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Dear Grant Foundation members,

This letter is written on behalf of the US-China Peoples Friendship Association, Minnesota Chapter (USCPFA-MN), which is part of a national non-profit organization founded in 1974 with a mission to develop and strengthen friendship and understanding between the peoples of the United States and China.

USCPFA-MN supports the St. Paul-Changsha China Friendship Garden at Phalen Regional Park and the creation of a Hmong Embroidery Wall as one of the first elements to be installed in 2018. We ask that you approve the grant request from the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society in connection with this project. This project was initiated by the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society, which was founded by two USCPFA-MN Directors, Professor C.C. Hsiao and Linda Mealey-Lohmann, in 2005.

USCPFA-MN helped to develop the sister-city relationship between St. Paul and Changsha, which dates back three decades. The promised gift of a replica of Changsha's famous Aiwan Pavilion from St. Paul's sister-city Changsha to Phalen Regional Park is a major development in the sister-city relationship.

The China Garden is important in further growing the relationship between these two cities, and in increasing the opportunities for future business and cultural exchanges and visiting delegations. The Hmong Embroidery Wall will bring a significant dimension to the Garden by connecting the Minnesota Hmong community to its ancestral roots and culture in China.

The China Garden will also form a backdrop for the "Meditation" sculpture currently in Phalen Regional Park, which was created by Changsha sculptor Master Lei Yixin at the 2006 St. Paul "Minnesota Rocks!" Stone Carving Symposium. Master Lei subsequently created the Martin Luther King, Jr. "Stone of Hope" Memorial, installed in Washington, D.C. and dedicated in 2011. Master Lei has been very supportive of the China Garden project and was instrumental in bringing about the sister-city gift of the replica Pavilion to St. Paul.

Please approve this grant request for one of the first elements in this China Garden.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ralph W. Beha, President