National Gallery of Art

NEW RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART SCULPTURE GARDEN OPENS MAY 23

New Acquisitions in Dynamic Space
Offer Year-Round Enjoyment on the National Mall

Washington, D.C. -- On May 23, the National Gallery of Art opens a dynamic outdoor sculpture garden designed to offer year-round enjoyment to the public in one of the preeminent locations on the National Mall. The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden is given to the nation by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.

The landscaping of the 6.1-acre space provides a distinctive setting for seventeen major works, including important new acquisitions of post-World War II sculpture by such internationally renowned artists as Louise Bourgeois, Mark di Suvero, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, and Tony Smith. The Sculpture Garden is located at Seventh Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., in the block adjacent to the West Building.

"We are proud to bring to the nation these significant works of sculpture in one of the few outdoor settings of this magnitude in the country," said Earl A. Powell III, director, National Gallery of Art. "The opening of the Sculpture Garden brings to fruition part of a master plan to revitalize the National Mall that has been in development for more than thirty years. The National Gallery is extremely grateful to the Cafritz Foundation for making this historic event possible."

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Visitors are able to enjoy a reflecting pool and fountain in the center of the Sculpture Garden during the summer months that becomes an ice skating rink in winter. Spacious walking and seating areas give viewers a chance to rest and reflect on the works of sculpture amid the rich settings composed of native American species of canopy trees, flowering trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and perennials. The renovated pavilion will offer year-round café service (beginning fall 1999), with indoor and outdoor seating.

"In memory of my parents, Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz, I am delighted we are able to be part of the Sculpture Garden, which provides a forum for a variety of cultural and educational programs, as well as a refuge and oasis for the many thousands of visitors who come to the Mall, and for the residents of the greater metropolitan area," said Calvin Cafritz, chairman of the Cafritz Foundation.

NEW ACQUISITIONS AND WORKS ON VIEW

The works, ranging in size from forty-two inches to twenty feet high, and weighing as much as eight tons, are installed in flexible spaces, which will be able to accommodate a variety of works from the Gallery's growing twentieth-century sculpture collection, as well as works on loan. Major new acquisitions, including several recently completed works, are on view at the Gallery for the first time.

In addition to the Sculpture Garden, seven of the ten new acquisitions were donated by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation:

- **Puellae, 1992, by Magdalena Abakanowicz** (Polish, born 1930). Composed of thirty diminutive (three-feet high) bronze figures of pre-adolescent girls from the artist's "Ragazzi" series, the sculpture conveys a poignancy and delicacy of scale that sets it apart from the artist's life-size adult figures. It refers to a story the artist heard about a group of children who were found frozen to death in cattle cars as they were transported from Poland to Germany in 1942. It is the first work by this established European artist to enter the Gallery's collection. *Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.*
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• **Spider, 1996, cast 1997 by Louise Bourgeois** (American, born 1911, France). The nine-foot-by-twenty-seven-foot bronze cast with a silver nitrate patina depicts the spider as a looming and powerful protectress who is at once nurturing and vulnerable. Belonging to Bourgeois' Spider series, which explores themes of childhood memory and loss, this recently completed work complements the Gallery's four early works by Bourgeois: Spring (1949), Mortise (1950), Untitled (1952), and The Winged Figure (1950; cast 1991). *Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.*

• **Aurora, 1992-1993, by Mark di Suvero** (American, born 1933). This sculpture is a virtuoso combination of design and engineering. Its sophisticated structural system distributes eight tons of steel over three diagonal supports to combine massive scale with elegance of proportion. *Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.*

• **Stele II, 1973, by Ellsworth Kelly** (American, born 1923). The shape of this work, one of the artist's first outdoor sculptures, is loosely based on that of a French kilometer marker the artist observed during his years in Paris after World War II. Its title refers to a type of ancient stone monument, which was planar and meant to be seen from the front, as in Stele II. The surface of the weathered steel, after exposure to the elements, has developed an even, non-reflective surface. *Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.*


