



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GROWING TO GREEN WINNERS ANNOUNCED DURING
CELEBRATION OF OHIO'S HARVEST**

Columbus, OH—On Thursday, September 13, Franklin Park Conservatory hosted the annual Growing to Green Awards and Harvest Banquet at The Wells Barn. Over 200 local community gardeners, business owners and civic leaders joined to celebrate community gardening and city beautification projects in central Ohio and beyond.

The program opened with a lively performance by Momentum, a nonprofit dance organization serving central Ohio youth in arts education and outreach. The choreographed routine showcased early-1900s dance styles, celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Harlem Renaissance.

Prior to Thursday evening, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' Women's Board and community garden leaders reviewed entries for the seven Growing to Green Award categories and selected the following winners:

Neighborhood Improvement Project of the Year

\$250 awarded to the park, gateway, streetscape or beautification project that does the most to benefit its surrounding community. Presented by Jenny Pope, Director of Community Outreach and Education at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

Winner: **The Milo Grogan Green Space**

Education Garden of the Year

\$500 awarded to a garden that best utilizes garden projects for educational purposes. Presented by Barbara Brandt, member of the Conservatory's Board of Trustees and chair of the Community Outreach and Education Committee.

Winner: **Urban GEMS at Millennium Community School**

Paul B. Redman Youth Leadership Award

\$250 awarded to an outstanding youth gardener, to be applied toward his/her education or garden. Presented by Ann Joyce, 2018 Franklin Park Conservatory Women's Board President.

Winner: **Ty'Keice Cox**



Sustainability Award

\$250 awarded to a garden best utilizing sustainable gardening practices, including community-building activities, sustainable garden design and utilization of green practices. Presented by Dan Sharpe, Vice President - Community Research and Grants Management, Columbus Foundation.

Winner: **The Children's Gardens of the Early Childhood Education Partnership**

Community Gardener of the Year

\$250 awarded to a person who is exceptionally dedicated to his/her community garden and the gardening movement. Presented by Bill Gerhardt, GreenScapes Landscape Company. Bill is also a member of Franklin Park Conservatory's Board of Trustees.

Winner: **Kwodwo Ababio**

Garden Affiliation: Ama Vera's Garden at the New Harvest Cafe

Community Garden of the Year

\$500 awarded to the top neighborhood gardening project for food production or beautification. Presented by Su Lok, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company. Su is also a member of Franklin Park Conservatory's Board of Trustees.

Winner: **The Friends Garden**

Boyd W. Bowden Garden Impact Award

\$750 awarded to the top neighborhood gardening project for significant and sustainable impact on the health and vitality of its community. Presented by Ellen Bowden, on behalf of the Boyd Bowden Family and the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation.

Winner: **Moler Learning Farm**

The Conservatory's Growing to Green Community Gardening Program and the Growing to Green awards are supported by: The City of Columbus, The Columbus Foundation, the Franklin County Board of Commissioners, GreenScapes Landscape Co., The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, The Hinson Family Trust, Nationwide, City Barbeque, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation in cooperation with the Boyd Bowden Family, and Franklin Park Conservatory Women's Board.

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About Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and Growing to Green

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens features plant 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's Growing to Green program is Columbus' largest organized effort to promote and provide free resources for community gardening. Established in 2000, Growing to Green has provided resources to more than 250 community gardens, schools gardens, and neighborhood beautification projects throughout the central Ohio area.