



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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

ORCHID SHOW CELEBRATES 125 YEARS OF ICONIC GLASSHOUSES

Columbus, OH – This year's *Orchids* exhibition at Franklin Park Conservatory kicks off a year-long celebration of the 125th anniversary of two historic glasshouses: John F. Wolfe Palm House and Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse.

Orchids, open January 11-March 8, 2020, is a celebration of the Victorian style in which the Conservatory's own glasshouses were designed. In addition to seeing a rise in glasshouse structures, the Victorian era also marked a time when Western countries began their obsession with orchids. *Orchids* invites visitors to learn more about the history and cultural influence of this fascinating plant family as well as enjoy gorgeous floral arrangements inspired by the Victorian aesthetic.

The show is comprised of more than 3,000 orchids – with an emphasis on phalaenopsis, dendrobiums, paphiopedilums, oncidiums and cymbidiums – artistically displayed with nods to antique horticulture styles. *Orchids* will also include a giant laser-cut diorama of the Palm House that was featured in the *Gardens Across America* exhibition at the United States Botanic Garden in Washington, DC last year.

Other exhibitions and activities happening throughout the exhibition include:

- **Chihuly: Celebrating Nature** presented by Nationwide and the Davis Foundation, open now through March 29: This full-scale Chihuly exhibition features the Conservatory's entire private collection of Chihuly artwork as well as pieces on loan from Chihuly Studios. (Included with admission.)
- **Chihuly Nights**, most Thursdays-Sundays through March: View the Chihuly glass artwork professionally illuminated against the night sky. (Special Engagement pricing applies.)
- **Ask an Orchid Expert**, 1-4pm on Sundays: Get orchid care advice from Central Ohio Orchid Society members. (Included with admission.)
- **Wedding Showcase**, January 24: An after-hours evening of wedding inspiration, featuring unique venue options, premier wedding professionals, caterers and celebratory beverages. (Tickets available online or at the door.)
- **Teddy Bear Tea Party**, February 1: Enjoy tea party treats and make a craft to take home. (\$5 per person after Conservatory admission.)
- **Valentine's Day**, February 14: An after-hours date night featuring pairings of wine and small plates among the orchid displays. (Advance purchase required.)

Orchids is included with general admission to the Conservatory, open daily 10am-5pm. Varying admission rates apply for experiences after 5pm. For more details, please visit fpconservatory.org or 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.