

June 2023

Memorandum for: The Record

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

Re: Chapter Exhibitions at the National Housing Center

From 1962 to 1972, the Annual Ikebana International Flower Show was held at the National Housing Center. The National Housing Center was the headquarters of the National Association of Home Builders and was located at 1625 L Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.

The National Housing Center was open to the public, free of charge, seven days a week; weekdays 10-6 and weekend 1-6. In addition to its four floors displaying modern home products and building materials, it frequently had changing exhibits of an educational or informational nature dealing with home ownership, architecture, interior design and homemaking. It provided ample floor space to stage large ikebana arrangements.

In addition to the floral displays, other exhibits and demonstrations included: "Japanese Folk Dancing, The Tea Ceremony; Kimono Fashion Show; Demonstration of Sumi-e Painting; Music Played on the Koto; Demonstration of Bonsai; Ceramics Demonstration; Silk Embroidery; Bonseki; and Demonstrations on the Potter's Wheel."

The 1972 Exhibit was the last one held at the National Housing Center. (The National Association of Home Builders moved its headquarters to a new building at 1201 15th St., N.W., which opened in 1974.) After an unsuccessful attempt to use the Freer Gallery of Art, the Chapter found a new home for its annual exhibition at the U. S. Botanic Garden.