

Parks and Recreation Department

# Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum (JFGM)

## General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment

Balboa Park Committee – Action Item  
Agenda of July 9, 2026

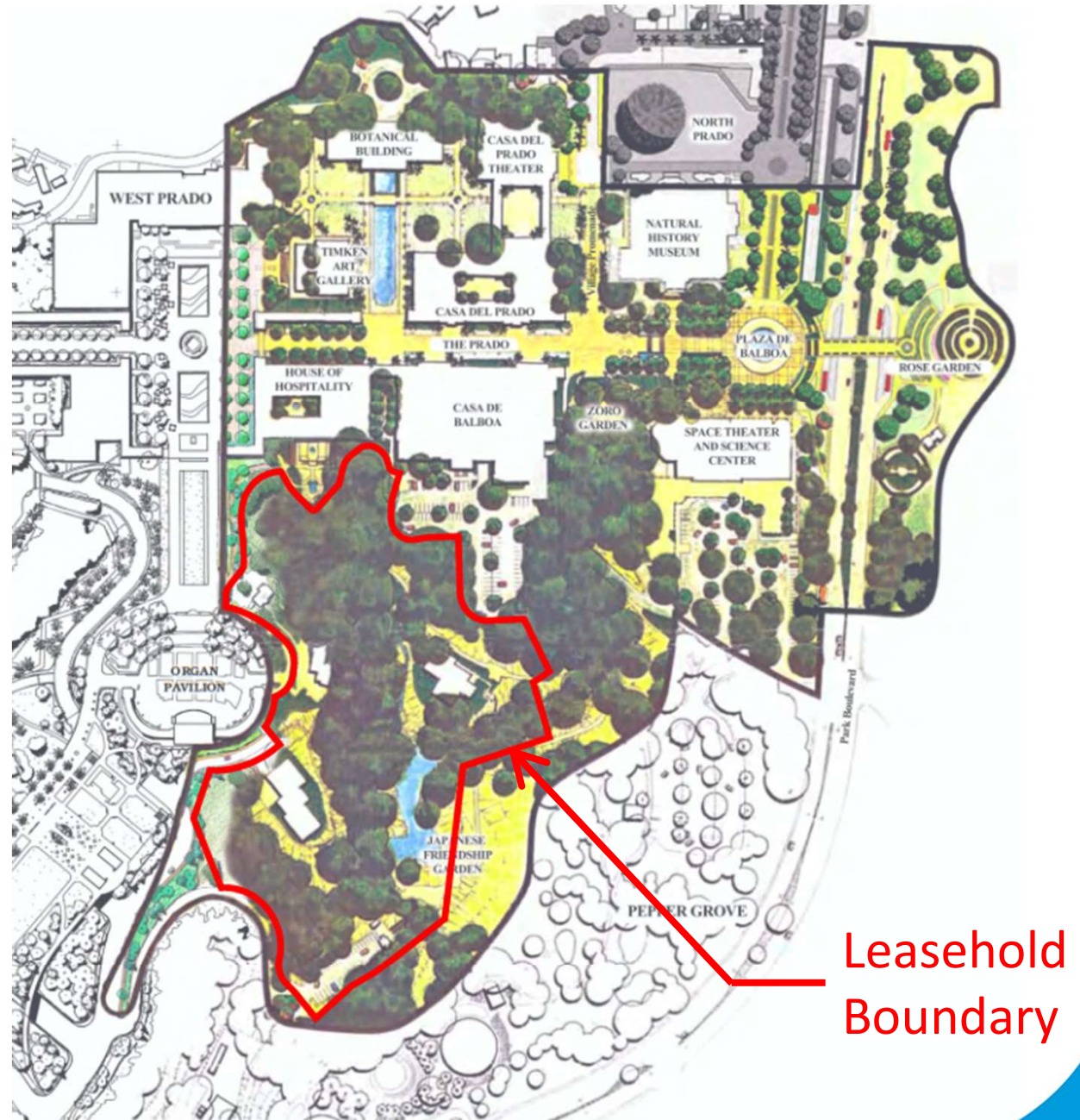
# Issues

Should the Balboa Park Committee:

- Advise the proposed General Development Plan (GDP) Amendment for the Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum is consistent with the Balboa Park Master Plan (BPMP) and Central Mesa Precise Plan (CMPP); and
- Recommend approval of the proposed GDP Amendment for the Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum?

