

'75 Class Gift Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Why was Funding Contrails and the Air Garden Restoration chosen as our Class Gift?**

The Class Gift Committee was presented with a number of projects that were identified as needed but not funded by the Academy. Of these, Funding Contrails and the Air Garden Restoration resonated with all of the committee members and a cross section of classmates we polled. Our memories of our "Gold Book" and the "Air Gardens" during our time at the Academy and desire to provide that same long lasting inspiration for future classes influenced our decision to select these projects.

2. **How was our Class Goal of \$1.975M selected?**

It had a nice ring to it! Seriously, when determining a goal the Class Committee, with help from the Endowment, looked at the past giving record of our Class to estimate what might be a reasonable "stretch" goal. We are well on the way of reaching that goal with \$800,000 in pledges already gathered from a small section (5%) of our class during the test phase of our campaign. These two projects (Contrails and Air Gardens) really resonated with our classmates! At this point, with our class entering the Public Phase we are "participation" driven and not "number" driven. Although, the Committee felt \$1.975M a reasonable goal for our Class, we will accept whatever our class donates and declare the campaign a success regardless of our final numbers.

3. **How much will funding Contrails cost?**

Endowing Contrails required \$200,000. To secure our gift (we just beat several classes to the punch), we have already funneled our first donation dollars to this portion of our Class Gift. Three classes have already received their Contrails from the Class of 75. With this gift our class is the sole provider of Contrails for every class that ever enters USAFA hereafter. What a legacy!

4. **How much will the Air Garden restoration cost?**

The cost of the restoration is \$7.4 Million. The contract will be a Firm Fixed Price contract which places all of the risk on the contractor. As long as the contract is not modified after it is issued, the contractor is responsible for any cost over runs and penalized for delays and poor performance.

5. **How will the Air Garden be paid for...will the Class of '75 be expected to raise all the money?**

No, the Class of '75 is not expected to raise all the money. The Restoration project will be paid for by a combination of Class Gift Funds and the Moller Trust – a philanthropic organization that has previously funded numerous projects supporting the Academy. Subsequently, the Classes '72, and '76 have joined us in raising funds to supplement the Moller Trust contribution for the Air Gardens Restoration.

6. **Since the Moller Trust has already committed, why should I contribute since it's going to get done anyway. Why shouldn't I contribute to something that otherwise won't get done?**

The Moller Trust, like any other endowment, has finite resources. We are fortunate that they selected the Air Gardens as high enough priority to ensure it happened sooner rather than

later. To the extent that the classes are unable to reimburse the Trust, that much less is available for other projects such as this, where the up-front outlay exceeds the ability of even three classes to fully cover—and thus they would never get done at all.

7. When will the Air Garden restoration start?

Since the project has already been funded by the Moller Trust, the Academy has already done the planning and engineering along with a cost and schedule timeline. The Request for Proposal was put out for commercial bids in October 2018, and a winner will be selected by the end of 2018. Construction will start in early 2019. We expect 12 months to complete the project which means it will be ready for a Class Ceremony when we celebrate our 45th Anniversary in 2020.

8. How can we ensure the deterioration that happened in the past will not occur in the future?

The plan to restore the Air Gardens necessarily addresses learning from problems with the original design. The restoration solution includes state-of-the-art techniques that have been proven in other designs. The restoration will be less subject to deterioration than the original design and will be much easier to maintain. In the revised design, no more than four pools will be interconnected. Further, the water in the pools will be approximately two inches deep. To provide the illusion of greater depth, the bottoms of the pools will consist of black granite. This method has been successfully used at Claremont McKenna's Kravis Center and the Oklahoma City Memorial. Down the center of the gardens adjacent to the reflecting pools will be hedges of American Holly complemented by Blue Spruce. Once again, parallel to and on either side of the center pools, two dense groves of Honey Locusts will be planted in "sunken" areas. They will be surrounded by gravel mulch as opposed to grass. This will help to reduce annual maintenance expense as well as enable the environment around the trees to be fine-tuned to assure their continued health. Walkways will be paved with a new type of concrete, sandscape, that has been successfully tested at the Falcon Athletic Center and was used in the courtyards around Polaris Hall.

9. Why isn't the US Gov't paying for this?

Given all the infrastructure requirements the Academy has after years of neglect and low funding, the Air Garden Restoration is so low on the priority list it will never get funded. For example, the Academy is beginning a renovation of Sijan Hall – what we called the New Dorm. Given the fact it was built 50 years ago it is far from new. That renovation alone will cost \$200M. Therefore, given the current state of priority requirements like Sijan Hall, the Air Gardens will never make the cut. It will continue to deteriorate and eventually become such an eyesore it will probably be demolished and replaced with grass. The only way to save and restore the Air Gardens is through generous donations from graduates. This is a common practice among all academic institutions as they strive to maintain the quality and excellence of their school.

10. Who will be responsible for maintaining the Air Gardens to ensure we do not have a similar situation in 50 years?

Once the Air Gardens are restored and the contract is complete, the Academy will take over the requirement for maintenance and sustainment. This is an arrangement the Academy and the

Moller Trust have had for years and is currently being executed for a number of completed projects. Additionally, the Endowment works with the Academy to ensure projects funded by the graduates are maintained and well cared for after completion.

11. What are the suggested donation levels and incentives?

First off, we are primarily concerned with 100% contact of classmates and the hope for 100% participation! We want classmates to "Give Til It Feels Good". With that we have developed suggested donation thresholds to guide your decision. We are asking classmates to strongly consider becoming a Bronze Donor or above according to each of your means. Each threshold has a recognition package attached to show class appreciation for your donation:

Classmate Donor	\$1 to \$1974	*Recognition on Class Website
Bronze Donor <i>Class Donors To Date: 10</i>	\$1,975+	*Recognition on Class Website **Recognition in Reunion Program
Silver Donor <i>Class Donors To Date: 2</i>	\$7575+	*Recognition on Class Website **Recognition in Reunion Program *** Receive Copy of Contrails
Gold Donor <i>Class Donors To Date: 11</i>	\$19750+	*Recognition on Class Website **Recognition in Reunion Program *** Receive Copy of Contrails ****Named in Contrails Forever
Platinum Donor <i>Class Donors To Date: 1</i>	\$75000+	*Recognition on Class Website **Recognition in Reunion Program *** Receive Copy of Contrails ****Named in Contrails Forever ***** Check Presenter ***** Air Garden Ribbon Cutting

12. How do I make a contribution?

In early 2019, you will be contacted by a Squadron Rep who will answer your questions, discuss donation incentives, and help you process your verbal pledge. There are a number of options. You can make a single contribution, or you can space it out over a certain time period with a monthly, quarterly, or yearly payment. For example, our goal of an average donation of \$1975 could be spread out over 5 years with a monthly payment of \$32.92. After making a verbal pledge, an Endowment Rep (Raz Doherty 719-472-2055) will then be given the greenlight to reach out and contact you to formalize your pledge details. Bottom line is we want you in control throughout the process and feeling good about your donation!

13. How will the Class Gift be recognized?

In the southwest corner, nearest Mitchell Hall there will be a polished black granite marker,

which will recognize the classes that participated in funding the restoration. We will tour this site during our 45th Reunion in 2020!