



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***Blooms & Butterflies* Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**

Columbus, OH—Visit Franklin Park Conservatory this spring for a tropical getaway without leaving the city! On Saturday, March 9, the popular ***Blooms & Butterflies*** exhibition will return for its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Conservatory. Also opening that day will be an art exhibition by Open Door Art Studio & Gallery, ***Vista: A Voyager's Vantage Point***, and the annual ***Bonsai*** exhibition.

To celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ***Blooms & Butterflies***, the fan-favorite blue morpho butterfly will appear in larger quantities for visitors to enjoy, along with other exotic species like the Julia longwing, banded purple wing, paper kite and malachite. Over the course of the exhibition, more than 27,000 butterflies will be released into the Pacific Island Water Garden. Patrons can visit at any time to see a diverse array of butterflies soaring overhead or basking on the plant life.

Daily educational opportunities are included with admission and allow visitors to get a closer look at the spectacular species that make up ***Blooms & Butterflies***. Every day at 1pm and 3pm, a butterfly specialist will release a selection of newly emerged butterflies into the biome. On Saturdays and Sundays from 10am–12pm, Discovery Tables near the Metamorphosis Lab will be available for butterfly enthusiasts of all ages to interact with cocoons, chrysalises and moths with the guidance of a butterfly specialist.

In the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse, trees from the Conservatory's captivating bonsai collection will be on display among serene, Japanese-inspired gardens. This year's ***Bonsai*** exhibition explores the Japanese reverence for nature as art. Evergreen, deciduous and tropical bonsai trees will rotate throughout the exhibition, giving patrons a unique viewing experience with each visit.

Back by popular demand, Open Door Art Studio & Gallery returns to the Conservatory with a new exhibition, ***Vista: A Voyager's Vantage Point***, on display March 9–May 19 in the Cardinal Health Gallery. The exhibition will feature 66 paintings, drawings and photographs by 40 artists from Open Door, a studio designed to empower artists with disabilities. Depicting a variety of landscapes – from bustling metropolises to mountainous terrains to tropical paradises – ***Vista*** embraces how essential these environments are to the human experience.

The ***Blooms & Butterflies*** exhibition is sponsored by the Cardinal Health Foundation, Giant Eagle, and Honda. ***Vista: A Voyager's Vantage Point*** in the Cardinal Health Gallery is sponsored by Greater Columbus Arts Council, Ohio Arts Council and the Columbus Foundation.

More information about ***Blooms & Butterflies***, ***Bonsai*** and ***Vista: A Voyager's Vantage Point*** 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 world-class horticulture, art and nature-based exhibitions, and educational programs for all ages. Situated on 40 acres on the eastern side of Franklin Park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House; 83,000 square feet of glasshouses; botanical gardens including the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden; and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory owns the largest collection of glass artwork by Dale Chihuly in a botanical garden and is home to internationally recognized light artist James Turrell's Light Raiment II, which illuminates the John F. Wolfe Palm House every evening from dusk until dawn.*