Center or visit the website for more information.

Volunteer

Be part of the action and excitement of building the Garden. We welcome volunteers with all kinds of skills and expertise. Help out in the Garden, Visitor Center, office, or in other ways as your schedule permits. Sign up in the Visitor Center or through our website.

Make a Gift / Buy a Brick

Gifts contribute to our cultural and educational mission and the vision to complete the entire Garden. A recognition wall near the courtyard entrance honors garden supporters who buy a personally engraved granite brick — an enduring legacy and a wonderful way to honor family or friends. Stop by the Visitor Center or visit website for more information.

Garden Hours and Admission

Garden Site Open: Dawn to Dusk

Knowing Spring Courtyard Open:

Tuesday • Thursday • Saturday • Sunday – 9 am to 5 pm
Wednesday • Friday – 11:30 am to 5 pm (closed Monday)

Admission is FREE to all. Donations appreciated!

Docent-led Tours: Private group tours by prearrangement. Please call the office for information (206.934.5219).

Location

At South Seattle Community College in the Delridge area of West Seattle, just 5 minutes from the West Seattle Bridge. Drive in the North Entrance to campus and follow signs. The College is served by Metro bus routes 125 and 128.

Also visit the SSCC Arboretum, located to the west of the

6000 Sixteenth Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98106
For inquiry: (206) 934-5219 • info@seattlechinesegarden.org
www.seattlechinesegarden.org



Seattle Chinese Garden

西華園

Xi Hua Yuan

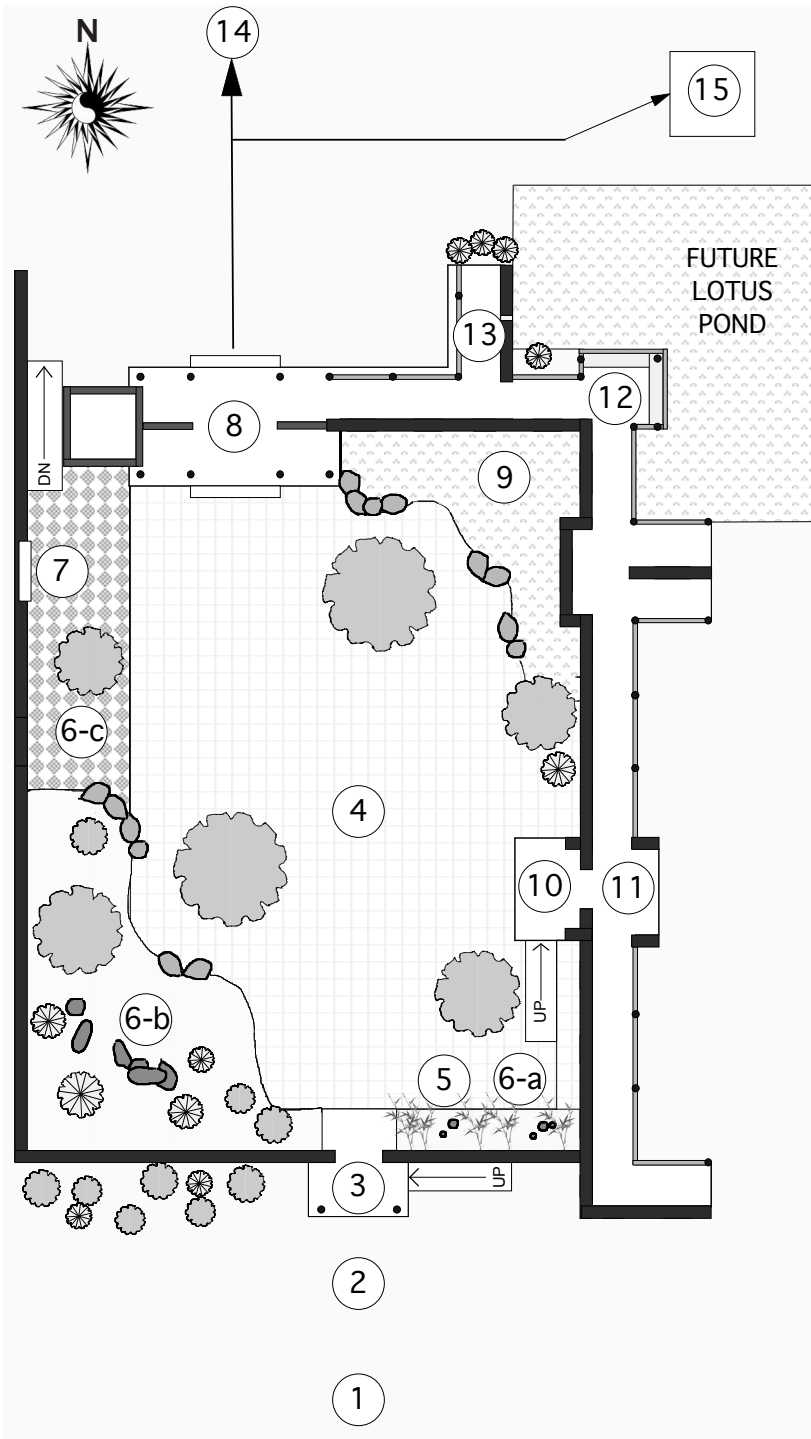
Self-Guided Tour

Welcome!