• **Typewriter Eraser, Scale X, 1999, by Claes Oldenburg** (American, born 1929, Sweden) and **Coosje van Bruggen** (American, born 1942, The Netherlands). The typewriter eraser, one of Oldenburg's favorite childhood playthings from his father's office, is an image he first used in the 1960s and 1970s as a source for drawings, prints, and sculpture, and even a never-realized monument for New York City. In their collaborations, the artists' selection of everyday objects for their large-scale public projects challenges the traditional notion of the public monument as a commemoration of historical figures and events. *Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.*
Moondog, 1964/1998-1999, by Tony Smith (American, 1912–1980). The structure of this work, comprised of fifteen extended octahedrons and ten tetrahedrons, elicits a chain of visual and sculptural associations, including elements of minimal art and architecture and a variety of forms ranging from a Japanese lantern to the human pelvic bone, to which the artist compared it. The title itself is drawn from two sources: "Moondog," the name of a blind poet and folk musician living in New York in the 1960s, and Dog Barking at the Moon, a painting by Joan Miró. Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation.

The National Gallery is grateful to individual donors who have made possible the acquisition of three works, listed as follows:

Thinker on a Rock, 1997, by Barry Flanagan (British, born 1941). The hare in various guises has been the subject of Flanagan's bronzes since 1980. In this work the artist substitutes his signature hare for Rodin's The Thinker (1880), making a witty and irreverent reference to one of the world's best known sculptures. Gift of John and Mary Pappajohn.

Four-Sided Pyramid, first installation 1997, by Sol LeWitt (American, born 1928). The terraced pyramid, first employed by LeWitt during the 1960s, relates to the setback design that has long been characteristic of New York skyscrapers. This geometric structure also alludes to the ancient ziggurat form of Assyrian and Babylonian temples. Four-Sided Pyramid will be constructed on the site by a team of engineers and stone masons in collaboration with the artist. Gift of The Donald Fisher Family.

Chair Transformation Number 20B, 1996, by Lucas Samaras (American, born 1936, Greece). The work suggests an animated flight of stacked chairs and belongs to a series in which the artist represents the chair in a variety of guises and materials, including wire mesh, wood, string, and mirrored glass. The fantastical composition evokes a hallucinatory realm, in which the object appears to lean back and spring forth at the same time. The Nancy Lee and Perry Bass Fund.

Additional works from the Gallery's twentieth-century collection that have been installed in the Sculpture Garden are Scott Burton's Six-Part Seating (1985/1998), a group of polished red granite seats that are displayed for the first time; Joan Miró's Personnage Gothique, Oiseau-Eclair (1974, cast 1977); Isamu Noguchi's Great Rock of Inner Seeking (1974); George Rickey's Cluster of Four Cubes (1992); Joel Shapiro's Untitled (1989); and David Smith's Cubi XXVI (1965).

Also on view—courtesy of the Calder Foundation—is one of Alexander Calder's - more -
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works, Cheval Rouge (Red Horse) (1974), a bold red sculpture made of painted sheet metal fabricated by skilled technicians and metalworkers at the Biémont Foundry in Tours, France.

SCULPTURE GARDEN DESIGN

The design of the Sculpture Garden addresses the importance of the Eighth Street axis line that was part of Pierre L'Enfant's master plan for Washington by providing an entrance on the Mall from Madison Drive and a clear sight line along this imaginary line. The garden is enclosed by a decorative metal fence with marble piers and plinths, designed to reflect the historic character of the West Building. The stone used for the gateway plinths, constructed to articulate the six public entryways to the garden, matches the marble of both the Gallery's West and East Buildings. The granite base beneath the decorative metal fence is the same size and composed of the same material as the raised curb that surrounds the West Building's grounds. The Sculpture Garden is accessible to visitors with disabilities.

In August, 1991, the National Park Service and the National Gallery of Art signed an agreement, which was approved by the National Capital Planning Commission, transferring jurisdiction over the Sculpture Garden site from the Park Service to the National Gallery.

The design for the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden was created by Laurie D. Olin, landscape architect, Olin Partnership, in association with key members of the National Gallery staff: Earl A. Powell III, director; Mark Leithauser, chief of design; Gordon Anson, senior lighting designer; James Grupe, senior architect; Carl Campioli, assistant senior architect, and Donald Hand, chief of horticulture. The art was selected by the Gallery's director Powell; Alan Shestack, deputy director; and Marla Prather and Mark Rosenthal, the current and former curators of twentieth-century art. Construction on the site was completed by the Chas H. Tompkins Company.

The National Gallery of Art, located on the National Mall, is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Gallery is closed on December 25 and January 1. Admission is free. For general information, call (202) 737-4215, the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the National Gallery of Art's Web site at www.nga.gov. To receive the Gallery's free bimonthly Calendar of Events, call (202) 842-6662.

