



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 14, 2017

**CONTACT:**

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

**GARDENS AGLOW CELEBRATES CLASSIC HOLIDAY TRADITIONS WITH BOTANICAL FLAIR**

Columbus, OH — Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens presents *Gardens Aglow* (formerly *Merry & Bright*) on view November 18, 2017–January 3, 2018. Every year, visitors enjoy their favorite holiday traditions at the Conservatory, from twinkling lights illuminating horticulture displays, to the sky-high poinsettia tree, to Paul Busse’s enchanted Garden Railway.

*Gardens Aglow* is open from 10am–5pm from November 18–30. Beginning in December, *Gardens Aglow* will remain open until 9pm, allowing guests to experience the light displays after dark. Please note: The Conservatory is closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day and will close at 5pm on December 24.

***Gardens Aglow* Highlights**

- Over 1,400 glass pieces made exclusively in the Hot Shop adorn three Ornament Trees, highlighting the countless artistic styles of glass blowers at the Conservatory. Visitors can design their own glass ornament (templates available [online](#)), or purchase ornaments in Botanica Gift Shop & Greenhouse.
- Enjoy over 80 miniature, multimedia artworks by 31 artists from across Ohio on display in the Cardinal Health Gallery. For over 100 years, Ohio Art League’s annual **Thumb Box** exhibition has challenged artists to create unique pieces with only one criteria: the work cannot exceed 6 inches in any direction. Gallery sponsors include the Greater Columbus Arts Council, The Columbus Foundation and the Ohio Arts Council.
- The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Gingerbread Competition, on display beginning December 5, features creative and delightful entries in four categories: Youth, Teen, Adult and Family. This year’s theme is **Holiday Traditions**. Interested participants can deliver their entries on December 2 & 3. 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 included 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 6, 13 and 20 at 6pm, allow guests to dine in the warm and exotic John F. Wolfe Palm House. On December 2 and 9 from 8:30am–10am, join Santa for breakfast, a meet-and-greet photo opportunity, and to decorate holiday cookies. Visit [www.fpconservatory.org](http://www.fpconservatory.org) to make reservations for these special holiday events.



###

**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.*