



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 5, 2021

CONTACT:

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

**FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY IS SEEKING BLACK ARTISTS
FOR UPCOMING EXHIBITION**

COLUMBUS, OH — Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is reaching out to Black artists in the central Ohio community to present works that celebrate diversity found in nature.

The exhibition, titled *Resilience in Nature: We Are The Roses that Grew from the Concrete*, follows the Conservatory's commitment to anti-racism efforts and fostering equity. This effort is in conjunction with the Conservatory's mission to elevate the quality of life and connect the community through educational, cultural and social experiences inspired by horticulture. While Black artists have historically created work that reflects a connection to nature, they have too often been left out of that narrative. This exhibition strives to connect people with nature, while helping build a stronger community by amplifying the voices of Black artists.

Resilience in Nature was conceptualized in close partnership with four local organizations that are lifting up Black artists: All People Arts, Creative Women of Color, Maroon Arts Group, and TRANSIT ARTS. These groups have played a critical role in developing the spirit, style and mission of the exhibition.

"Public Art is rarely just for the sake of viewership or aesthetics. Art is meant to inspire, activate and to transform the very fabrics of ourselves, our communities, and this world altogether. This exhibit is a platform to use art as the vehicle to ensure that Black narratives stay lifted," said Candice Igeleke, Maroon Arts Group Program Director.

The subject of the show is diversity as nature's strongest ally. Possible themes that artists are invited to explore include:

- Variations found in nature (colors, flowers, shapes)
- Symbiotic relationships
- Nature as a problem solver
- Biomimicry
- Diversity within plant life, and how it relates to the human population
- Adaptation and growth
- Connecting cultures through nature

"This exhibit challenges us to overcome the destructiveness of sameness at a time when creative responses are needed more than ever," said Katerina Fuller, TRANSIT ARTS Program Manager.

All Black artists over the age of 16 who live in central Ohio are eligible. All visual mediums are accepted, and work should support the concept themes of the exhibition. Younger artists (10-15 years old) may submit poster artwork, photography or writing pieces.

Submissions are due April 11, and the selected artwork will be displayed from June 12 to Nov. 28, 2021 at the Conservatory. Cash prizes totaling \$4,500 will be awarded, with the Best in Show winning \$1,500.

Complete application details can be found at fpconservatory.org/call-for-entries-for-resilience-in-nature.

Stay tuned for updates on social media by following @fpconservatory on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, as well as on the website at fpconservatory.org/exhibitions.

###

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.