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National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden
Checklist

- Black & White Prints available
- Slides available
- Color Transparencies available

1. Magdalena Abakanowicz
   - Polish, born 1930
   - *Puellae (Girls)*, 1992
   - bronze (thirty figures)
   - each figure approximately: 1.010 x .279 x .229 m (3' 3/4" x 11" x 9")
   - Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

2. Louise Bourgeois
   - American, born 1911, France
   - bronze cast with silver nitrate patina
   - 2.819 x 8.331 x 7.925 m (9' 3" x 27' 4" x 26')
   - Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

3. Scott Burton
   - American, 1939-1989
   - polished granite
   - each element: .953 x .445 x 1.003 m (3' 1 1/2" x 1' 5 1/2" x 3' 3 1/2")
   - Gift of the Collectors Committee

4. Alexander Calder
   - American, 1898-1976
   - *Cheval Rouge (Red Horse)*, 1974
   - painted sheet metal
   - 4.877 x 5.969 x 5.969 m (16' x 19' 7" x 19' 7")
   - Courtesy Calder Foundation, New York

5. Mark di Suvero
   - American, born 1933
   - steel
   - 4.978 x 5.944 x 8.141 m (16' 4" x 19' 6" x 26' 8 1/2")
   - Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

- more -
6. Barry Flanagan
☐ British, born 1941
● *Thinker on a Rock*, 1997
■ cast bronze
  3.340 x 1.816 x 2.578 m (10' 11 1/2" x 8' 5 1/2" x 5' 11 1/2")
Gift of John and Mary Pappajohn

7. Ellsworth Kelly
☐ American, born 1923
● *Stele II*, 1973
■ one-inch weathering steel
  3.200 x 2.997 m (10' 6" x 9' 10")
Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

8. Sol LeWitt
☐ American, born 1928
● *Four-Sided Pyramid*, first installation 1997
■ concrete blocks and mortar
  4.582 x 10.071 x 9.725 m (15' 3/8" x 33' 1/2" x 31' 10 1/4")
Gift of The Donald Fisher Family

9. Roy Lichtenstein
☐ American, 1923 - 1997
■ fabricated and painted aluminum
  2.921 x 4.470 x 1.321 m (9' 7" x 14' 8" x 4' 4")
Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

10. Joan Miró
☐ Spanish, 1893 - 1983
● *Personnage Gothique, Oiseau-Éclair* (*Gothic Personage, Bird-Flash*), 1974, cast 1977
■ bronze
  4.502 x 2.000 x 1.600 m (14' 9 1/4" x 6' 6 3/4" x 5' 3")
Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

11. Isamu Noguchi
☐ American, 1904 - 1988
● *Great Rock of Inner Seeking*, 1974
■ basalt
  3.248 x 1.584 x .889 m (10' 7 7/8" x 5' 2 3/8" x 2' 11")
Gift of Arthur M. Sackler, M.D. and Mortimer D. Sackler, M.D.
Sculpture Garden Checklist...3

12. Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen
☐ American, born 1929, Sweden / American, born 1942, The Netherlands
● Typewriter Eraser, Scale X, 1999
■ painted stainless steel and Fiberglas
6.026 x 3.874 x 3.454 m (19' 9 1/4" x 12” 8 1/2” x 11' 4”)
Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

13. George Rickey
☐ American, born 1907
● Cluster of Four Cubes, 1992
■ stainless steel
5.410 x 3.124 2.819 m (17' 9" x 10' 3" x 9' 3")
Gift of George Rickey and Patrons’ Permanent Fund

14. Lucas Samaras
☐ American, born 1936, Greece
● Chair Transformation Number 20B, 1996
■ patinated bronze
3.607 x .673 x 2.235 m (11’ 10” x 2’ 2 1/2” x 7’ 4”)
The Nancy Lee and Perry Bass Fund

15. Joel Shapiro
☐ American, born 1941
● Untitled, 1989
■ bronze
1.651 x 1.956 x 1.587 m (5’ 5” x 6’ 5” x 5’ 2 1/2”)
Gift of the Collectors Committee

16. David Smith
☐ American, 1906 - 1965
● Cubi XXVI, 1965
■ steel
3.034 x 3.834 x .656 m (9’ 11 1/2” x 12’ 7” x 2’ 1 7/8”)
Ailsa Mellon Bruce Fund

17. Tony Smith
☐ American, 1912 - 1980
■ painted aluminum
5.213 x 4.680 x 4.674 m (17’ 1 1/4” x 15’ 4 1/4” x 15’ 4”)
Gift of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART SCULPTURE GARDEN:

A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

1791 Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant creates a plan for the new city of Washington. In the plan, the Mall is to be a grassy park flanked by buildings for public use. On the north side of the Mall at 8th Street, a landscaped park is planned to emphasize the important north-south axis in the city design. This same site will eventually become the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden.

