



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GROWING TO GREEN AWARDS CELEBRATE CENTRAL OHIO'S COMMUNITY GARDENS AND GARDENERS

Columbus, OH — On Thursday, September 9, 2021, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens hosted the annual Growing to Green Awards & Harvest Celebration. The awards are a tribute to individuals, organizations and communities who participate in community gardening and city beautification projects in central Ohio.

Growing to Green program manager Bill Dawson and Conservatory President & CEO Bruce Harkey made remarks about another successful year of Growing to Green. Dinner was served courtesy of the Conservatory's Garden Café, City Barbeque and the community gardeners themselves. There was a lively and interactive performance by TRANSIT ARTS, a citywide youth arts development program of Central Community House and the Columbus Federation of Settlements. This year's Growing to Green Awards & Harvest Celebration was also made possible by the generous support of the Conservatory Women's Board's Growing to Green Awards Planning Committee.

"This has been another challenging season for community gardeners and urban farms, however, many were able to ramp up their efforts safely and provide nutritious, local produce to those in need," Dawson said. "The Growing to Green Awards is our opportunity to honor and recognize their great efforts."

Nominations for the eight award categories were open to the public. The Women's Board and community garden leaders reviewed the nominations for each award category and selected the following winners:

The Boyd W. Bowden Garden Impact Award for Education and Leadership

The Boyd W. Bowden Garden Impact Award for Education and Leadership is presented by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and the Bowden Family to a community garden that has shown a significant and sustainable impact on the health and vitality of the community through children's education, job training and/or celebrating culture. An award of \$750 will be given to further impact the community and garden project.

This award is one of two that honor Dr. Bowden's love of gardening as well as his life-long commitment to improving community health and the quality of life for citizens in central Ohio.

Winner: South Central Commons' Community Garden

The Boyd W. Bowden Garden Impact Award for Wellness and Health

The Boyd W. Bowden Garden Impact Award for Wellness and Health is presented by the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation and the Bowden Family to a community garden that has shown a significant and sustainable impact on the health and vitality of the community while developing connections to nutrition, wellness and/or food production. An award of \$750 will be given to further impact the community and garden project.

This award is one of two that honor Dr. Bowden's love of gardening as well as his life-long commitment to improving community health and the quality of life for citizens in central Ohio.



Winner: The Garden District

Community Garden of the Year Award

The Community Garden of the Year Award is presented by Scotts Miracle-Gro Company to a neighborhood gardening project for beautification and/or food production. An award of \$500 will be given to the top garden in this category.

Winner: Bexley Community Gardens

Community Gardener of the Year Award

The Community Gardener of the Year Award is presented by GreenScapes Landscape Co. to an individual who is exceptionally dedicated to their neighborhood garden and/or the movement of community gardening in central Ohio. An award of \$250 will be given to the winner to be applied toward their community gardening project.

Winner: Julialynne Walker, Bronzeville Community Garden

Education Garden of the Year Award

The Education Garden of the Year Award is presented by the Franklin County Board of Commissioners Office of Management & Budget to a school or other organization that utilizes garden projects for educational purposes. An award of \$500 will be given to the top garden in this category.

Winner: Sunbury Urban Farm

Paul B. Redman Youth Leadership Award

The Paul B. Redman Youth Leadership Award is presented by the Conservatory Women's Board to an outstanding youth gardener aged 18 or younger. An award of \$250 will be given to the winner to further their education and interest in gardening or to make improvements in their community.

Winner: Grace Chen, The Flower Initiative

Neighborhood Improvement Project of the Year Award

The Neighborhood Improvement Project of the Year Award is presented by Giant Eagle to a community garden, urban farm, park, gateway, streetscape, school or other community beautification or food project. An award of \$250 will be given to the project that has done the most to benefit its surrounding community.

Winner: Franklin Avenue Community Garden

Sustainability Award

The Sustainability Award is presented by the Columbus Foundation to a garden that is utilizing sustainable community gardening practices, including community-building activities, sustainable garden design and utilization of green practices (e.g. rain barrels) and/or has proven sustainable over the long term. An award of \$250 will be given to further advance the sustainability of the community garden.

Winner: Granby School Garden

Growing to Green was founded over 20 years ago and has since supported over 300 community gardens throughout the central Ohio area. Growing to Green and the Awards are supported this year by Giant Eagle, Hinson Family Trust, Osteopathic Heritage Foundation, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company and Franklin County Board of Commissioners. Additional support comes from the City of Columbus, Columbus Foundation, and the Conservatory Women's Board. Special thanks to Columbus City Council and the Franklin County Commissioners for providing Certificates to each of the winning gardens and gardeners.



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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.