



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2021

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COLUMBUS BLOOMS RETURNS AFTER LAST YEAR'S SHUTDOWN

Columbus, OH — Marking one year after the pandemic temporarily closed the Conservatory doors during the entirety of the spring season, Columbus Blooms is back and open to the public throughout the month of April!

“Spring is a time of rebirth and awakening” said Bruce Harkey, President and CEO of Franklin Park Conservatory, “This year’s Columbus Blooms has more meaning than ever. In 2020, we looked to spring flowers as a sign of hope for better days ahead. This year, these blooms represent the growth that blossoms after a long period of dormancy.”

Presented by GreenScapes, Columbus Blooms packs all the colors of spring in one location. More than 125,000 spring bulbs — including tulips, narcissus, crocus and hyacinth — have been planted throughout the outdoor gardens, cascading from the Grand Mallway to the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children’s Garden. Colorful blooms also accent the interior courtyards and rooftop terraces within the Conservatory building.

The colors and designs change every year, but guests can continue to expect bright, bold colors in every direction. One new star to look out for, according to horticulture designer Barb Arnold, are the stocks (*Matthiola incana*), a fragrant spring annual related to cabbage.

“The flowers are incredibly fragrant and sure to stop folks in their tracks,” said Arnold.

More than 65,000 of the blooming bulbs are naturalized, meaning that they were planted in areas where they could flourish and self-propagate, creating more lush spring scenes every year.

Columbus Blooms is open daily from 10am-5pm, April 1-30, 2021 and included with general admission. Masks are required, and reservations are encouraged. The most recent health guidelines are posted at fpconservatory.org/plan-a-visit.

Ongoing exhibitions on display during Columbus Blooms include:

- *Blooms & Butterflies*, open through May 31
- *Bringing Reverence to Nature: An Exploration of Botanicals in Paper*, open through May 31
- *Paul Busse Garden Railway* open April 2-January 9

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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.