1851 Landscape architect Andrew Jackson Downing's proposal that the Mall be redesigned as a series of natural, picturesque gardens is accepted by President Millard Fillmore. Although the plans are not completely implemented, they influence the Mall's appearance for the rest of the century.

1901 The Senate Park Commission, commonly known as the McMillan Commission after its chairman, Senator James McMillan, advocates a return to L'Enfant's original scheme, but on a grander scale. The Mall is to be cleared and transformed into a broad, uniform lawn flanked by lines of trees and rows of dignified buildings. The design includes a proposed formal garden on the Sculpture Garden site.

1908 The Baltimore and Potomac Station, located on the site of the future National Gallery of Art West Building, is razed and its tracks are removed from the Mall, in keeping with the McMillan Commission Plan.

1911 The National Museum of Natural History, designed by architects Hornblower and Marshall, is completed and stands to the west of the Sculpture Garden site.

1935 The National Archives building, designed by architect John Russell Pope, is completed immediately north of the Sculpture Garden site.

1936 In a letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Andrew W. Mellon proposes to give to the nation his art collection and to build a National Gallery of Art on the Mall in Washington.
1937  75th Congress approves Public Resolution 14 “Providing for the Construction and Maintenance of a National Gallery of Art,” as envisioned by Andrew Mellon.

Construction of the National Gallery’s of Art’s original (West) Building, designed by John Russell Pope, begins.

1941  President Franklin D. Roosevelt accepts the National Gallery of Art as a gift to the nation and the West Building opens to the public.

1966  National Gallery president Paul Mellon and Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall sign a cooperative agreement for the creation of a National Sculpture Garden on the Gallery’s future Sculpture Garden site. The National Gallery is to be responsible for the selection and care of the works of art and for educational activities.

1971  Ground-breaking takes place for the East Building of the National Gallery of Art, designed by architect I.M. Pei.

1974  A skating rink, the first phase of the National Sculpture Garden constructed by the National Park Service and developed jointly with the National Gallery of Art, opens to the public.

The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, which occupies the site across the Mall to the south of the Sculpture Garden, opens to the public.

1976  In celebration of the nation’s bicentennial, the National Gallery of Art presents an exhibition of replicas of colonial and revolutionary war-era flags on the Sculpture Garden site.

1978  The East Building, a gift of Paul Mellon, Ailsa Mellon Bruce, and The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, opens to the public.

1988  The Sculpture Garden pavilion, conceived by Charles Bassett of the San Francisco office of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, is completed.

1991  Jurisdiction of the Sculpture Garden site is transferred from the National Park Service to the National Gallery of Art in an agreement signed by Park Service regional director Robert Stanton and National Gallery director J. Carter Brown, and approved by the National Capital Planning Commission.

1992  Earl A. Powell III is named director of the National Gallery of Art.
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1993 The Philadelphia-based architecture firm Olin Partnership is engaged by the National Gallery to create the landscape design for the Sculpture Garden.

1996 The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation makes a commitment to provide funds for the design and construction of the Sculpture Garden.

1997 National Gallery of Art breaks ground on the Sculpture Garden site, and construction begins.

1999 Ten new acquisitions of outdoor sculpture are announced by the National Gallery. These, in addition to six works from the permanent collection and one on loan, are installed in flexible spaces in the newly designed Sculpture Garden.

On May 23, the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden opens to the public.

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART SCULPTURE GARDEN

FACT SHEET

Sponsor: National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden is given to the nation by The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

Location: On the National Mall at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. (National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden is bounded by Constitution Avenue and Madison Drive and 7th and 9th Streets, N.W.)

