

Donors rescue Chinese Garden

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The Daily Astorian | Posted: Thursday, June 6, 2013 11:45 am

The Garden of Surging Waves is one step closer to completion this week, as a fundraiser in Portland brought in more than \$400,000.

Hosted by prominent Oregonian Jordan Schnitzer at his home, Schnitzer's mother Arline offered \$250,000 to the project if it could be matched by the 40 guests at Tuesday's dinner.

Donating \$20,000 each were the Lum family, the Snow family, the Teevin family, the Van Dusen family, the Robinson family and the Loche family. Columbia Memorial Hospital offered \$25,000. Others in attendance also contributed.

"The dream of our Garden of Surging Waves has come true," Astoria Mayor Willis Van Dusen said, who noted they still had a little ways to go to match Arline Schnitzer's donation but was confident it would be done. "It is now going to be a reality in its completed form. It was an emotional and historic evening for the city and I'm just very pleased."

In February, it was divided into four sequences to allow for additional fundraising after a groundbreaking was held in April 2012, but funding came up short. The first sequence, which is being constructed for around \$800,000, would install the art work, as well as complete the groundwork and the foundation. The rest of the garden, which includes pillars, a center pavillion, benches and landscaping, was put on hold. With the newest funds raised, the project can now move forward.

Prior to the fundraiser, the city had \$973,604 of the \$1.29 million bid submitted by Robinson construction, which includes the \$200,000 gift from the late developer Art DeMuro that has not yet been received.

"It was an unforgettable evening and the city of Astoria should be very proud of the help from not only the Schnitzers, but everyone involved in the Garden of Surging Waves," Van Dusen said.

Heritage Square, the rest of the block that includes an ampitheater and an outdoor plaza, is estimated at \$3 million to \$4 million for completion and will be done in three phases outside of the Garden of Surging Waves.