

Class of 2002 Peace Garden Proposal

To: Patricia Kennedy Graham, Talitha Fabricius, Candace Royer

CC: Heather Kispert, Beth Garvin

From: Winston Chang and Yolanda Fan

Date: January 16, 2002

Re: Class of 2002 Senior Gift Project

Why a Peace Garden

“Out of clutter, find simplicity; From discord, find harmony; In the middle of difficulty, lies opportunity.”

-- Albert Einstein

Looking back on the past four years, the Class of 2002 has not only grown academically and socially, but our outlook on life and the world we live in has dramatically changed. The Senior Gift Class Project is an opportunity for us to leave our mark on MIT, so that future students who may walk thru the Infinite Corridor may understand a part of who we were and the times that we lived in.

The idea of a Peace Garden was inspired by suggestions from the Class of 2002 for a Class Project to be a memorial for September 11th or an initiative for campus beautification. When the Senior Gift Committee put our heads together, we thought of creating a garden on campus dedicated to promoting peace worldwide and representing our four years at MIT.

Our Vision

We envision this Peace Garden as an additional area of green space on campus, for the MIT community to use not only as a place to eat and meet up, but most importantly, to remember and reflect on past events and focus on promoting peace throughout the world.

Like most green space on campus, our Peace Garden will have trees and bushes and benches, but what will make this space unique is a tree/bush representing peace and a centerpiece that conveys a message of peace. The tree/bush will be either a Rose bushⁱ, Olive treeⁱⁱ, or Cherry treeⁱⁱⁱ. The centerpiece will include appropriate lighting and will have inscribed on it a single quote, selected from suggestions by our classmates, with a statement emphasizing why the Class of 2002 chose to donate a Peace Garden.

We have two different designs for this centerpiece. The first design is a raised plaque embedded in the ground or in a rock. The second design of the centerpiece is a low lying wall/bench on which the message will be inscribed. The material of the plaque or wall will depend largely on cost.

Furthermore, due to monetary constraints, we foresee purchasing only a few items for the garden immediately, and then continuing to add more benches or trees or bushes as we additional funds are raised. Additional features for the garden include possibly a reflecting pool or wishing well. The Senior Gift Class Project intends to pay for the cost of maintenance and repairs.

Possible Locations

The current top 5 locations under consideration are marked on the map below. Additional locations that are being considered are also marked. Please contact the Senior Gift Class Project Committee with locations that will be feasible.



Top choices (in order of preference)

1. Existing garden space next to E17 across from the Media Lab (there are currently two benches in this space)
2. Open area next to E25 by the entrance to the building
3. Existing triangular space between Steinbrenner Field and the “turf” near Johnson (tentatively reserved for Steinbrenner memorial by C. Royer)
4. Space along Building 66
5. Space by W20 along Mass. Avenue

Questions

In order to get this project moving, there are many questions we need answered, including:

- Out of the locations we are interested in, which are feasible?
- What is the cost of purchase and maintenance of a Peace Rose bush?
- What is the cost of purchase and maintenance of an Olive tree?
- What is the cost of purchase and maintenance of a Cherry tree?
- Who will assist in landscaping decisions?
- Who will maintain the garden and what would be the annual cost?
- Who would make decisions about future renovations to our garden?
- What is our time frame?
- How much do generic trees and bushes, and benches (wood vs. stone vs. metal) cost?
- Can you give us cost estimates for a plaque vs. a wall/bench, as well as estimates depending on the material used?
- Would you prefer our centerpiece to be a plaque or a wall/bench?
- What would be the cost of lighting our centerpiece?
- In case of further construction and the garden needs to be either permanently or temporarily moved, what will be the procedures?
- Who at MIT needs to be consulted to gain approval for this proposal?

Thank you for considering this proposal. The Peace Garden is the top choice for the Senior Gift Class Project for the Class of 2002.

ⁱ Peace, perhaps the most famous rose of all, is revered for its perfection of bloom, as well as the courage and perseverance which finally led to its introduction in 1945, over five years after being shipped to freedom out of France in 1939.

Francis Meilland, at the age of 23, hybridized a rose in 1935, known at the time only as #3-35-40. In 1939, as war began to envelope Europe, shipments of the budwood were sent out of France, including one shipment to America in the last diplomatic pouch out of Paris. For over five years, communication was difficult, and the Meilland's had no knowledge of whether their rose had actually survived. Survive it did, and it was offered under three separate names, Gloria Dei (Germany), Gioia (Italy), and Mme. A. Meilland, in memory of the hybridizer's mother.

Conrad Pyle, to commemorate the end of World War II, christened the rose 'Peace.' The rose was introduced formally the day Berlin fell on April 29, 1945. A shining example of the ability of humans to persevere even in the worst of circumstances and a signal of the beginning of a new era, to plant Peace in your garden is to plant a legacy of remembrance and history.

ⁱⁱ The Olive tree became a peace symbol because it takes several generations of peace to develop a good olive orchard.

ⁱⁱⁱ From our research, many Cherry trees have been planted throughout time as a symbol of peace and in memory of horrific deaths.