

May 2023

Memorandum for: The Record

From: Diana Cull, I. I. Chapter 1 Historian

Re: Chapter Exhibitions at the National Botanic Garden

The National Botanic Garden at the foot of the U. S. Capital in Washington, D.C. was host to Ikebana International Chapter 1's annual exhibitions ("flower shows") for many years. Spring, and sometimes Fall, exhibitions were held there from 1974-1981 and 1990-1997, when the facility closed for reconstruction.

Ikebana arrangements were displayed in both the East and West Wings of the Botanic Garden. In addition, the Exhibition Committee members installed a Japanese garden and teahouse facade in the "Great Hall". The Botanic Garden staff built and stored cubes and platforms of various sizes to hold the arrangements; and Committee members painted them and sometimes provided backdrops and mulch-covered settings.

The length of the exhibitions varied, ranging from ten days in 1997, to an entire month in 1995, to correspond to the Botanic Garden's "Fall Chrysanthemum Show". The latter was interrupted when a Federal Government shutdown closed the show for six days.

Every exhibition had an opening ribbon-cutting and evening reception, often presided over by the Japanese Ambassador or other representative of the Embassy. Chapter members also offered demonstrations to the public by various schools of Ikebana throughout the exhibition.

