

2018
Annual Report



THE RUTH BANCROFT
GARDEN & NURSERY

2018 HIGHLIGHTS

Gretchen Bartzan, Executive Director



This Annual Report recognizes those whose generosity and leadership helped preserve and grow Ruth's extraordinary plant collection and garden vision in 2018.

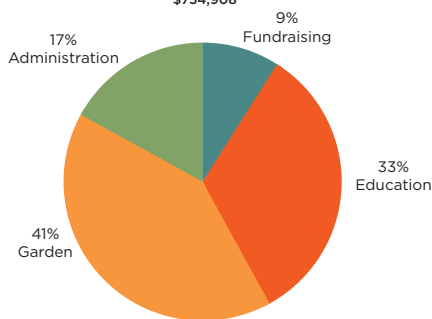
2018 was the year we completed Phase II and started the final phase of building out the interior of the Coit Family Visitor and Education Center.

A few highlights of all our work together...

- We celebrated Ruth Bancroft's long generous life with a grand community Open House, welcoming old and new friends to talks about Ruth and her Garden, picture displays of the Bancroft family and farm from the early days through Ruth's long life in and around her Garden, special tours, and home-baked goodies from Ruth's recipe collection.
- We moved the "temporary Nursery" back to the main plaza, expanded it into its bigger home in the new Plaza, and celebrated Topping the Roof on the new Center.
- Thanks to a lead challenge grant from the Blanche Thebom Trust and several generous Garden Clubs and members, we purchased the hardware, software, and intern assistance to begin digitizing the Garden's plant records.
- We raised \$1,422,793 for the Visitor and Education Center Building Project.
- Over 16,000 visitors toured the Garden and attended events.
- 39 Workshops offered, an increase of 25%, while Docent Classes were streamlined by 33%, with an overall increase of 20% in participants.
- 20 Children's Tours were offered with the support of the Quest Foundation.
- 144 Volunteers contributed over 5000 hours to the Garden.

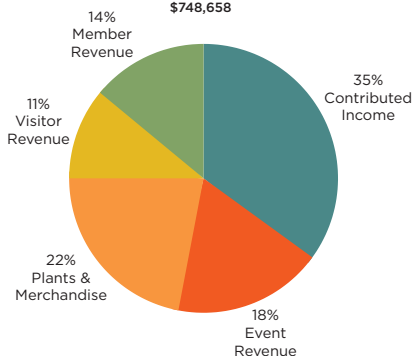
Total Expenses

\$754,908



Total Revenue

\$748,658



A DECADE OF GARDEN MILESTONES

2008

Ruth Bancroft and her Garden celebrated on her 100th Birthday with 500 visitors in one day. New sound wall and entry gate dedicated. Board establishes a standing Horticultural Advisory Committee.

2010

Garden Manager and Nursery Manager hired. Legacy Society established. Matching path gravel discovered on Mt. Diablo quarry, enabling beginning of major bed renovations.

2012

First weekend admission staff hired.

2013

Building Committee forms to find contractor and start plans for Visitor and Education Center building. Nursery Hoop House installed thanks to grant from The Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

2014

Fundraising begins with challenge grants from The Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation, The Herbst Foundation, The Coit Family Foundation and The Simpson Foundation.

2016

Timber Press publishes *The Bold Dry Garden: Lessons from the Ruth Bancroft Garden*, introducing Ruth Bancroft to the world.

2017

Groundbreaking begins on new parking lot, entrance plaza, and Visitor and Education Center.

2018

Ruth Bancroft Celebration of Life event attended by over 800. Roof Topping Celebration held as construction on the exterior of the Visitor and Education Center is completed and the new parking lot, plaza, and permanent Visitor Kiosk opens, along with the re-opening of improved Nursery.

2019

The Coit Family Visitor and Education Center is dedicated and opens to members of the public in June. Garden hosts Symposium: *Dry Garden Design: The Continuing Legacy of The Ruth Bancroft Garden*.

HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

Recognizing gifts to the Golden Barrel Annual Fund, the Visitor and Education Center Fund, Event Sponsors, Supporting Members of the Garden at the “Friends”, “Arts & Culture”, “Aloe”, “Ruth’s Manzanita” and “Lifetime” Member Levels during 2018. Thank You All for your amazing generosity!

Gifts of \$500,000+

Sharon Simpson

Gifts of \$250,000+

Ken and Donna Coit

Mike Rippey

Gifts of \$100,000+

William A. Kerr Foundation

Gifts of \$50,000+

Melissa Allen & Elisabeth Andreason

Chris Coddington & John Ricca

The Herbst Foundation

Gifts of \$25,000+

Paul and Monica Bancroft III

Kathleen Blackman & Richard Watson

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Gifts of \$10,000+

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Gifts of \$5,000+

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Gifts of \$2,500+

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Elsie Witt



Major gift supporters at the Coit Family Visitor and Education Center opening, June 2019.



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ruthbancroftgarden.org

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