Size: 6.1 acres

Hours: Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.–6 p.m.; closed on December 25 and January 1; admission is free

Access: 6 Public Entrances to the Sculpture Garden
- One entrance on Constitution Avenue at 9th Street, N.W.
- Three entrances on 7th Street, N.W., one directly across from the Gallery's West Building entrance
- Two entrances on the National Mall between 7th and 9th Streets, N.W.

Sculpture: Seventeen major works of 20th-century sculpture are on view, including important new acquisitions by Louise Bourgeois, Mark di Suvero, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen, and Tony Smith; ten new acquisitions are presented, along with six works from the permanent collection, and one work on loan from the Calder Foundation

Café Service: The renovated pavilion will offer year-round café service, beginning fall 1999, with indoor and outdoor seating

Fountain and Ice Skating: The reflecting pool and fountain refresh visitors from spring through fall. The ice skating rink will be available during the winter; details will be announced at a future date

- more -
Educational Programs, Activities, and Materials

Programs:

- Information guides with descriptions and locations of each sculpture are available at the main 7th Street entrance of the Sculpture Garden and at all art information desks.

- Slide lecture, Sunday, June 27, at 2:00 p.m., "Garden of Illusions: The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden," by Molly Donovan, assistant curator of 20th-century art.

- The Gallery's Web site (www.nga.gov) presents a special feature to coincide with the Sculpture Garden opening that includes a chronology, photographic essay, and panoramic views of the garden site before and after construction.

- Beginning October 1999, a variety of lectures, films, and walking tours will be offered, including "The Anatomy of Sculpture," a special weekend of activities with demonstrations by working sculptors in metal, carving, and casting (dates to be announced).

West Building

Renovation: The ground floor of the West Building will be opened up along the central spine to enable visitors to have a clear vista from the 4th Street entrance of the West Building to the Sculpture Garden.

A component is the construction of a new central sculpture gallery, to be installed in conjunction with the Sculpture Garden; it will include a marble floor, marble clad piers, cast plaster cornice, plaster cove ceiling, and cove lighting—all architectural details in keeping with the neoclassical style of John Russell Pope, the architect of the West Building.

Special Material:

One of the notable materials used in the construction of the Sculpture Garden is Tennessee pink marble, which was obtained from the same quarries used in the construction of both the Gallery's West and East Buildings. In the garden's design, the Tennessee pink marble was used for the gateway plinths that mark the public entrances, the stone benches surrounding the fountain and ice rink, the coping surrounding the fountain and ice rink, and the terrace seatwalls adjacent to the pavilion.

Information: For general information, call (202) 737-4215, the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the National Gallery of Art's Web site at www.nga.gov.

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**Sculpture Garden Hours:** Monday-Saturday, 10-5; Sunday 11-6, Admission free.

**Information Guides:** Available at the main 7th Street entrance of the Sculpture Garden and at all art information desks in the East and West Buildings.

The Sculpture Garden is accessible to those with disabilities.

Please do not litter. Please do not feed or disturb the wildlife.

No bicycling, skateboarding, or rollerblading.

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1. Magdalena Abakanowicz
   *Pudlae (Girls), 1992*

2. Louise Bourgeois
   *Spider, 1996, cast 1997*

3. Scott Burton
   *Six-Part Seating, 1985/1998*

4. Alexander Calder
   *Cheval Rouge (Red Horse), 1974*

5. Mark di Suvero
   *Aurora, 1992-1993*

6. Barry Flanagan
   *Thinker on a Rock, 1997*

7. Ellsworth Kelly
   *Stele II, 1973*

8. Sol LeWitt
   *Four-Sided Pyramid, first installation 1997*

9. Roy Lichtenstein
   *House 1, 1996/1998*

10. Joan Miró
    *Persoannage Gothique, Oiseau-Éclair (Gothic Personnage, Bird-Flash), 1974, cast 1977*

11. Isamu Noguchi
    *Great Rock of Inner Seeking, 1974*

12. Claes Oldenburg
   *Chair Transformation Number 20B, 1996*

13. George Rickey
    *Cluster of Four Cubes, 1992*

14. Lucas Samaras
    *Chain Transformation Number 20B, 1996*

15. Joel Shapiro
    *Untitled, 1989*

16. David Smith
    *Cahi XXVI, 1965*

17. Tony Smith
Plant List

1. Atlas Cedar
   Cedrus atlantica
2. Cedar of Lebanon
   Cedrus libani
3. Japanese Stewartia
   Stewartia pseudocamilla
4. American Elm
   Ulmus americana
5. Horse Chestnut
   Aesculus hippocastanum
6. Yellowwood
   Cladrastis lutea

