



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

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

**THOUSANDS OF FLOWERS FILL THE CONSERVATORY FOR *ORCHIDS*,
OPENING SATURDAY**

COLUMBUS, OH — Franklin Park Conservatory offers a respite from winter with the return of the annual Orchids exhibition, featuring thousands of blooming flowers among lush tropical plants from Jan. 23-March 7, 2021.

"The orchid exhibition opens at a time of year when we are craving color the most. The Conservatory is a place to escape muted winter landscapes and surround yourself with bright, warm, tropical scenery. To be around so many flowers in the wintertime is a truly rejuvenating experience," said Conservatory President and CEO Bruce Harkey.

One of the most technical of the Conservatory's annual exhibitions, *Orchids* is a showcase of horticultural skill and artistry. In total, the exhibition features about 1,650 orchids representing 15 unique genera. Giant panel mosaics of mosses, preserved flowers and other natural materials set the stage for the exhibition. A grand archway adorned with tillandsia air plants, orchids and live Spanish moss lead visitors into the exhibition, where eight delicately crafted orchid orbs float overhead. Throughout the garden spaces, pastel succulent arrangements complement the bright colors of the exotic orchids.

Displayed in the Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse, *Orchids* also features a selection of newly repositioned Chihuly glass artwork from the Conservatory's permanent collection, specifically selected for this exhibition.

Accompanying *Orchids* are two other visually stunning shows: a paper art exhibition by Lea Gray, *Bringing Reverence to Nature: An Exploration of Botanicals in Paper*, open daily through May 31 and the return of *Chihuly Nights* on select evenings January through October.

The Conservatory is continuing to follow the latest COVID-19 guidelines as directed by local government and health officials. All visitors are required to wear a face covering and maintain social distancing protocols. Complete details about the latest policies can be found here:

fpconservatory.org/know-before-you-go.

For complete details about exhibitions at the Conservatory, please visit fpconservatory.org/exhibitions and follow us on social media at [@fpconservatory](https://twitter.com/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.