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Large project-based grants received in 2021 include \$122,402 from the **Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Program** administered by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs and \$100,000 from the **Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust** to implement the Historic Landscape Preservation Plan for the Japanese Garden. Another \$18,000 was granted from the **American Rescue Plan Humanities Grant** through the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs to contract with de Novo Marketing of Cedar Rapids to study audience needs as well as perceptions about the Muscatine Art Center.

The project-based grants will be implemented in 2022, and many hours and weeks of staff time will be devoted to carrying out the projects. In March 2022, **Tallgrass Archaeology** will complete archaeological work in the Japanese Garden. Then over the spring and summer, a landscape firm will begin the process of removing plantings not historically appropriate for the garden, renovating the water feature, replacing bridges and other structures, and installing a new stone walkway before adding new plantings. The project is slated for completion in May 2023.



Photographs of the Japanese Garden, 1966

Starting in January 2022, the Muscatine Art Center team, including staff, board, Friends board, Support Foundation Advisory Committee members, volunteers, and other stakeholders will aid in developing online survey questions and in-person interview questions. **De Novo Marketing** will lead the initiative and manage the study. Details about how to participate will be shared in early 2022. The feedback gathered during the audience and community study will be incorporated into the Muscatine Art Center's **2022-26 Strategic Plan**.

2022 will bring another round of exciting exhibitions. Page 3 includes details about exhibitions opening early in the year. Exhibitions on view later in the year are ***Where Children Sleep***, artwork from **Sean Fitzgibbon's graphic novel about Norman Baker**, **Laura Musser McColm's objects** inspired by Japanese-style design, ***Elephant & Piggie in We Are Art***, and spotlights on local and regional artists and authors.

The Muscatine Art Center's annual operations, and special projects, rely upon funding from a mixture of sources as well as guidance from volunteers who serve on the **Board of Trustees**, the **Friends of the Muscatine Art Center**, and the **Muscatine Art Center Support Foundation Advisory Committee**. **Volunteers** work alongside staff and studio instructors to carry out a busy program schedule, present exhibitions, and complete mission-driven projects. Without **donors** and **grant-funders**, many undertakings would not be possible. **Thank you to all who contribute!**



Laura Musser McColm's Folding Fan, c. 1910