7. Lamarki Serviceberry
   Amelanchier arborea
   'Lamarki'
8. Bracken's Brown Beauty
   Southern Magnolia
   Magnolia grandiflora
   'Bracken's Brown Beauty'
9. Kentucky Coffee Tree
   Gymnocladus dioicus
10. Franklin Tree
    Frankinia alatamaha
11. Paperbark Maple
    Acer griseum
12. Siberian Elm
    Ulmus pumila
13. Natchez Crepe Myrtle
    Lagerstroemia indica
    'Natchez'
14. Littleleaf Linden
    Tilia cordata
15. Texas White Redbud
    Cercis reticulata 'Alba'
16. American Holly
    Ilex opaca
17. Dutch Elm
    Ulmus x hollandica
18. Halka Honey Locust
    Gleditsia triacanthos
    inermis 'Halka'
19. Weeping Nootka
    False Cypress
    Chamaecyparis nootkatensis 'Pendula'
20. Dwarf Hinoki False Cypress
    Chamaecyparis obtusa
    'Nana Gracilis'
21. Star Magnolia
    Magnolia stellata
22. Carolina Silverbell
    Halesia carolina
23. Southern Magnolia
    Magnolia grandiflora
24. Saucer Magnolia
    Magnolia x soulangeana
25. Sawtooth Oak
    Quercus acutissima
26. Fragrant Snowbell
    Styrax obassia
27. Japanese Maple
    Acer palmatum
28. Willow Oak
    Quercus phellos
29. Eastern Dogwood
    Cornus florida
30. Sweetbay Magnolia
    Magnolia virginiana
31. Washington American Elm
    Ulmus americana
    'Washington'
32. Sudworth Eastern Arborvitae
    Thuja occidentalis
    'Pumila Sudworthii'
33. Kaisii False Cypress
    Chamaecyparis lawsoniana kaisii
34. Nootka False Cypress
    Chamaecyparis nootkatensis veridis
35. Hinoki False Cypress
    Chamaecyparis obtusa
History of The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation

The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation is the largest independent foundation devoting its grantmaking to the greater Washington metropolitan area. It is the legacy of Morris Cafritz, one of Washington’s leading commercial and residential real estate builders. He was an outstanding civic leader known for his generosity who established the Foundation in 1948. The family tradition continues. His wife, Gwendolyn, was President of the Foundation from 1964 to 1988. Their eldest son, Calvin, is currently Chairman, President and CEO. “In keeping with my father’s wishes, we have broadened our commitment to the community to meet its ever changing needs,” said Calvin Cafritz.

The first annual report, published in 1970, shows the Board pledged $335,519 for 49 projects. In celebration of its 50th anniversary in 1998-1999, the Foundation awarded almost $16 million to 303 local nonprofit organizations. Community Service and Education projects lead the list, followed by Arts and Humanities, Health and the Environment. Each year, many new start-up grants are awarded in all categories in an effort to be responsive to the changing needs of the region. In the last 10 years, almost $100 million has been awarded to more than 2,000 organizations, of which 470 were new projects.

The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden is the highlight of the Foundation’s 50th Anniversary celebration. The Foundation has also awarded a number of special grants that represent the rich diversity of the programs addressed:

- The Carnegie Institute of Washington received $640,000 for their Science Education Center.
- A grant of $1,000,000 to the Lab School for the Arts and Athletic Center.
- A grant of $500,000 was awarded to Jubilee Enterprise to expand the number of low-income rental units and provide community programs.
- Levine School of Music received $750,000 to build a Music and Information Center and a Recording Studio.
- A $750,000 grant to the Shakespeare Theatre for the Academy for Classical Training.
- A $500,000 grant to the National Museum of the American Indian, which will occupy the last site on the Mall.
- The Washington AIDS Partnership grant of $350,000 will support prevention and education programs and services for people with HIV/AIDS.
- A grant of $1,000,000 to the DC College Access Program to encourage and assist DC Public High School students to attend and graduate from institutions of higher learning.

Under the Chairmanship of Calvin Cafritz and assisted by a distinguished and dedicated Board of Directors, the Foundation has continued to work closely with other local nonprofit organizations to build a better way of life for everyone.

May 14, 1999