



**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](mailto:jwilson@fpconservatory.org)

**FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY TO REMAIN CLOSED THROUGH MAY 31**

Columbus, OH— Following recommendations from federal and state officials for the COVID-19 pandemic, and out of concern for our employees and guests, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens will continue its closure through May 31.

The closure for COVID-19 has cut nearly all revenue streams that fund the Conservatory. Now, with extremely limited revenue coming into the organization, the Conservatory's leadership team and board have had to make some very difficult decisions.

In these challenging times, management was tasked with cutting expenses. The decision to make these cuts was done early in this crisis so the organization will be in a better position financially when it reopens. With 50% of the Conservatory's overall budget dedicated to payroll, adjustments had to be made to staffing.

The Conservatory's leadership team did not take the decision to lay staff off lightly. With assistance from the Conservatory's board, several potential funding streams were considered to sidestep layoffs. The Conservatory is classified as a Joint Recreational District, a unique public/private partnership, and as such, is ineligible for a SBA Small Business loan, Paycheck Protection Program loan and other funding streams under the CARES Act. The Conservatory is working with local and federal public partners on alternative funding options.

The Conservatory's leadership team and board will continue to follow this quickly developing situation and provide any updates on its operations on the Conservatory's webpage ([fpconservatory.org](http://fpconservatory.org)) and social media channels (@fpconservatory).

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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.*