



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2018

CONTACT:

Jennifer Wilson

Director of Marketing and Visitor Experience

Office: 614-715-8150

Cell: 740-398-8371

jwilson@fpconservatory.org

VISITOR EXPERIENCE EXPANDING AT FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY IN MAY

Guest offerings reach an all-time high

Columbus, OH—Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens announced today the May 19 opening of its newly expanded visitor experience. The opening coincides with the launch of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children’s Garden on the same day. The expansion and the Children’s Garden is the largest botanical project the Conservatory has embarked on to date. Guest offerings will be at an all-time high at the Conservatory.

The Conservatory is known for its botanical biomes and seasonal exhibitions, and growth over the last 25 years has the building bursting at the seams. Beginning May 19, the visitor experience will grow from 3 acres to 13 acres. Along with the new Children’s Garden, the Conservatory has enclosed 10 acres of its property to the north and west of the main Conservatory building, creating endless possibilities for exhibitions, art installations, formal gardens, events and classes.

Exhibitions planned for the expanded visitor experience include:

- Expanded ***Topiaries at the Conservatory***: Beginning May 19, a flamboyance of 75 flamingo topiaries will be installed in the Grand Mallway in a vast bed of blue flowers representing water.
- Expanded ***Harvest Blooms***: In the fall, the Conservatory will expand its autumn exhibition by adding whimsical pumpkin structures and seasonal plantings to the Children’s Garden, while the Grand Mallway will take on a more formal feel with elegant, seasonal plantings and décor.
- Expanded ***Conservatory Aglow***: The Conservatory’s signature holiday exhibition has grown in popularity over the years; the extra space, will allow the light show to expand exponentially and offer guests a unique experience.
- Expanded ***Columbus Blooms***: The Conservatory’s spring exhibition will blossom in 2019 and paint the Grand Mallway and the Children’s Garden in vibrant seasonal color.
- In addition to expanded exhibitions, the Grand Mallway will also open up numerous possibilities for art installations and displays from emerging and world-renowned artists.

While expanding the way visitors engage with nature allows the Conservatory to create experiences that guests of all ages can enjoy, there is also a far more important need for enclosing the Conservatory’s land: safety. The addition of the Children’s Garden and expanded visitor experience in the Grand Mallway will increase the number of visitors to the Conservatory, many of which will be children. Visitor safety is a top priority for the Conservatory and the addition of a fence will protect children from wandering too far from their guardians or into traffic on Broad Street.



Franklin Park Conservatory owns and operates 40 acres of the 88-acre Franklin Park (the remaining 48 acres are owned and operated by Columbus Recreation & Parks) however Conservatory staff provides horticulture services and security for the entire 88 acres of the park. Securing financial sustainability through earned revenue from the new 10-acre visitor experience at the Conservatory will allow for additional botanical beautification projects throughout the remaining 75 acres of Franklin Park for the public to enjoy at no cost.

###

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.