

The World's first
& Finest Museum
devoted to
Bonsai

The
NATIONAL
BONSAI
FOUNDATION



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“An Oasis of Calm in the middle of our Nation’s Capital”

The DC Museum is the first and finest of its kind. It opened in 1976 and it is supported by the National Bonsai Foundation, it offers superior bonsai and related arts. The Museum emphasizes in offering a superior bonsai collection of specimens from Japan, China and North America.

To learn more about bonsai, the museum offers literature and other materials associated with this beautiful art, and maintains a collection of viewing stones, and acquired a collection of stands, scrolls and containers that help exhibit the beauty of bonsai.

BEST of D.C.
by Washington City Paper

“Best Place to Take an Out-of-towner”
“Best Museums Off the Mall”



Beauty waiting to be seen

If you feel overwhelmed with everything that's going on in the world, the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum is the perfect spot to pause, breath and unwind. Visit the worlds first and finest museum devoted to Bonsai. The perfect spot in Washington D.C, to get out of your routine, and be transported to a place and time surrounded by the little trees. The museum offers 200-plus bonsai, located at the US National Arboretum





A place that offers alot of quiet & peace

Feel like reading a book, meditating, listening to music, doing some yoga, tai-chi or writing on your journal, the beautiful gardens at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum is the perfect spot. Let yourself be filled with curiosity, wonder and peace while being surrounded with beautiful bonsai, and the sound of flowing water fountains.

*“ Between work,
school, families and
social schedules, we
often forget how
therapeutic it is to
spend time in nature.”*

-Alexa Tovsen



Alexa Tovsen practicing Yoga
(photo © National Bonsai
& Penjing Museum)

In Training

When bonsai experts talk about the miniature trees, they don't say when it was planted, they instead say for how long it has been in training. Bonsai trees are not the only in training at the museum, people have actually visited to practice Tai-chi and Yoga.

Yoga

Yoga instructor Alexa Tovsen, offers a calming and relaxing yoga session at the National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. She has been training students at the Museum for the past couple of years. It's a plan that will get anyone out of a routine. The bonsai it's the perfect complement that will boost relaxation and meditation while training.

Tai-chi

Nick Gracenin, has been in Tai-Chi training since 1977. He has been teaching Tai-Chi in the National Bonsai & Penjing Museum Courtyard. Both beginners and experts are able to experience relaxation of the peaceful sound of a water fountain, while watching the beautiful bonsai. Don't miss the incredible opportunity to do Tai-Chi among the bonsai. Visit the Museums website and find out when is the next session.

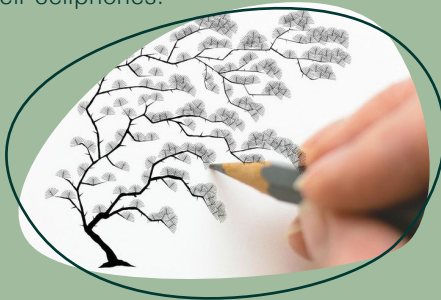


Yoga class
(photo © National Bonsai & Penjing Museum)

The Blending of Nature & Art

Drawing from Bonsai

Tina Thieme Brown has taught drawing classes at the Museum. They are small gathers, of about 10 students, where she shares her knowledge about nature illustration. A great experience while being surrounded by the natural environment at the Museum. The art session allows students to relax, and even encourages them to turn out their cellphones.



The training of bonsai trees is an art and the caretaker of a bonsai is considered an artist, rather than a gardener. The ancient art of creating a perfect tree, but in miniature will inspire our visitors to practice other art forms in the beautiful space that the museum has to offer.

Great Place for Photography

Stephen Voss has been working for years in the art of photographing bonsai trees. He has started a blog to share his tricks of bonsai photography. The monthly entries cover everything, from lighting, angles and mindset. He says that when he first began photographing the trees, he felt as when someone tries photographing a work of art at a museum, instead of capturing the literal representation of it, he was more interested in portraying something about the spirit of the tree. Visit his blog and get into the art of photographing bonsai trees at the museum.



