



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FLAMINGOS AND OTHER ANIMAL TOPIARIES RETURN TO THE CONSERVATORY**

Columbus, OH—The flamboyance of 75 flamingos that have already flocked to The Grand Mallway at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is only the beginning of the *Topiaries at the Conservatory* exhibition. Beginning this Saturday, June 2, a total of 93 animals representing seven species in floral form will be on display through October 28.

“The flamingos were among the most popular topiaries last year, so in addition to bringing back the original trio, we added about six dozen more,” said Bruce Harkey, President and CEO of Franklin Park Conservatory. “They are positioned throughout The Grand Mallway as an introduction to the expanded visitor experience, which includes an improved Mallway and the new Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children’s Garden. And as a nod to the new Children’s Garden experience, we also added several adorable baby animals to the topiary display. This exhibition is a testament to the creativity, dedication and skill of our horticulture staff.”

Instead of the typical topiary (a perennial pruned into a clearly defined shape), these topiaries feature flowering annuals, groundcover and other plants to depict not just the shape, but also the color and texture of an animal’s skin, fur or feathers. The collection includes:

- Flamingos (78 total; 3 in the main entrance and 75 in The Grand Mallway): Pink begonias (*Begonia x semperflorens* Cocktail® Mix)
- Elephants (2): Oakleaf creeping fig (*Ficus pumila* ‘Quercifolia’)
- Gorillas (2): Brass buttons (*Leptinella squalida* ‘Platt’s Black’)
- Mexican Wolves (3): Wolly thyme (*Thymus pseudolanuginosus*)
- Dolphins (3): Creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*)
- Cardinal: Red begonias (*Begonias semperflorens* ‘Bada Boom Red’)
- Butterflies (3): Creeping fig (*Ficus pumila*); variegated creeping fig (*Ficus pumila* ‘Variegata’); purple, red and yellow joyweeds (*Alternanthera dentata* ‘Little Ruby,’ ‘Red Carpet,’ and ‘True Yellow’); purslane (*Portulaca oleracea* ‘Pazzaz Tangerine’)

*Topiaries at the Conservatory* is made possible through the support of Greater Columbus Arts Council, Ohio Arts Council, The Columbus Foundation and Giant Eagle.

Other exhibitions currently on display during *Topiaries at the Conservatory* include *Blooms & Butterflies*, an annual exhibition featuring hundreds of butterflies flying within the Pacific Island Water Garden, and *Field* by Design I/O, a motion-sensitive digital ecosystem that grows and blooms based on visitors’ movements. *Blooms & Butterflies* ends Sept. 16 and *Field* ends Nov. 11.

For more information, please visit [fpconservatory.org/exhibitions](http://fpconservatory.org/exhibitions) and stay up to date by following #fpcTopiaries via @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.*