

# THE JAPANESE HERITAGE HOUSE (YOKOI FAMILY HOUSE)

*The Huntington is seeking support for the preservation and relocation of a centuries-old magistrate's house from Marugame, Kagawa Prefecture, Japan to our Japanese Garden.*

*Preserving this house will illuminate the historical influence of Japanese arts on contemporary world culture, and relocating it to The Huntington will provide our local community with an otherwise inaccessible window into Japanese traditions and history.*



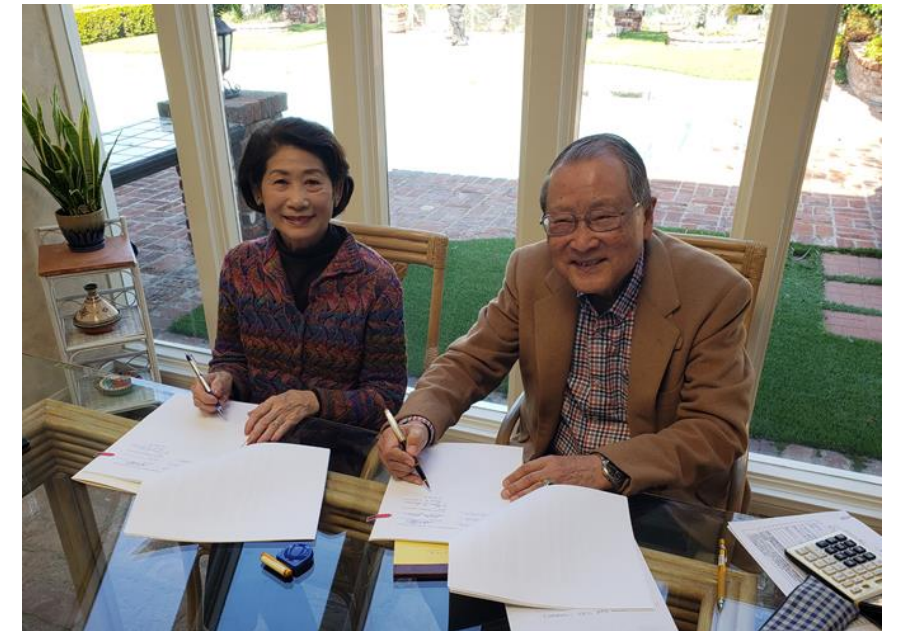
As The Huntington approaches the conclusion of its first century, East Asian gardens, culture, and art will be central to the institution's programmatic ambitions. The Japanese Heritage House is a key component of these initiatives. This undertaking will restore the Yokoi family's unique 300-year-old home, relocate it to The Huntington from Marugame, Japan, and reconstruct it in a new public space connecting the Chinese and Japanese Gardens.

## THE JAPANESE GARDEN

At the beginning of the 20th century, America and Europe were enchanted by Japanese culture and aesthetics. The original Japanese house and garden that Mr. Huntington built in 1907 remain as America's second-oldest public example of this infatuation, and have received millions of visitors over their century of existence. However, the original house was built only as a showcase--the public can never enter, and it provides little evidence as to how a family might live.

## THE YOKOI FAMILY HOME

For over 13 generations, the Yokoi family was installed as magistrates of a small farming village in Marugame, Japan. At the heart of the community, the residence was the support center for family life. The magistrates were responsible for preserving each year's seed crop and organizing and managing the community, as well as celebrating life events. The village and family history are recorded in thousands of documents that are now on deposit in the Kagawa Prefectural Archives.



The Huntington is deeply indebted to Yohko and Akira Yokoi, who are set on preserving this important aspect of Japanese cultural heritage through Huntington programming. In giving their historic family home to The Huntington, the Yokois are providing us with the opportunity to let Huntington visitors experience a garden and home as they were traditionally occupied throughout Japan.

## THE PROJECT

There are no public structures in the Western United States where people can step into the culture and lifestyle that gave rise to some of the world's greatest nature-based art forms and have the opportunity for immersion in the spatial surroundings traditional to Japanese culture. As similar structures across Japan disappear, The Huntington must preserve the Yokoi home and relocate it to our grounds, where it will provide our visitors with a first-hand experience of Japanese living in context with East Asian literature, architecture, botany, and design.



# PROJECT OVERVIEW



*Once relocated, the Yokoi home will become both an important destination and a logical element in a new public space that connects the Chinese and Japanese Gardens.*



The final phase of Chinese Garden construction creates a public path to a plateau that stretches 500 feet from the Chinese Garden to the Southern edge of the Japanese Garden.