Photography exhibition at the museum
(photo © Stephen Voss)

Ancient arts collide - Origami Class

We have already talked about the ancient arts, like tai chi and bonsai training, and now we are going to talk about origami. Origami is the ancient Chinese art of folding paper to create whatever thing comes to mind, literally, if you can think about it, probably someone has already done an origami version of it. This beautiful art began in 105 A.D. in China, it then made it to Japan, and eventually all around the globe. Apart of the fact that both origami and bonsai are Asian art form, they have both been practiced for hundreds of years. They complement each other with their creative and

precise nature, and they are also both meditative and engaging. The natural beauty of The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum creates the perfect atmosphere and location for an origami class.

Jeff Raab is the origami instructor that will be imparting the beginner origami class at The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum. When Raab was a child, he was gifted with a beginner origami book, and that's how his life long passion began. Discover a new art form and let your creativity unravel by the folding art.

“ Origami is an incredibly natural fit alongside the bonsai work, because they both rely on the essence of nature to create a beautiful art form, ”

-Jeff Raab



Kusamono Japanese Botanical Art

Young Choes life took an unexpected turn when she learned about the art of Kusamono, potted arrangements of wild grasses and flowers in beautiful and unique pots and trays, selected to represent a season or space. with the help of The National Bonsai & Penjing Museum she discovered her true calling, which is the perfect fusion of her Asian culture and her knowledge about plants. When she was young, she felt passionate about horticulture, but it was unpopular in her home city of Seoul, South Korea, instead she decided to study Asian art. When she came to America she started

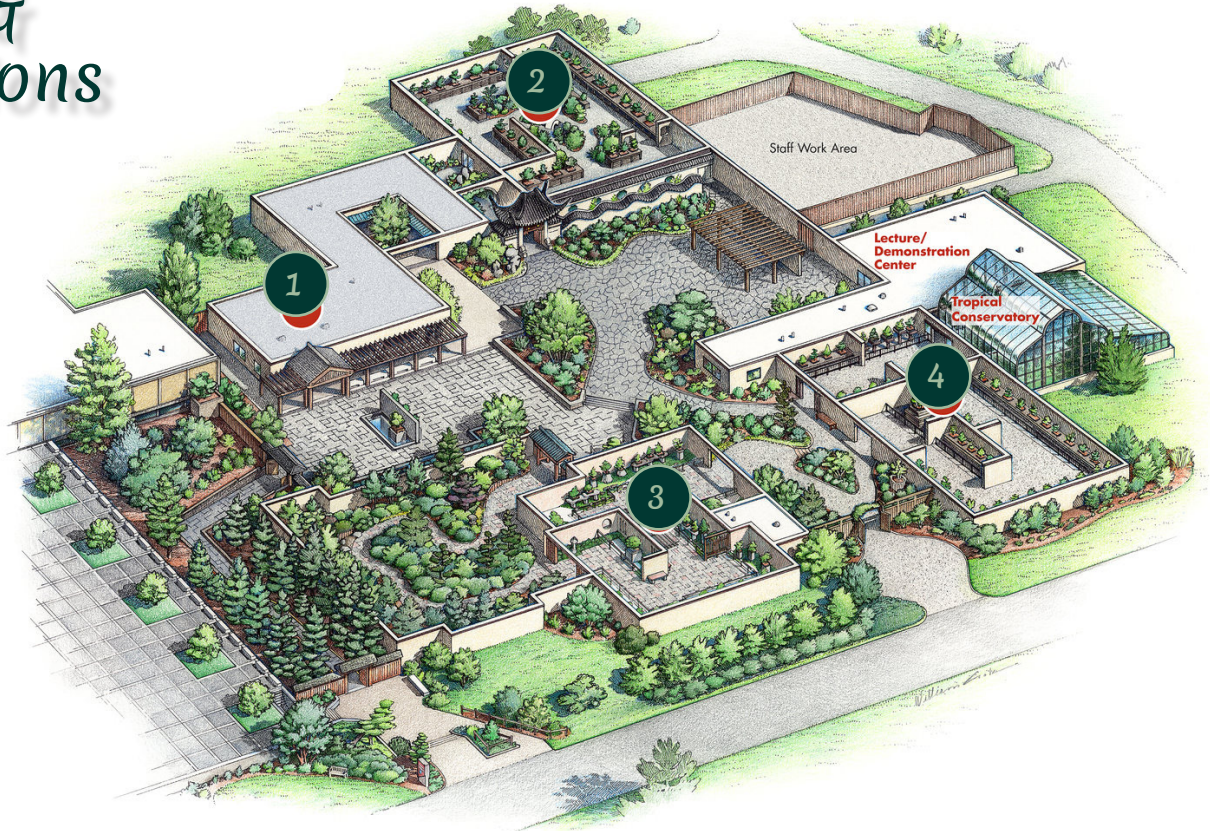
to volunteer at the museum. The doors of this passion opened again, and she was able to discover what she had longed her entire life. The National Bonsai Foundation supports her as a Kusamono artist. She says that whenever she is not working in the arboretum, she is working on Kusamono. She has been traveling around the world, sharing about the art of Kusamono to other practitioners, which often gets them very happy, motivated and full of energy by the art form.