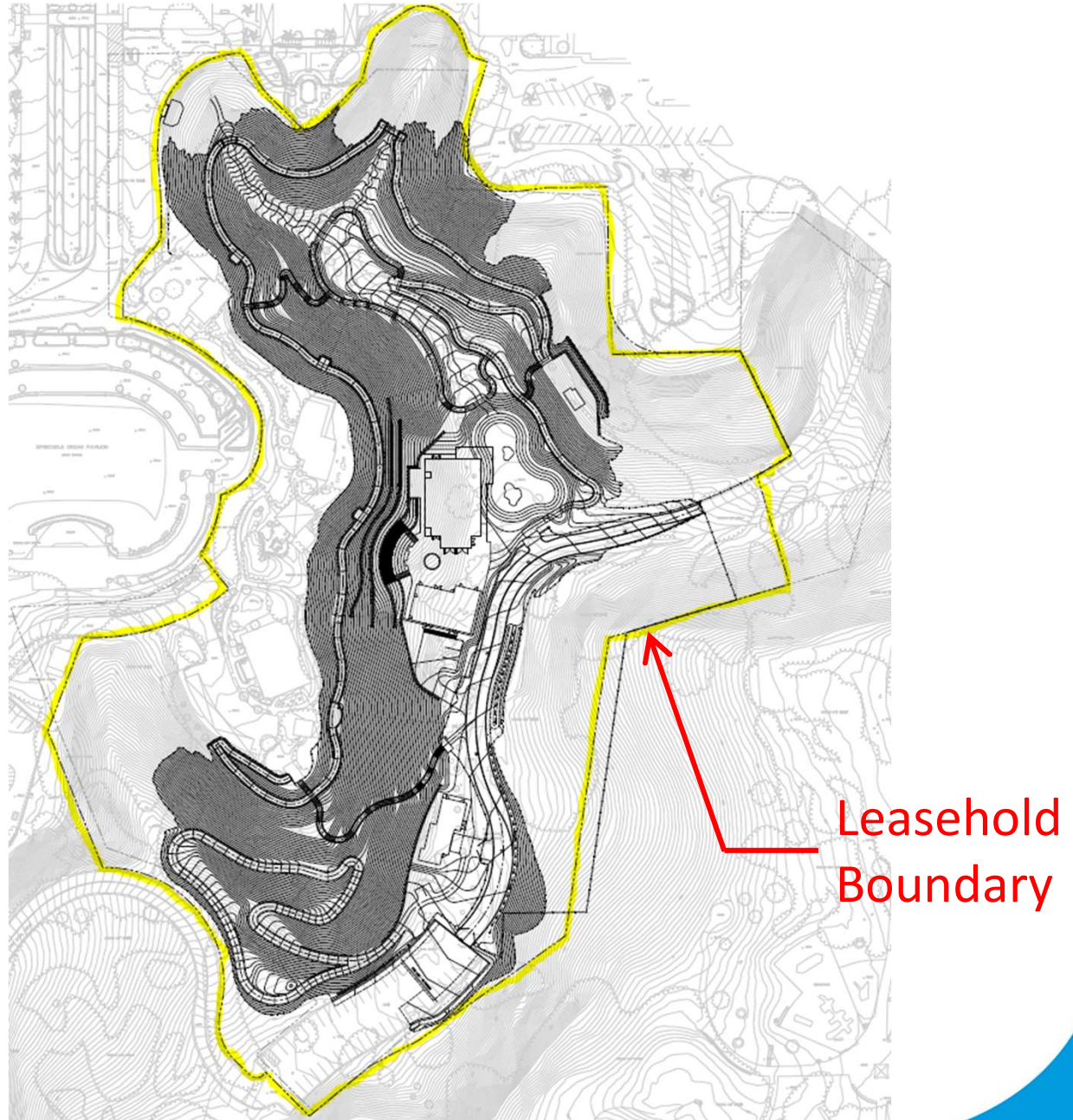
# Location

- Central Mesa
  - East Prado Subarea
- Adjacencies
  - Organ Pavilion
  - The Mall
  - Plaza de Panama
  - House of Hospitality
  - Casa de Balboa
  - Pepper Grove
  - Centro Cultural de la Raza & WorldBeat
  - Palisades