This newly accessible space will be the site of the Japanese Heritage House, providing a literal and figurative bridge between the two Eastern cultures that are at the center of The Huntington's current expansion initiatives.



Visitors approaching from the north first encounter the compound as a low, tile-roofed wall; those arriving from the south will face the formal gatehouse, which will accommodate public restrooms and a control center for the complex. Passing through an open space inside the main gate which was used for gathering villagers for an important announcement of official notice, visitors will approach the main house. Sliding panels in the interior allow the house to be divided into public, private, and service zones that can be expanded, if needed, into one continuous space seating up to 100 guests.





# PROJECT OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

The new complex will serve to illustrate the traditional roots of Japanese landscape design and its relationship to architecture. Moreover, visitors will be allowed to enter the house and view the inner courtyard as it was designed to be experienced—from the house interior—with framed views of surrounding nature.



The ultimate motivation for relocating the Yokoi home to The Huntington is to create new possibilities for visitor involvement and utilization. Unlike The Huntington’s existing Japanese house, which was never built for occupancy, and the tea house, which is only meant for intimate gatherings, the Yokoi home embodies a tradition of visitation and use as a community center. The addition of the Japanese Heritage House establishes the first structure in The Huntington’s Japanese Garden that welcomes visitors to enter and explore.

The Huntington anticipates that the Yokoi Japanese Heritage House will have a profound impact on multiple audiences, including:

## ▪ Students

The complex will be featured in our School Programs, which serve approximately 15,000 students annually, through activities such as “Learning Across the Collections” and “Japanese Garden.” Additionally, Huntington educators will work with our Partner Schools in predominantly low-income areas of Los Angeles County to engage students with the Japanese Heritage House in a manner that is relevant to classroom curricula—particularly the sixth-, seventh-, and tenth- grade curricula in world history and culture. “Deep Learning Days” will enable students to spend a full day with the Heritage House and apply their learning through hands-on activities.



## ▪ Differently Abled Groups

The Japanese Heritage House will be accessible to individuals with mobility impairments, and a Special Assistance Vehicle will drop visitors off directly outside the entrance. This means we will be able to provide an experience that is unique not only within America, but also within Japan, where premodern buildings are rarely accessible to wheelchairs. In addition, the Yokoi home will be incorporated into The Huntington’s Community Collaborators initiatives, which partner with local organizations to improve outcomes for community members with special needs through innovative programming.

## ▪ The Local Community

Each year, The Huntington hosts over 800,000 visitors, 35% of whom are from Los Angeles County, and 51% of whom live in California. The Japanese Heritage House will give local and international communities first-hand experience of Japanese culture and traditions, fostering inclusive dialogue as they share what they have learned with wider audiences, and ultimately promoting cross-cultural appreciation.



# TIMELINE AND BUDGET

## TIMELINE

November 2018	The Huntington initiated the project with a Shinto ceremony for success and worker safety followed by a traditional Shinto dance and speeches made by notable stakeholders from across the globe
February 2019	Implementation began as Kohseki, The Huntington’s design and construction partner in Japan, dismantled and refurbished the main structure
November 2019	The components of the house were shipped to The Huntington
June 2020	The Huntington finalized a construction agreement with Snyder Langston, the project’s U.S.-side contractor.
March 2021	A team of Japanese artisans from Kohseki began reassembling the home
April 2021	The main structure was fully reassembled in its final location
May 2021	The Huntington held a Shinto ceremony to celebrate the raising of the structure’s roof
August 2021	Honbuki style roof tiles were installed atop the main structure
September 2021	The artisans are assembling floor joists and interior and exterior walls
Fall 2021	The Huntington’s Botanical staff will landscape areas that will connect the Japanese Heritage House to the nearby Chinese Garden, which reopened last year following a major expansion
Summer 2022	Expected project completion



## BUDGET AS OF SEPTEMBER 2021

Total Expenses	\$9,122,000
Funds Raised	\$7,622,000
<b>Balance Remaining</b>	<b>\$1,500,000</b>

Aside from the current restoration project at the Huntington, there may be some additional future site work that is yet to be determined. We are currently in the home stretch of our fundraising efforts to bring this monumental initiative to fruition. The final donations we are seeking will allow us to help Americans appreciate the inspirations Japanese aesthetics have brought to contemporary world culture and reinforce The Huntington’s status as an international hub of the arts, humanities, and sciences.

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**DONATIONS:** Attention: Japanese Heritage House  
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