



**Press Release:** January 25, 2017

**Lecture by Dr. Kendall Brown** co-sponsored by **Friends of Oak Cliff Parks** and **The Dallas Public Library**

*Texas Japanese Gardens in Context: Here and There, Then and Now*

**Sunday, 3pm, February 12th, 2017**

**North Oak Cliff Branch Library of The Dallas Public Library**, 302 W 10th St, Dallas, TX 75208

**For more information:** contact Friends of Oak Cliff Parks board member Cynthia Mulcahy at [cymulcahy@gmail.com](mailto:cymulcahy@gmail.com)

**Friends of Oak Cliff Parks** and **The Dallas Public Library** are pleased to announce a free lecture by cultural historian **Dr. Kendall Brown**, *Texas Japanese Gardens in Context: Here and There, Then and Now*, at the North Oak Cliff Branch of the Dallas Public Library on February 12th, Sunday at 3pm. After the lecture, Dr. Brown will lead a tour of the nearby historic Japanese Garden, Dallas' only public Japanese garden located in Kidd Springs Park, a City of Dallas public green space.



The Japanese Garden in Kidd Springs Park, Dallas, in 1971, the year it was officially dedicated. Photograph courtesy of the Dallas Park and Recreation Department.

The lecture, *Texas Japanese Gardens in Context: Here and There, Then and Now* explores the rich history of Japanese gardens in Texas in relation to the 150-year legacy of Japanese gardens in North America. Using historic photos and texts, it concentrates on gardens in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, including the "back story" of the Kidd Springs Park garden.

**Dr. Kendall H. Brown** is a leading figure in the study of Japanese gardens in the United States and is the author of the recently published *Quiet Beauty: The Japanese Gardens of North America*. Dr. Brown curated *Deco Japan: Shaping Japanese Art and Culture, 1920-1945* on view at Japan Society in New York City in 2012 and he recently served as Curator of Collections, Exhibitions and Programs at USC's Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena, California. Kendall H. Brown is Professor of Asian Art History in the Art Department at California State University Long Beach.

The lecture is part of a **2016 Japanese Garden at Kidd Springs Park Restoration Campaign** spear-headed by **Friends of Oak Cliff Parks** along with many community stakeholders. Friends of Oak Cliff Parks' mission since its founding in 2002 has been to maintain and restore

horticulture in the four historic parks of Oak Cliff (Kiest Memorial Garden/Kiest Conservation Area, Oak Cliff Founders' Park, Kidd Springs Park, and Lake Cliff Park), to provide educational and social activities that promote gardening, conservation and a greater appreciation of the environment, and to support public policies that advocate our goals.

The history of the Japanese Garden, originally established in the late 1960s in Kidd Springs Park, and the surprising provenance of several of the Japanese artifacts still residing in the public garden was recently uncovered by conceptual artist and independent curator Cynthia Mulcahy as part of her research-based public art project *Performance as Gesture: Songs for a City Park*, funded in part by an inaugural artist grant in 2015 from the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. \*For more info please go to [www.friendsofoakcliffparks.org](http://www.friendsofoakcliffparks.org) and click on the Japanese Garden History link on the home page.

Restoration Campaign community partners include the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, Crow Collection of Asian Art, Dallas County Master Gardeners, Dallas Park and Recreation Department, Edith O'Donnell Institute at UT Dallas, Friends of Oak Cliff Parks, Japan-America Society, Kidd Springs Central, Kidd Springs Recreation Center, Old Oak Cliff Conservation League, Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Dallas/Water University, preservationists and neighborhood park supporters.