# JFGM - Lease

- 50-year Lease approved in 1984 (2034)
- Leasehold boundary adjusted in 2019







# JFGM - Proposed GDP Amendment Process

**Winter**  
2026

**Spring**  
2026

**Summer**  
2026

**Summer**  
2026

**Fall**  
2026



**Balboa Park  
Committee**  
Workshop #1

**Balboa Park  
Committee**  
Workshop #2

**Balboa Park  
Committee**  
Action Item

**Development  
Service Dept.**  
Environmental  
Review

**Parks and  
Recreation  
Board**  
Action Item

March 5, 2026

May 7, 2026

TODAY!







# Project Presentation

Dennis Otsuji, President  
Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum

Luanne Kanzawa, Executive Director/CEO  
Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum

Kelly Sutherlin McLeod, FAIA, Architect  
Kelly Sutherlin McLeod Architecture, Inc.

Marcela Escobar, President/CEO  
Atlantis Group

## Balboa Park Workshop #3

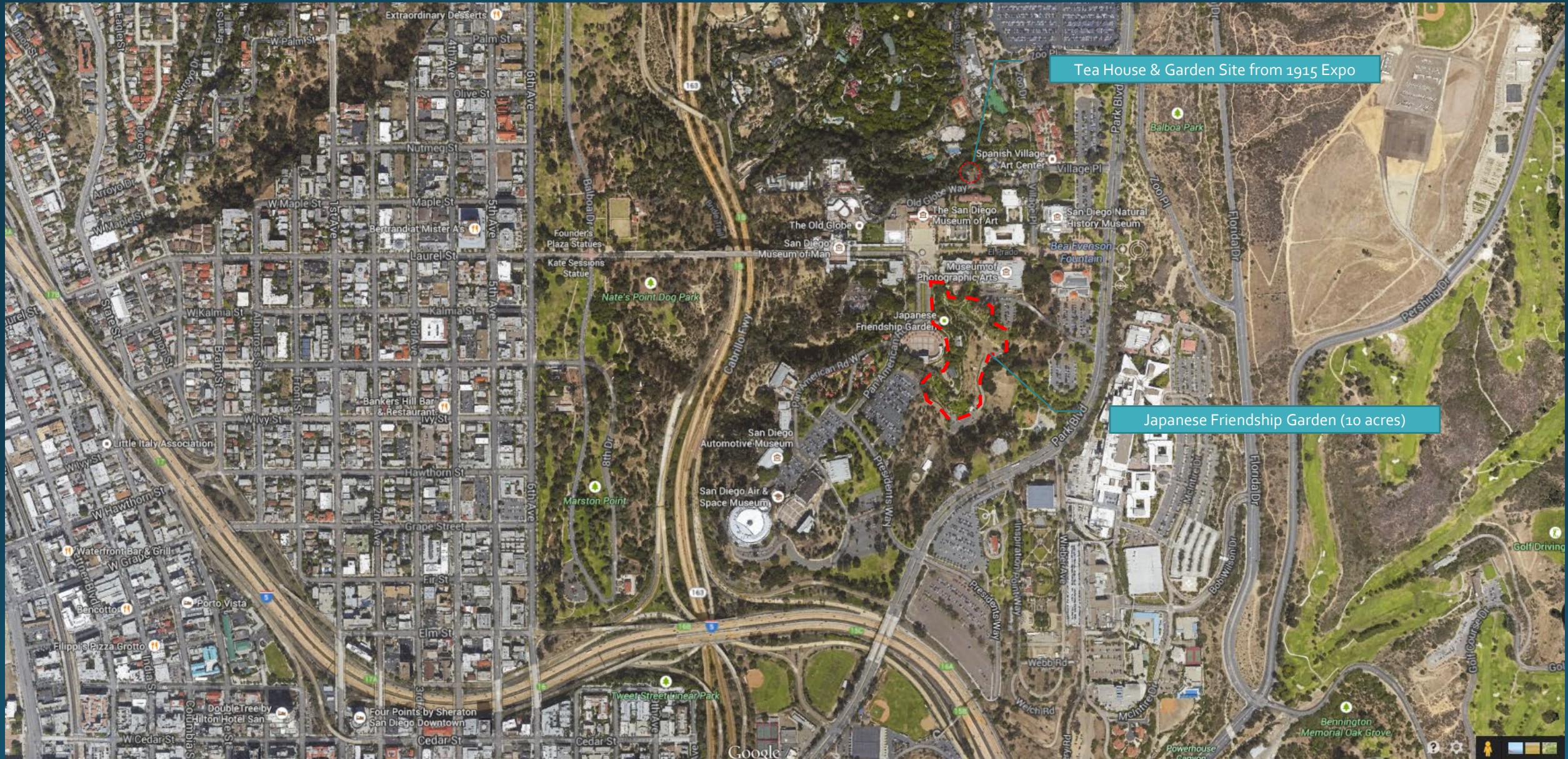
# Vision and Concept Design of The Cultural Education Center

Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum San Diego

Date: July 9, 2026



# Japanese Friendship Garden & Museum in Balboa Park

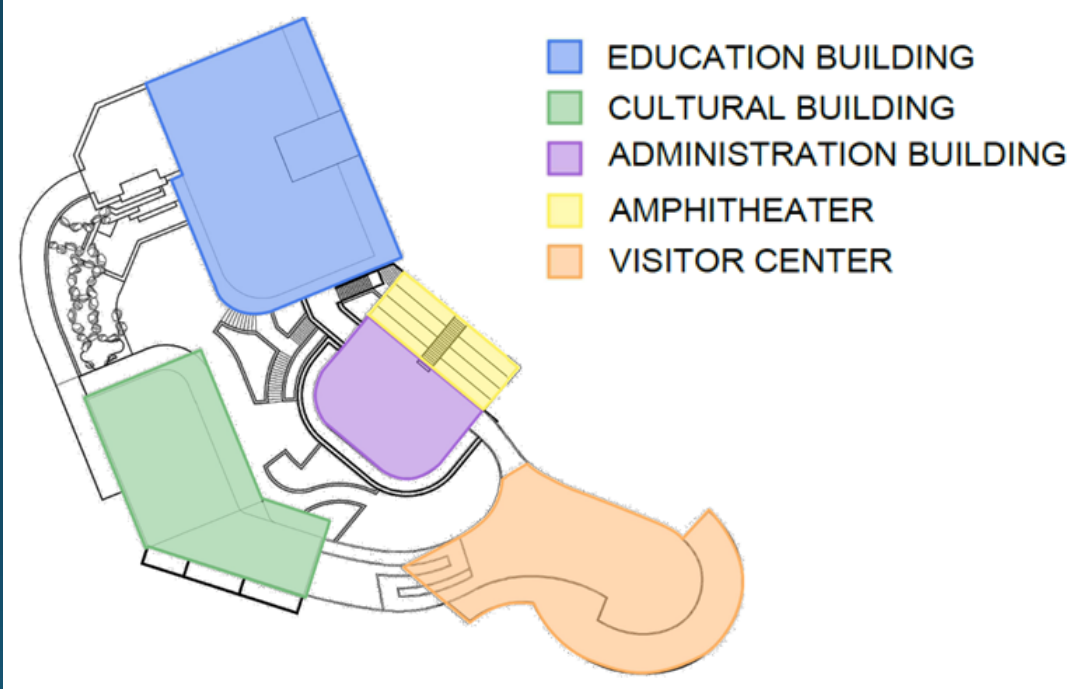


Tea House & Garden Site from 1915 Expo

Japanese Friendship Garden (10 acres)

# 2035-2040 Updated Master Plan

## 1. Cultural Education Center (39,932 sf)



- 2. Entry Plaza Redesign
- 3. Children's Garden & Pavillion (2,300 sf)
- 4. Kominka Farm House (1,750 sf)
- 5. Sanmon Gate



# Cultural Education Center | Design



- Education Building
- Cultural Building
- Administration Building
- Amphitheater
- Green Roof
- Visitor Center
- Waterfall
- Auditorium
- Library
- Classrooms

