



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **DREAMS OF SPRING BECOME REALITY AT FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY**

Columbus, Ohio—Warmer weather, blooming bulbs and beautiful butterflies are welcome signs that spring is returning to central Ohio. On Saturday, March 10, ***Blooms & Butterflies*** begins its 24<sup>th</sup> season at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. Hundreds of colorful butterflies fly freely in the Pacific Island Water Garden, a tropical haven filled with bright nectar blooms. Patrons can visit at any time to see a diverse array of butterflies soaring overhead or basking on nearby plant life.

***Blooms & Butterflies*** gives visitors the opportunity to view each stage of the butterfly lifecycle. Over the course of the exhibition, the Conservatory will welcome approximately 22,500 chrysalises to the Metamorphosis Lab where the bugs will undergo the transformation from larvae to butterflies.

New this year, **Ask a Butterfly Expert** (weekdays at 11am) allows patrons to pose their butterfly questions in this audience-driven Q&A designed especially for young minds. Every Sunday morning, **Metamorphosis Lab Discovery Tables** are available for butterfly aficionados of all ages to interact with cocoons, chrysalises and moths with the guidance of a butterfly specialist.

**Butterflies 101** (daily at 1pm and 3pm) provides deeper insight of the species that make up ***Blooms & Butterflies*** as a specialist releases a selection of individual butterflies into the biome. With different varieties of butterflies emerging from their chrysalises daily, every presentation is unique.

Signs of spring permeate all areas of Franklin Park Conservatory, converging in this year's ***Springs Dreams*** exhibition. The end-of-winter yearning for more inviting landscapes serves as inspiration for ***Spring Dreams***, on view from March 10–May 28 in the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse. Colorful spring plantings and fresh blooms paint the Showhouse, while abstract installations using familiar garden objects—from a floating garden hose sculpture to a living lawn—create an otherworldly, dream-like experience.

***Field***, on view in the Cardinal Health Gallery beginning March 10, uses a digital medium to usher in the spring season. Conservatory visitors will interact with a 46' long ecosystem projected on the gallery walls, where grasses and flora grow based on their bodies' position and movement in the space. Transforming the virtual environment, visitors can attract unique species of butterflies that will interact with the visitors and the flora emerging around them.

***Field*** artist Theo Watson is a Co-Partner and Co-Creative Director at [Design I/O](#), a studio that facilitates the installation and production of digital, interactive art experiences. ***Field*** will run through November 11, 2018, and the digital landscape will change with the seasons.



More information about *Blooms & Butterflies*, *Spring Dreams* and *Field* is available [here](#). To connect on social media, please follow @fpconservatory on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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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.*