



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2016

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**FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY “CELEBRATES COLUMBUS” WITH
TENTH ANNUAL GINGERBREAD COMPETITION**

Columbus, OH—Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens’ tenth annual Gingerbread Competition is “Celebrating Columbus!” Envision your favorite local landmarks through embellished delectable designs, highlighting all our city has to offer.

Those interested in participating in the competition should submit edible structures that creatively portray the Columbus theme. Contestants can enter their designs in one of the following four categories: Youth (up to 12), Teen (13–17), Adult (18 and older) and Family. All entries must be delivered to the Conservatory on November 26 or 27 from 10am to 5pm. Registration forms are available online at www.fpconservatory.org. Just click “Learn More” on the *Merry & Bright* banner on the homepage.

The gingerbread entries will be on display at the Conservatory from November 29, 2016 through January 1, 2017. Local celebratory judges will select first, second and third place prize winners in the categories of: Overall Appearance, Originality/Creativity, Difficulty, Precision and Consistency of Theme. Prizes include gift cards, membership and Conservatory admission tickets. Conservatory visitors can also take part in the judging by casting their ballots for “Best in Show.” A \$500 cash prize for “Best in Show” will be awarded to the entry that receives the most votes.

The annual Gingerbread Competition is a highlight of the Conservatory’s traditional holiday celebration *Merry & Bright*. Other features of the exhibition include festive displays of seasonal foliage and décor, Paul Busse model garden railway and an array of activities and entertainment scheduled throughout the season. *Merry & Bright* opens November 19, 2016 and runs through January 1, 2017 with extended hours until 9pm on November 23, 25, 26 and 30 and December 7, 14–23 and 26–31.

For more information please visit www.fpconservatory.org.

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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers botanical collections, art and nature-based exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. Situated in an 88-acre urban park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House and 83,000 square feet of glasshouses, classrooms, and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns a signature collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly. Light Raiment II, a permanent installation by internationally recognized light artist James Turrell, illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.