Nature’s Gallery Court

Thank you for considering a gift to the creation of Nature’s Gallery Court.

Nature’s Gallery Court is a UC Davis Arboretum GATEways project (Gardens, Arts, and The Environment).
It’s not just an art installation. Nature’s Gallery Court will be a gathering place where the beauty of nature is celebrated. This unique new event venue in the nationally-acclaimed UC Davis Arboretum is designed to feature the Nature’s Gallery mosaic mural, a stunning work of art composed of over 140 tiles hand-crafted by UC Davis students, staff, faculty, and community members. Each brilliant and colorful tile showcases drought-tolerant plants and their associated insects from the nearby Ruth Risdon Storer Garden in the Arboretum.

The Court is also a celebration of collaboration. Its overall design was created by landscape architect and UC Davis alumnus Ron Lutsko, recent recipient of an Award of Excellence from the American Society of Landscape Architects. His plan highlights the Nature’s Gallery mural—a creation of many hands—through a collaboration between the UC Davis Arboretum and the Art-Science Fusion Program created by Associate Dean and Entomology Professor Diane Ullman of the UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and renowned artist Donna Billich, a graduate of the UC Davis Art Department.

The students and the community members that make the tiles use their hands and their heads. The Art-Science Fusion educational strategy that results in a beautiful art piece also teaches basic scientific principles more effectively than traditional textbook learning. And importantly, when someone has worked with their hands to contribute to making a real place, their pride and ownership of that place lasts a lifetime.

With no admission fee, the UC Davis Arboretum is open and accessible to hundreds of thousands of visitors each year. In addition, many people hold important events in the Arboretum gardens. Nature’s Gallery Court, near the White Flower Garden & Gazebo and the nationally-significant Shields Oak Grove, will host celebrations and special events year round. The Court will also serve as an integral part of the Arboretum’s youth and adult education programs.

serves as a unique destination and a place of beauty

reveals the relationship between art & science
They’re not just beautiful tiles. Providing solutions to the unprecedented environmental challenges of the future requires educational experiences that integrate leadership training, collaboration across a wide variety of disciplines, the ability to merge the practical and the theoretical, and an essential partnership among scientists and the public. Nature’s Gallery Court is not only a beautiful place, it is a real example of the kind of integrated education that prepares people to tackle and support the complex environmental challenges we face.

The beauty and drama of the Court and mosaic wall compel people to stop and look and learn more. Previous installations at the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C., and the UC Davis Centennial Pavilion at the 2008 California State Fair have attracted thousands of visitors.

nationwide-recognized
for its educational value

The story of Nature’s Gallery Court is one of environmental sustainability. Not only can the plants featured in the mosaic be found in the nearby Storer Garden and the Arboretum Teaching Nursery, each is sustainable in the California environment. The often-unseen insects are essential players in the story of sustainability and survival for these plants. Each is a clue that there are mysteries to be explored and processes to understand that are not apparent at first glance. This work celebrates the interactions between plants and insects and their critical role in the planet’s health.

promotes education
in the environment

The people who will visit the Court and participate in the Arboretum’s public education programs are problem-solvers of the future—children must first connect with nature and value their personal experience with it to inspire them to work towards the integration of human and natural processes. Student leaders will lead tours and run programs to share the beauty and insights of Nature’s Gallery with members of the general public—a public that must also appreciate and understand the value of working with nature.

provides opportunities for
future leaders
Giving Opportunities

Donations to this project support the installation and maintenance of Nature's Gallery Court, the Arboretum's education programs and the innovative partnership with the Art-Science Fusion Program. A gift of $1,500 or more will be permanently recognized in Nature's Gallery Court.

Nature's Gallery Court
$500,000

A unique opportunity to name the entire venue. Your gift will be recognized with a beautiful engraving on the wall adjacent to the Nature's Gallery mosaic mural.

Plaza
$75,000

Trees (six available)
$5,000

Garden Walls
$25,000 (two available)
$35,000 (one available)

Walkway
$25,000

Planting Beds
$10,000 (250 sf)
$25,000 (750 sf)

Interpretive Signage
(not shown, two available)
$10,000

Plant Tiles (76 available)
Size: 16" x 21"
$1,500

Insect Tiles (54 available)
Size: 6" x 8"
$500

To view a larger version of all the tiles currently available on the Nature's Gallery Court mosaic mural visit: http://dedications.ucdavis.edu/tiles.php

CONTACT US

For more information about dedicating a Nature's Gallery tile, please contact
Suzanne Ullensvang, Resource Development Manager at 530.752.8324 or sullensvang@ucdavis.edu.

For more information about other naming opportunities, please contact
Carmia Feldman, Assistant Director at 530.752.6219 or csfeldman@ucdavis.edu.