## Entry Plaza | Redesign

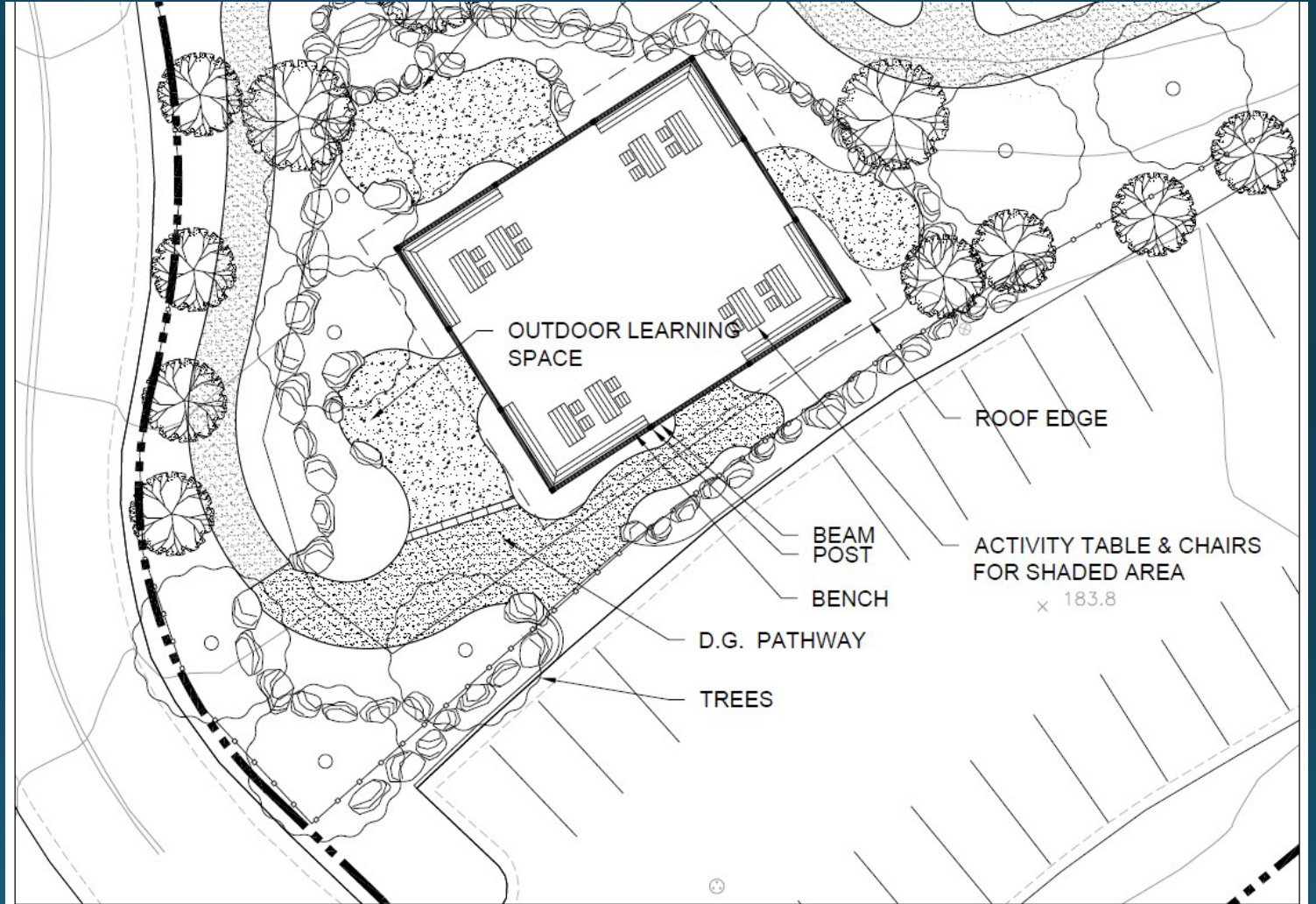


- Concrete walls with organic forms
- Semi-circular, open-air timber canopy
- Permeable pavers
- Café renovation will include gift shop, seating, interpretive displays
- New ticketing window

