



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***MERRY & BRIGHT RETURNS TO USHER IN THE HOLIDAY SEASON***

Columbus, OH — Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens presents *Merry & Bright*, a festive and family-friendly celebration of the holiday season from November 19, 2016 through January 1, 2017.

***Merry & Bright Highlights***

- Stroll through horticulture-infused holiday displays, including 1,900 poinsettias and 3,800 seasonal plantings. Holiday lights decorate each of the Conservatory's indoor plant collections and outdoor courtyards.
- Enjoy time-honored traditions like a 15-ft. poinsettia tree in the newly renovated Grand Atrium and Paul Busse Model Garden Railway in the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse.
- **New!** An 8-ft. tree frame covered entirely in glass ornaments will grace the North Courtyard. All 700 glass bulbs were made exclusively in the Hot Shop, showcasing the countless artistic styles of glass blowers who create work at the Conservatory.
- In the Cardinal Health Gallery, two interactive light installations by Jamie Zigelbaum and Marcelo Coelho encourage guests to control and manipulate the digital display with body movements and touch.
- The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Gingerbread Competition, on display beginning November 29, features creative and delightful entries in four categories: Youth, Teen, Adult and Family. To honor the spirit of the city, "Celebrate Columbus" is this year's theme. Interested participants can deliver their entries on November 26 and 27. Contest rules available at [www.fpconservatory.org](http://www.fpconservatory.org).
- A plethora of family activities and entertainment are slated for the holiday season, including crafts every weekend and musical performances during extended evening hours. Events are free with admission unless otherwise noted. For a full schedule of events, visit [www.fpconservatory.org](http://www.fpconservatory.org).
- Special events and dining opportunities are available for all ages. Candlelight Nights, Wednesdays, December 7, 14 and 21 at 6pm, allow guests to dine in the warm and exotic John F. Wolfe Palm House and enjoy a unique evening out. On December 3 and 10 from 8:30am–10am, join Santa for breakfast, a meet-and-greet photo opportunity, and to decorate holiday cookies. To make reservations (required) for Candlelight Nights and Breakfast with Santa, visit [www.fpconservatory.org](http://www.fpconservatory.org).



**Hours:** Open daily 10am–5pm, including Christmas Eve. Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

**Special Evening Hours: Extended to 9pm** on November 23, 25, 26, 30, December 7, 14–23, 26–31.

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**About Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**

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.

[www.fpconservatory.org](http://www.fpconservatory.org)