THE GARDEN INITIATIVE

BRINGING HISTORY OUTDOORS
Study nature, love nature, stay close to nature. It will never fail you.

Frank Lloyd Wright
Help Bring History Outdoors

The History Center of Lake Forest-Lake Bluff is a wonderful place to gather and celebrate the fascinating stories of our community. One of the most compelling stories, however, has yet to be told. It is the story of how significant landscape design styles and land conservation efforts were conceived and developed in Lake Forest, and how they grew to influence the nation.

We are on a mission to create learning gardens that will tell the story of these influential design styles and highlight different gardens of significance, and the designers who brought them to life. We plan to transform our grounds into an outdoor, living museum that will be accessible to all to learn, connect and reflect.

In honor of the History Center’s 50th anniversary, the museum is also establishing a supporting endowment to ensure that our learning gardens, treasured stories, artifacts, and programs will exist for future generations to experience.

With your support, we will celebrate history inside and out.
GARDEN HISTORY IS OUR HISTORY, WITH NATIONAL INFLUENCE THAT REMAINS TODAY.
The transformation of the grounds takes the visitor from the turn-of-the-century traditional, Midwestern estate garden through the romantic, transitional style that is still present in our community and beyond.

The master plan includes a courtyard garden, the beautiful “secret” garden that adorned many local homes, and the unique modernist garden that used a more curvilinear design of Lake Forest’s plan to bring a new sense of modernism into garden spaces.

OVER 100 YEARS OF GARDEN HISTORY WAITING TO BE TOLD
THE GARDENS

VISITORS WILL BE ABLE TO WALK ON PATHS
GARDEN COLLECTION FROM GRAND ESTATES

NATURE & NURTURE

The gardens will have educational panels that help visitors learn about our important contribution to design history. Supporting the garden panels will be expanded narratives on our digital platform.
Our museum touchscreens will feature stories on the landscape architects and designers; the importance of garden clubs to building and preserving this history, and the workers who built and maintained the gardens of our magnificent estates for more than a century.

These stories will also cover the essential influence landscape design had on preserving our prairies, forests, bluffs, and ravines.
Much of the beauty of our historical gardens came from the sculptures, water features, and follies that brought artistry to the garden grounds. These features provided a beautiful center point for contemplation and appreciation.

A TIME FOR PAUSE
Our gardens will incorporate significant historical artifacts and recreations of ornamentation that defined the historic gardens of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff.

Benches will allow visitors to sit and relax in the gardens.
A SOCIETY GROWS GREAT WHEN PEOPLE PLANT TREES WHOSE SHADE THEY KNOW THEY SHALL NEVER SIT IN.

— GREEK PROVERB

The endowment fund protects our investment in the history of our community. A strong endowment is critical to securing our future, providing funds for anticipated upkeep of the gardens, archives and the museum.

A GIFT THAT GROWS

We invite you to contribute to this unique endeavor through your sponsorship and support for the Garden and Endowment Initiative.

Our local contribution to landscape design and preservation is an important story for our community to celebrate and share with the broader world.

We believe that our history of garden design should not be relegated to books and photos. We hope you share this belief and will help us keep this story alive for many generations to come.

Carol
Carol Summerfield
Executive Director
History Center of LFLB

Craig
Craig Bergmann
President
Craig Bergmann
Landscape Design

Katie
Katie Hale
Board President
History Center of LFLB
50TH ANNIVERSARY GARDEN & ENDOWMENT INITIATIVE

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Planned Gifts and Stock: Please contact the History Center Lake Forest-Lake Bluff for more
information.

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Pledges may be sent to: History Center Lake Forest-Lake Bluff • 509 E. Deerpath • Lake Forest, IL
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