欢迎

*A Chinese garden harmonizes nature
(plants, trees, water, rocks)
with culture (architecture and the arts)
in a beautiful setting to be enjoyed in every season.*

Garden designers in Seattle’s sister city of Chongqing have planned a 5-acre Sichuan-style garden for this site. Today you can visit the first major structure, Knowing the Spring Courtyard, completed in November 2010, and the nearby Pine and Plum Pavilion and its garden. Future landscaping will enhance the walkway connecting the two structures.



(1) Garden Entry Path 入园道 (Ru Yuan Dao)

A north-south entry path aligns the Garden with the Space Needle. The ridge-top site is open to the south and protected by a green-belt to the north and east. The location between Puget Sound and the Duwamish River, within sight of the Olympic and Cascade Mountains, excited the garden designers. They praised the site's excellent *fengshui* — a harmonious balancing of natural features.

(2) Entry Court 前院 (Qian Yuan)

This open court is bounded by a slope of rockery and plants, and a donor wall displaying inscribed bricks recognizing friends who support the Garden through the “buy a brick campaign” described on the back panel.

(3) Entrance 入口 (Ru Kou)

Above the door, the plaque, reading from right to left, says *Xi Hua Yuan*, which means “Seattle Chinese Garden.” *Xi* is the first syllable of Seattle and also means “western.” *Hua* is an ancient name for the Chinese people and nation, and also sounds like the character for flower. *Yuan* means garden. The panels on each side of the door display a poetic couplet. Poetry, a revered art form in China, is often incorporated into garden elements. Please refer to the poetry handout for translations.

(4) Knowing the Spring Courtyard 知春院 (Zhi Chun Yuan)

In the Chinese lunar calendar, the new year begins with Spring Festival to celebrate the approaching season and a new planting cycle. This spring-themed courtyard is the entry to the Garden. In a garden, a courtyard is a space for social interaction and cultural activities, celebrations, and festivals.

Chinese garden design is influenced by an ancient Chinese philosophy that seeks harmony in the balance of paired opposites, symbolized by yin (soft, dark, feminine) and yang (hard, bright, masculine). The four essential elements of a Chinese garden manifest these qualities: WATER (yin), ROCK (yang), PLANTS (yin), and ARCHITECTURE (yang).

The yang characteristics of architecture are bright white walls, tile roofs, and paving stones. On the north and east walls, 12 intricate lattice windows (often called “leak” windows) offer glimpses to adjacent areas and beckon further exploration.

(5) The yin softness and gracefulness of the courtyard's trees, bamboo, shrubs, and grasses balance the yang of architecture. Plants represent growth and vitality, diversity and endurance. Please see the *Guide to the Plants* for more detailed information.

(6) The courtyard's many yang rocks symbolize the mountains and valleys of the earth, through which flows the lifeblood of water. (6-a) These tall slender stones (from Zhejiang Province in eastern China) are called “bamboo shoot rocks” because they resemble shoots of bamboo, which grow rapidly in spring. (6-b) Many stones from the mountains outside Chongqing are carefully arranged to symbolize a mountain. The worn, yellowed rocks edging this area and the pond in the northeast corner come from a tributary of the Yangtze River in Zhejiang Province.

(6c) Note another example of yang qualities balanced by yin: the individually laid black river stones between the brighter hexagonal pavers.

(7) This dedication plaque was created in Chongqing. See the poetry handout for a translation.

(8) Main Gate 正门 (Zheng Men)

With its post and beam structure supporting sweeping hip ridges and decorated with hanging “lotus blossom” balls, this gate is a typical example of traditional architecture in Sichuan Province and Chongqing. Note the small designs on the ends of roof tiles. They are bats. The Chinese words for bat and for good fortune/happiness sound similar, so flying bats became a lucky symbol. The plaque over the opening reads: “Sichuan Style in a Distant Land.” The south wall entrance and this gate are a paired opposite of yin and yang: small and large.

(9) The yin water in the small pond balances the yang of the rock. Water represents the vital spirit of the earth, its lifeblood. At times serene and reflective, other times rushing and dynamic, its moods may be yin or yang. The water will flow into the future Lotus Pond, then recycle back into the courtyard. When the Garden is complete, the water will flow into Mirror Lake at the north end.

(10) The plaque above the east gate reads “Heavenly Paradise on Earth.” This gate will provide access to the future Southern Courtyard 南苑 (Nan Yuan) and Tea House 茶馆 (Cha Guan).