



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT:

Kate Liebers
Marketing Coordinator
Cell: 513-293-6296
kliebers@fpconservatory.org

**NEW GALLERY SHOW AT FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY SPOTLIGHTS
DIVERSITY IN NATURE THROUGH THE ARTWORK OF LOCAL BLACK ARTISTS**

Columbus, OH - The upcoming art exhibition at Franklin Park Conservatory, *Resilience in Nature: We are the Roses that Grew from the Concrete*, features artwork by local Black artists exploring the theme of diversity as nature's strongest ally. The exhibition is open June 12-Nov. 28, 2021.

Resilience in Nature features 31 works of art in various mediums, including paintings, photography, digital illustration, mixed media and more. The featured artists include Nevaeh Alexander, Roger Brackins, Jamie Ceasar, Lisa M. Cliff, Luke Cooper, Benjamin Crumpler, Kenya Davis, Earl H. English, Janet George, Yahfa Guerra, Jasmine Hill, Josiah Jamison, Lance Johnson, Brian A. Jones, Dionna Kendrick, Tiffany Lawson, Destiny Manson, Aleesha Nash, Diego Pablo, Ariel Peguero, Lynne Prillerman, Stefanie Rivers, Asya Shine, Stacy L. Spencer, Paisha Thomas, Lisa Tyus-Lee, Vona Walker, Nina Wells and Floristine Yancey-Jones.

The exhibition was conceptualized in partnership with four local organizations dedicated to lifting up Black voices: All People Arts, Creative Women of Color, Maroon Arts Group and TRANSIT ARTS.

"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.

"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.

"While nature has considerable resilience, this exhibition supports the beauty and resilience black artists have always made, and are continuing to make through sharing their artistic perspectives," said Shelbi Harris-Roseboro, All People Arts Executive Director.

The artworks included in the show were selected by a panel of five celebrated jurors: Queen Brooks, Richard Duarte Brown, Marshall Shorts, Bettye Stull and April Sunami. The jurors will name four winners for a variety of awards, including Best in Show, which includes the grand prize of \$1,500.

Visitors, who are invited to cast one vote per visit, will name the recipient of the People's Choice Award.

The Conservatory and the exhibition partners will host a variety of community activities in conjunction with this exhibition. This series kicks off June 22, with an open mic night with TRANSIT ARTS, followed by a mural project with All People Arts on Aug. 1, a block party with Creative Women of Color on Sept. 4, and an event with Maroon Arts Group in October. More details will be posted at fpconservatory.org/resilience-in-nature.

Resilience in Nature is generously sponsored by Cardinal Health. Additional support was provided by the Greater Columbus Arts Council and Ohio Arts Council.



More details about this exciting exhibition and others are at fpconservatory.org/exhibitions. Please follow @fpconservatory on social media for updates.

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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.