The Garden Board Member Experience is a 1.5 day conference-within-a-conference, focused, and curated specifically for public garden boards, with of-the-minute topics based on conversations with garden CEOs and board members across the country. Enjoy plenty of facilitated discussions and networking amongst your board peers, interactive sessions for board members only, and open-session opportunities - as well as visits to some of Portland’s premier public gardens.
THURSDAY, JUNE 25

7:00 AM—12:00 PM: REGISTRATION

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM: PLENARY LUNCH WITH TOM KAYE (ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES)

Dr. Tom Kaye is founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE), a nonprofit organization with a mission to conserve native habitats and species through research, restoration, and education. He is also a courtesy Associate Professor in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Oregon State University. Tom conducts research on rare species reintroductions, habitat restoration, plant invasions, and plant population responses to climate change, and engages prison inmates in conservation through the Sagebrush in Prisons Project. Sourcing native plants for restoration is a key area of interest, research and publication for Dr. Kaye. He serves as a Commission Member on the IUCN SSC Seed Conservation Specialist Group.

1:45 PM – 2:30 PM: WELCOME & OPENING SESSION

SUCCESSION PLANNING: RECRUITING BOARD MEMBERS & PLANNING FOR WHEN YOUR CEO LEAVES

Eventually even your best board members leave. How do you find, engage and recruit the board members you need to take you into the future? Your chief executive will eventually leave. How can you prepare for when that day comes?

2:30 PM – 3:15 PM: POLICIES: BOARD OR MANAGEMENT?

Plant Collections Policies, Disaster Preparedness/Business Continuity Plans? Human Resource Policies? How do you decide whether it’s a governance or a management issue? At what point does the board get involved? Is there a difference based on size of garden? Type of governance? Share with your peers how you navigate the governance/management divide?

3:30 PM – 4:30 PM: ASSESSING THE CEO, BOARD, AND GARDEN

Growth comes when we figure out what we’re doing right, and where we need to focus. Share with your peers how you evaluate your CEO and conduct board assessments. Learn how the Association’s benchmarking program lets you measure your garden against its peers and aspirations.

4:00 PM: AN EXCURSION IN WASHINGTON PARK (ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES)

Spend the evening in Portland’s premier park, home to Hoyt Arboretum, the International Rose Test Garden, Portland Japanese Garden, World Forestry Center, the Oregon Zoo and more! Whether you prefer to hike the trails or ride in one of Explore Washington Park’s many shuttles, you’ll enjoy the best the park has to offer.

Designed by the renowned landscape architect John Charles Olmstead, Washington Park is a 400-acre hub of horticulture and public recreation in Portland. Stroll among the millions of blooms at the International Rose Test Garden, meander through the giant redwoods and marvel at aerialists in the trees at Hoyt Arboretum, go behind the scenes with the Oregon Zoo Horticulture team, and uncover the future of sustainable forestry at the World Forestry Center’s Discovery Museum.

Along the way, you’ll sample some of the Portland area’s best cuisine, wine, and beer!

IMPORTANT: Bus transportation will not be provided for this event. Attendees will utilize public transportation by walking from the hotel to Pioneer Square MAX transit platform (Westbound). Attendees will have the option to traverse Washington Park on foot upon arrival, but mini-shuttles will be provided between the key sites.
FRIDAY, JUNE 26

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM: BREAKFAST w/BLACKBAUD: THE FUNDRAISING LANDSCAPE: RESEARCH FINDINGS

Enjoy a sit-down breakfast with your fellow Board members. Our Garden Board Experience sponsor, Blackbaud, will then present the latest research findings on philanthropic trends, inviting peer discussion on this research.

10:15 AM – 11:45 AM: CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Attend an all-Conference session of your choice:
• Clearing the Path to a Career in Horticulture
• Crafting a Membership Program to Increase Access and Diversity
• Interpreting Indigenous Heritage through Garden Design
• Prioritizing Conservation: Meeting the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation’s 2020 Targets
• Pests and Guests: The Value of Conservation Biological Control in Public Gardens
• Tips and Tricks for Ensuring Effective Continuous Staff Training

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, ACCESSIBILITY (IDEA) FORUM & LUNCH (ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES)

Join this special lunch and learn about IDEA principles with a special focus on the letter “E”, equity. Hear diverse perspectives about IDEA principles.

1:45 PM – 2:15 PM: FUNDRAISING: WHAT’S OUR ROLE? HOW DO WE KNOW? WHAT DO WE NEED?

Is yours a fundraising board? Should it be? Many boards struggle with 1) how many on the board are really fundraising; 2) how to work with staff to help define and advance their role in fundraising; 3) how to create accountability among your board towards fundraising success. Share your successes and challenges and get peer input into what works for them and the pitfalls to look out for.

2:45 PM – 3:30 PM ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: CASES IN BOARD DYNAMICS

Boards are made up of many different people, with different temperaments, talents and opinions. How do you handle a domineering trustee? What do you do when you find a director has an undisclosed conflict of interest? How do you decide if something is a breach of ethical behavior? Different cases will be presented and discussed with peers. Following discussion, opinions and decisions will be shared across all participants.

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM CLOSING AND RESOURCES FOR MORE LEARNING

6:30 PM – 9:00 PM A NIGHT AT PORTLAND JAPANESE GARDEN (ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES)

Gather with friends old and new to celebrate another successful and insightful Annual Conference with a unique cultural and horticultural experience at Portland Japanese Garden. Renowned as the most authentic Japanese garden outside of Japan, Portland Japanese Garden sits nestled in Washington Park on 12.5 acres.

Experience the original five gardens designed by one of the 20th century’s leading Japanese garden designers: layers of green upon green, the spirit of the surrounding native forest wafting through a landscape where generations of hands and hearts have blended water, plants, and stone together to create unique beauty and tranquility. Celebrate in the newly-minted Cultural Village expansion designed by architect Kengo Kuma (Designer of the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Stadium). Encounter the astounding visual experience of artist Takahiro Iwasaki’s floating sculptures in the Constructed Worlds exhibition.

Learn about the art and craft of tea ceremony. Listen to the strumming of the shamisen banjo and the lilt of the shino-bue flute, be invigorated by the thundering of taiko drumming. Taste local wine, beer, and cuisine. Japan and the Pacific Northwest meet here to bring you an unforgettable evening of nature, culture, and serenity.
Garden Board Member Experience

Registration

Register here- 2020.publicgardens.org/GBME-2020

$575 Association Members (make sure you’re on your garden’s roster by emailing info@publicgardens.org to get member pricing)

$675 Non-Members

Become a member today and save $100 on your registration! Reach out to Jamie Recio, Member Development Manager at jrecio@publicgardens.org or (610) 708-3014 for more information.

Refund and Cancellation Policy:

All refund or cancellation requests must be made in writing to the American Public Gardens Association. Refund schedule:

3/1/2020-4/17/2020: The Association will refund registration fees less a $125 processing fee
4/17/2020-5/27/2020: The Association will refund 50% of registration fees.
After 6/5/2020: There are NO REFUNDS for cancellations, no-shows, or unused function tickets, including illness-related.