



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2018

CONTACT:

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

**CONSERVATORY AGLOW BRINGS BACK FAMILY FAVORITES,
INTRODUCES EXPANDED LIGHT EXPERIENCE**

Columbus, OH— *Conservatory Aglow* returns this year for the biggest and brightest holiday show in the history of Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. The daytime experience of this seasonal display begins Saturday, November 17, which leads up to the full show with extended evening hours (open until 9pm) from December 1 through January 2 (excluding December 24 and 25). *Conservatory Aglow* is presented by [Ahlum & Arbor Tree Preservation](#).

Unlike previous Conservatory holiday displays, this year's *Conservatory Aglow* extends beyond the building and into The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden and the Grand Mallway. Thousands of twinkling lights guide visitors through rainbow-themed displays in the Children's Garden, highlighting the natural elements of the garden in a playful, artistic way that will be unique to the Conservatory. A local industrial artifacts company, [TORK](#), created a 15-ft tall whirly tree structure to shine in the center of the Children's Garden.

The giant flock of flamingo topiaries that charmed visitors all summer swap their floral plumage for festive lights. The outdoor light experience culminates in the Grand Mallway with James Turrell's, *Light Raiment II*, illuminating the John F. Wolfe Palm House. Over 7,000 computer-controlled LED lights in this permanent art installation slowly change color from dusk to dawn, projecting a myriad of colors onto the vast glass canvas of the Palm House.

Within the main Conservatory courtyards, visitors can enjoy two new light shows: an immersive visual experience by [OBLSK](#) that uses projected imagery on fabric banners to create a moving wintry scene, and a dazzling animated light show set to music.

Artfully placed light installations highlight the lush horticulture displays and seasonal plantings within the interior biomes of the Conservatory building. Hardy cyclamen flourish in the cool temperatures of the Himalayan biome, while the classic poinsettia plant floods the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse with rich holiday colors. At the center of the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse stands a 10-ft tall red poinsettia tree, accompanied by several smaller poinsettia trees and towers in shades of deep red and burgundy.

Over the last two years, the glass ornament trees, created at the Conservatory's own Hot Shop, have easily become a visitor favorite. This year, the addition of a 15-ft tall, blown-glass ornament tree will surely dazzle crowds and likely provide the perfect backdrop for photos.

The Conservatory's Gingerbread Competition is also back by popular demand. Gingerbread houses in the Professional Category will be on display on the Grand Atrium from November 17–December 9. 'Hobbyist' entrants will compete in categories of Youth (15 years and under), Adult (16 years and older), and Family/Community Organization from December 11–January 2. Visitors



will vote for the winner of Best in Show throughout the run of each show; a panel of judges will name the first, second and third place winners in each category.

A Conservatory holiday staple, the Paul Busse model garden railway, returns to enchant guests with whimsical houses made entirely of organic materials. The model train travels through a landscape of miniature plantings and tiny vignettes based on classic fairy tales like Rapunzel and the Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe.

Adult libations and seasonal food offerings will be sure to get guests into the holiday spirit while strolling through the grounds and taking in all that is *Conservatory Aglow*. On select evenings in December, guests can enjoy live holiday music from local musicians and choirs. Visit fpconservatory.org/holiday-performances for the full listing of 2018 Holiday Performances.

###

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.