“ When I share this art form, the students are very motivated and happy” -Young Choes



(photos ©Young Choes

Map & Pavilions



The museum is made up of three pavilions and two activity centers. It is constructed around the the Maria Vanzant Upper Courtyard, the Rose Family Garden and the Melba Tucker Arbor. All of the spaces have been dedicated to the people that have been part in the creation of the Museum. The Museum feels grateful for all the people that have been part of The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum.

Before entering the pavilion there is the garden that inspires mindful relaxation and submerges visitors in a space surrounded by nature.



1 Exhibit Gallery:

Interested in looking at stones shaped as mountains? In the Exhibit Gallery, there is a display of Viewing stones collection. In the special exhibits wing, there is rotating exhibitions related to the art of bonsai and penjing are in display

2 Chinese Pavilion:

A display of the beautiful Penjing Chinese art developed over 1000 years ago. The Chinese pavilion offer examples of the “penjing”-landscape in a container, a combination of both tree and rock.

3 Japanese Pavilion:

A beautiful collection of Bonsai, including trees that have been in training for centuries, donated by the people of Japan in honor of the U.S Bicentennial.

4 North American Pavilion:

The North American pavilion offers the American artistic interpretation of this beautiful art

The Bonsai who survived The Atomic Bomb

“ I find it amazing that Masaru Yamaki could give a priceless bonsai basically to his enemy and not say a word about it. ”

-Felix Laughlin



The bonsai who survived the atomic bomb is making worldwide headlines. The 395-year-old, Japanese white pine bonsai, who survived Hiroshima, is found at The National Bonsai and Penjing Museum. The bonsai is a symbol of peace rather than war. Even though it is a war survivor, its role bringing peace between the two nations is much more significant. The tree survived the bomb that killed around 140,000 people, because it was protected in a walled nursery. Even though this tree was given as a gift of peace in 1975, It was in 2001 that the Museum actually found out about the breathtaking history of the tree that the bonsai master, Masaru Yamaki, had donated. He actually donated the tree without saying anything about its incredible history. It was until the grandchildren of the bonsai master decided to visit that the Museum found out about it. Visit the Museum and find out more about the history of this incredible tree.





The Tree's Role in Peace

(photo ©Stephen Voss)

The National Arboretum's bonsai and Penjing collection started as a Bicentennial gift, when the people of Japan gave something unique about their culture and a living tribute to peace between the two countries. The Nippon Bonsai Association of Japan gifted 53 bonsai trees to the U.S. National Arboretum in July of 1976.

The museum's hours are shorter than those of the arboretum

It is open from:

10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The museum is closed for federal holidays during the months of November through February.



National Bonsai Foundation | The Arbor House | 3501 New York Avenue N.E. | Washington D.C. 20002

202.396.3510 | info@bonsai-nbf.org