Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Garden

Tribute Database Statement of Need

Background

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens has a wide selection of dedications that remember love ones, honor special people, offer gratitude and/or commemorate special occasions. Gifts have been given to the Gardens to celebrate marriages, births, retirements, anniversaries, or memorialize a beloved friend or family member. In return for the gifts, the Gardens creates permanent dedications in the form of engraved bricks, pavers, stone monument, a plant, bench etc. These dedications are located both inside and outside on the grounds of the Botanical Gardens.

In order to track and manage the Tribute collection, The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens compiled pictures of current Tributes at the Garden and a Google Doc file that provides information on each Tribute Type (e.g., brick or paver), a Tribute reference #, the Last name on the Tribute, the First Name on the Tribute, the Full Tribute Text, the Tribute Location, the Date of Purchase, the Purchaser Last Name, the Purchaser First Name, the name of the Photo of the Tribute and the Photo Title.

Statement of Need (in order of importance)

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens would like a means (e.g., a software package or database with User Interface) to be developed that allows authorized staff members to easily update and maintain the data. This includes adding new tributes and associated tribute information including pictures, and to update tribute data if corrections are required or if tribute location is changed. Expandability of the data to include new fields in the future is also desired. In addition to staff who require editing access, the front desk staff requires viewing access in order to provide accurate Tribute information to visitors.

The Gardens would like to also like to provide viewing access to the Tribute data (eventually to be accessed through our web site) in a mobile friendly fashion. This access would allow viewers to intuitively browse the complete selection of tributes and/or to search for specific tributes of interest. Ideally, completed searches will show a pop-up picture of the tribute and selected data (e.g., text on Tribute) but not purchaser’s name or any other confidential information. A map option is desired to allow staff and external viewers to see the approximate location of the Tribute so they can easily find any tributes of interest.

The Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens would appreciate the opportunity to incrementally review any Requirement Specification and Top Level User Interface Specifications that are conceived to allow staff input prior to the capability being developed.

Existing Prototype

A working version – although in simple, inadequate form – used Microsoft SQL Server as a database engine and ASP.NET and C# active server pages to present and edit tribute information. Since the Botanical Gardens maintains a Windows server, and its current plant database is in this same architecture, it would be useful to produce the tribute website and database in Visual Studio and MS SQL Server. The current prototype might even serve as a foundation.