



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 17, 2016

CONTACT:

Jennifer Wilson
Director of Marketing and Visitor Experience
Office: 614-715-8150
Cell: 740-398-8371
jwilson@fpconservatory.org

FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY OPENS DOORS TO NEW ERA

Columbus, OH – Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens ushers in the future with a dedication event for their donors for its new, \$2.5 million Main Visitor Entrance and Grand Atrium on Wednesday, October 19, from 5:30–7:30pm.

The new Main Visitor Entrance features a glass vestibule that welcomes guests to the Visitor Center and is flanked with a GreenScapes Live Wall which is a floor to vaulted ceiling plant wall. The Live Wall is currently home to 186 plants including Neon pothos, Silver satin pothos, Heartleaf philodendron and Spider plants.

The new space also extends the square footage for visitors with the addition of an East Terrace, perfect for a breath of fresh air or an evening cocktail reception.

Major updates were also made to the Conservatory's Grand Atrium. The Grand Atrium updates and the new Main Visitor Entrance complement the modern design concept used in the interior and exterior spaces and continues to elevate the Conservatory's horticulture by advancing its goals of becoming a world-class botanical garden.

"This is an extremely exciting time for the Conservatory," said Bruce Harkey, Executive Director of Franklin Park Conservatory. "The new Main Entrance isn't only beautiful but it is literally and figuratively the doors to a new era for our organization as we close a Master Plan that spanned the last 25 years. We have an ambitious new Master Plan that extends 10 years into the future and focuses on transforming the visitor experience by creating more opportunities for families and children, and increases the scope and awareness of our community outreach and education programs."

The new Main Visitor Entrance and Grand Atrium updates were made possible by the generous donations of public and private donors of 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. fpconservatory.org