



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONSERVATORY AGLOW LIGHTS UP THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Columbus, OH -- *Conservatory Aglow* returns this holiday season with both new and classic displays to shine a light on Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. This special engagement begins on Saturday, November 14, and ends Sunday, January 10, 2021*. The evening experience, *Conservatory Aglow*, will be open 5-9pm; the daytime experience, *Holiday Blooms*, will be open 10am-4pm. Special engagement rates apply and can be found online before reserving a ticket. The Conservatory recommends visitors book tickets soon as popular evenings are expected to sell out. *Conservatory Aglow* is made possible by presenting sponsor American Electric Power Foundation and lighting partner Ahlum & Arbor Tree Preservation.

Visitors will be amazed by the new light displays on view. There is a light show set to music in the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden and a Candyland scene complete with a life-size gingerbread house near the Grand Mallway. Within the Conservatory, the interior courtyards will feature two themed light displays: Winter Wonderland and Starry Night.

The *Paul Busse Garden Railway*, a favorite from past years, is now a full-scale exhibition that has been transformed into a holiday destination decorated with glowing lights. Visitors will also enjoy the return of classic displays like the Rainbow Tunnel, hand-blown glass ornament trees, and the Whirly Tree, created by Tork Inc.

Adding to the festive atmosphere is an array of holiday themed performances. From 6-8pm on select evenings, musicians, ice carvers, dancers and more will put on roaming or walk by performances. Santa Claus will stop by on Dec. 19th and 20th with a dropbox for gift lists and to take care of his reindeer. Seasonal treats will be available to purchase from the Garden Café and Food Truck. Botanica Gift Shop & Greenhouse will be open for visitors to do their gift shopping.

During *Conservatory Aglow*, the entire facility will be open. It's an excellent opportunity for visitors to see everything the Conservatory has to offer. For more holiday fun, peruse the holiday vignettes and poinsettias of *Holiday Blooms* in the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse or the 14th Annual Gingerbread House Competition in the Grand Atrium. Visitors can vote on Best in Show from all of the homemade gingerbread houses. As with past years, world-class art will be visible. Every night, *Light Raiment II* projects a rainbow of colors onto the historic John F. Wolfe Palm House and 19 installations of Dale Chihuly glass are placed throughout the interior of the Conservatory.

In order for the Conservatory staff to clean and set-up the facility, the buildings will close to the public from 4-5pm. Visitors will not be permitted to stay in the Conservatory buildings or grounds during this time. The Conservatory is continuing to protect the safety of the community as the pandemic continues. Capacity for the facility is limited and guests are strongly encouraged to reserve tickets with an arrival time in order to keep the entrance orderly and reduce contact with staff. *Conservatory Aglow's* light displays are outdoors providing visitors ample space to socially distance. Following state and local mandates, visitors over the age of 6 years old will be required to wear a face covering indoors and outdoors.

*The Conservatory is closed all day on Thanksgiving and Christmas, and closes at 4pm on Christmas Eve.

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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.