# Children's Garden & Pavillion | Concept Design



- New construction
- Approx. 2,300 sf
- Approx. 15 feet



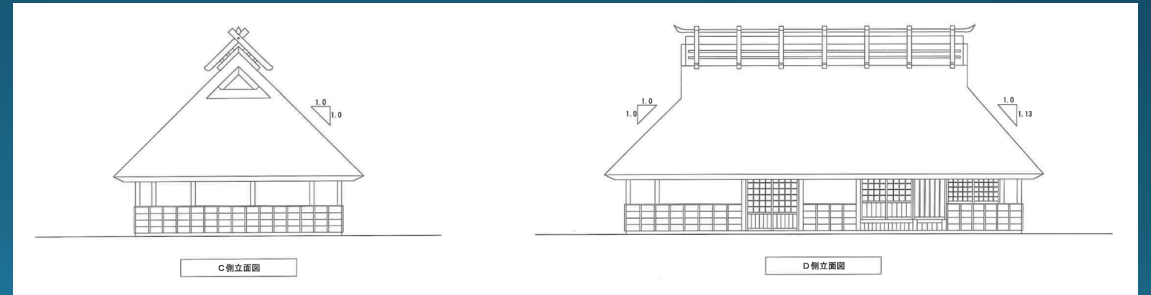
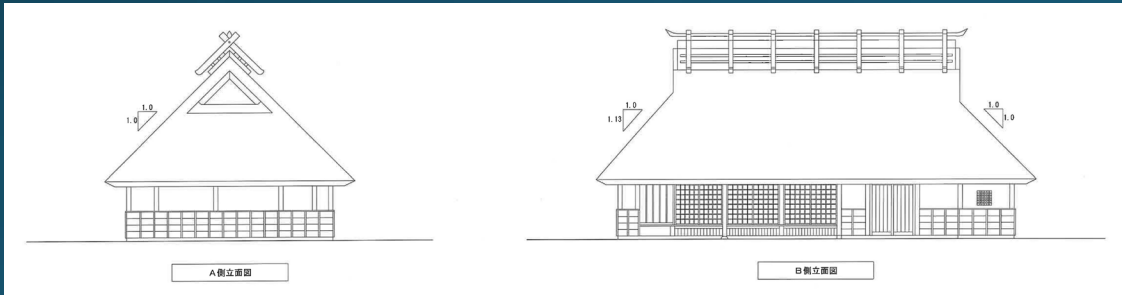
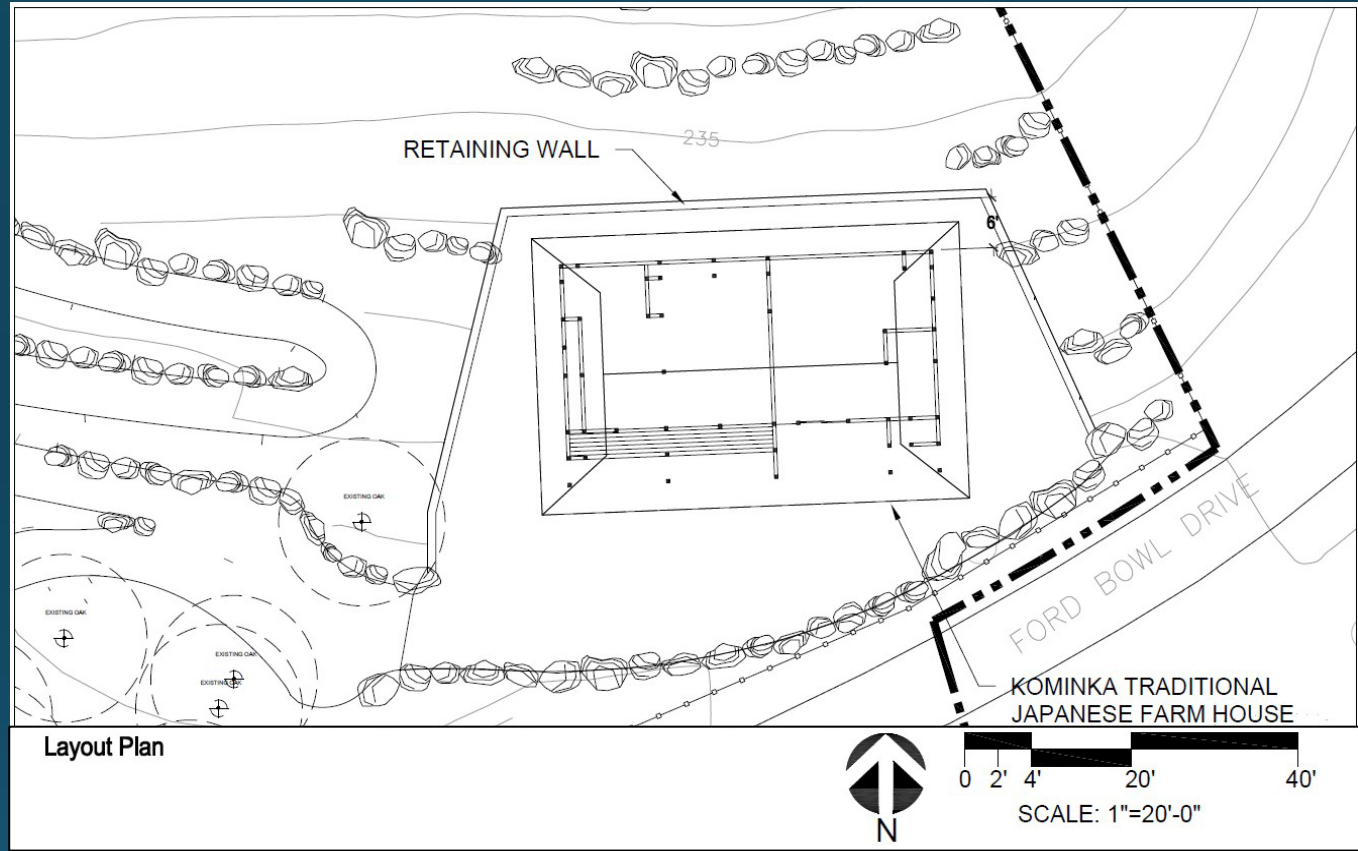
Plan View

