

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

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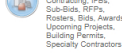
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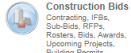


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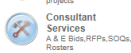


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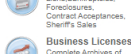
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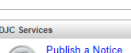
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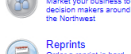
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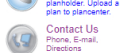
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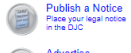


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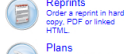


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June 22, 2022

## Landscape architecture students help design local memorial garden

By **EMMA HINGHLIFFE**  
A/E Editor

A new garden, named in honor of a former resident, is now complete at Kline Galland Home retirement community at 7500 Seward Park Ave. S.

The Marty Bender Family Garden is the result of a partnership between Seattle-based senior care organization Kline Galland and landscape architecture students at the University of Washington led by UW professor, author, and landscape architect Daniel Winterbottom.

A team of 30 students drove the design and construction of the approximately 3,000-square-foot space. Kline Galland wanted the garden to be a place for community, gathering, respite and connection. It is designed to not only serve the specific needs of residents but also to foster intergenerational connections in a space that all ages can enjoy and reap the therapeutic and healing benefits of nature.

Students presented six potential designs for the garden. The chosen design has a mix of covered and uncovered seating areas to encourage community and interaction and has walkways large enough to accommodate strollers and wheelchairs. For both the young and young-at-heart, the garden has whimsical features. These include a wind chime sculpture, ceramic butterflies and a rock formation topped by a ceramic tortoise. There is also space for kids to draw with chalk.

The centerpiece of the project is a unique gazebo-style wrap-around seating area conceived as a space for rest and connection but also large enough to host events and performances — which was another of Kline Galland's design priorities.

In terms of plantings, two prominent cherry blossoms that predate the Marty Bender Family Garden take center stage. Other plant species were chosen to provide a diversity of color and to ensure that the space is alive and in bloom year round. There is also a host of native plants in a nod to the history of the area.

Ground was broken in March and the garden completed by the end of May. Speaking with leadership at Kline Galland, it is evident how rewarding the project has been and the meaningful and lasting impact it will have for residents and all involved. "Our residents were so excited when they would see the students come to work on the garden," Jeff Cohen, CEO of Kline Galland, shared. "Especially given the fact that the project happened during the pandemic, it became a real bright spot for everyone and something to be excited about," he continued. "So many smiles and waves were exchanged through windows." "It was a truly wonderful experience," Min An, chief operating officer at Kline Galland added. "When you are in the garden you just smile, and you feel this sense of renewal."

The garden was made possible through a generous gift from Josh and Talia Bender in honor of their late uncle, Marty. The space is a fitting tribute to Marty Bender, an accomplished engineer who during his time at Kline Galland Home particularly enjoyed being outside with his family and friends. "We would often bring our young children to visit our Uncle Marty and we noticed they would bond while enjoying the beautiful gardens surrounding Kline Galland Home," Josh Bender said in a press release. "We hope that this garden will inspire others to create similar, lasting spaces, where all family members can relax and spend time in a calm, healing environment," Talia Bender added.

"Kline Galland's partnership with University of Washington's Department of Landscape Architecture has been a wonderful experience and we are thrilled with the work they have done," An continued. "We know the residents of Kline Galland will enjoy this garden for years to come, and we are so grateful to the Bender family for making it possible," she continued. "This partnership has given our seniors a gift that will last forever. This is a very special project and place."

Cohen shared his hope that the Marty Bender Family Garden will be an inspiration for other senior communities to embark on similar projects and partnerships. Kline Galland also plans to renovate more of its own gardens and outside spaces in the future. "Covid has shown us more than ever how important being able to get outside is and this project shows how community can also be generated in outside spaces," he concluded.

Emma Hinchliffe can be reached by email or by phone at (206) 622-8272.



Photos courtesy of Kline Galland [enlarge]

The centerpiece of the garden is a gazebo-like structure with a design that mimics the sun.



[enlarge]

A metal sign records the name of the memorial garden.



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