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## **Annual Stakeholders' Meeting Held at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**

### **Master Plan 2.0 Projects Announced**

April 28, 2016—Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens Board President Laura Troup and Executive Director Bruce Harkey welcomed 130 donors, members, trustees, community members and public officials for a presentation of 2015 accomplishments and 2016 plans. Guests gathered in the Conservatory's newly remodeled Grand Atrium.

Financial outcomes were shared by Finance Director John Callahan, who noted that fiscal year 2015 marked the eighth consecutive year that the Conservatory achieved a balanced operating budget. Total revenue and support was \$7.8M in 2015, a 5.4% increase over 2014.

Executive Director Bruce Harkey reviewed 2015 accomplishments, including the completion of The Wells Barn, a new outreach and education facility. The Wells Barn is the first project completed under Phase One of the Conservatory's Master Plan 2.0, a transformative vision for the future with a focus on growing community outreach and education programs and expanding the Conservatory's visitor experience.

Master Plan 2.0 projects include the recent improvements to the Conservatory's Grand Atrium and the addition of a new visitor entrance on the east end of the building. Construction has commenced on a new glass and steel vestibule, a new welcome center flanked by two-story green walls, and a rooftop terrace offering views of expanded entry plaza gardens. Completion is set for the end of September of 2016.

Harkey announced additional projects of Phase One of Master Plan 2.0, including the addition of an outdoor children's garden.

The Conservatory has selected Cindy Tyler of Terra Design Group as lead designer for the project. Tyler is the leading children's garden designer in North America and has made these gardens the focus of her professional career for over twenty years.

"So why a children's garden at the Conservatory? Cindy Tyler says 'We need to reconnect our children and youth to their green world. As future trustees of the planet, they will only protect what they love, and will only love what they know.' Children today spend an extraordinary amount of time these days in front of screens: seven hours. Getting children outside for a couple of hours a day is critical for their physical and mental health," said Harkey.

Tyler will present concepts for an approximately 2-acre children's garden to the Conservatory's Board of Trustees in May.

Phase One of Master Plan 2.0 also includes a new butterfly house, indoor children's discovery space, and an expanded visitor experience.

### **About Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**

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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.

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