Concept Photos of Pavilion Shade Structure and Outdoor Learning Spaces

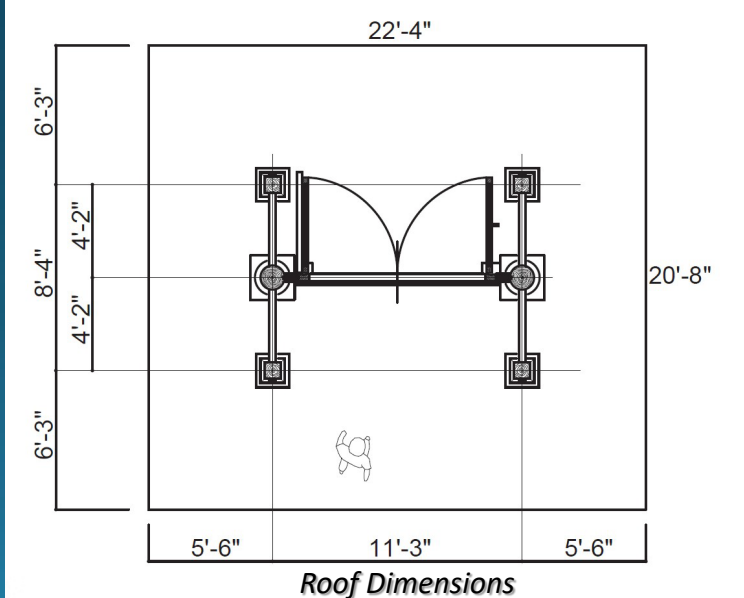
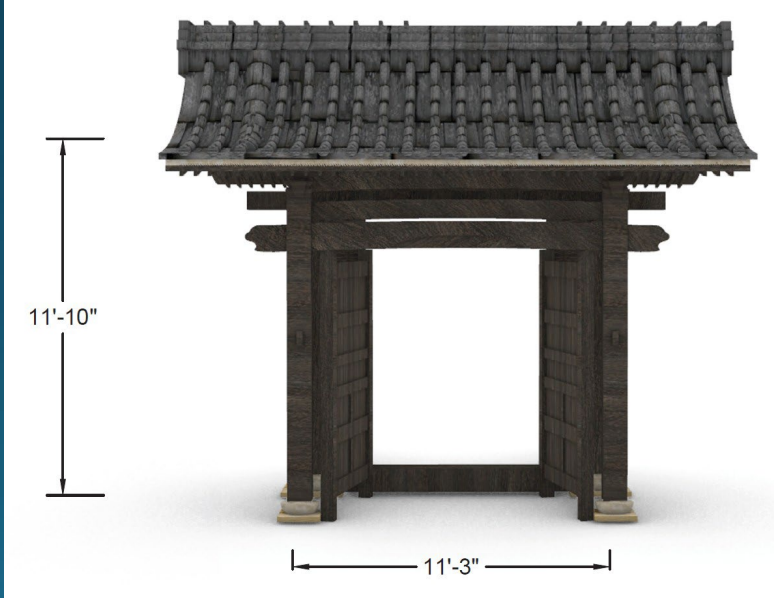
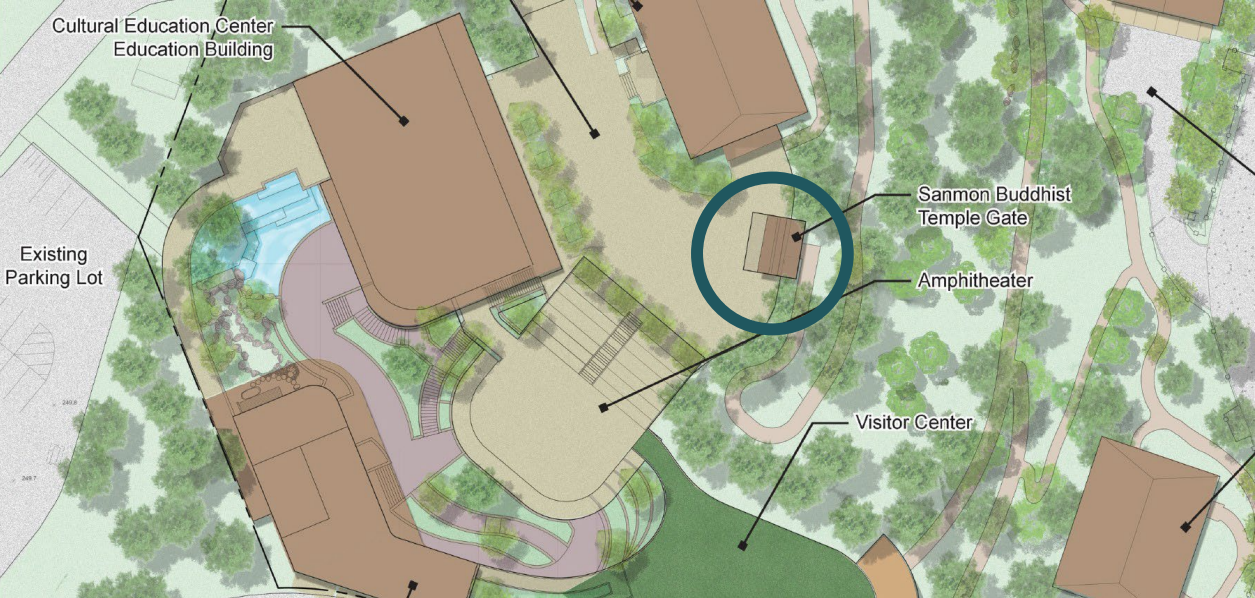
# Farm House | 200-year-old Natasho Kominka Farm House



Photo of the Natasho Kominka Farm House  
In Summer 2025 in Fukui, Japan



# Sanmon Gate | 400-year-old Buddhist Temple Gate will be entry into CEC Plaza



Cultural Education Center Visual Simulation | Revised View from Pepper Grove View Walk



# Entry Plaza Visual Simulation | Proposed view from seating in Spreckels Organ Pavilion



# Consistency

Staff reviewed proposed GDP for consistency with:

- Balboa Park Master Plan – Goals
- Central Mesa Precise Plan & East Prado Subarea
  - Architectural Design Guidelines
  - Land Use
  - View Sheds
- Existing Master Plan/ General Development Plan
- Historic Preservation standards (Planning)
- Lease (Real Estate)

# Recommended Action

Advise the proposed General Development Plan Amendment for the Japanese Friendship Garden and Museum is consistent with the BPMP and CMPP and recommend approval subject to the following condition:

- Lease Compliance - The Economic Development Department, Real Estate Division (RED), shall complete its lease compliance review and confirm any lease-related actions determined by RED to be necessary have been completed and that the proposed improvements and uses are authorized under the applicable lease framework.

Questions?

