



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NANCY CARDENAS HONORED WITH ANN ISALY WOLFE  
AWARD DURING HAT DAY**

Columbus, OH— Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens honors individuals who have embodied and fostered the Conservatory's growth as a cultural institution with the Ann Isaly Wolfe Award. The Conservatory is naming Nancy Cardenas the Ann Isaly Wolfe honoree of 2021, an award that was officially bestowed during the annual *Les Chapeaux dans le Jardin* fundraiser on September 24th.

"Nancy has been such an integral partner to the Conservatory's growth and community impact," said Conservatory President & CEO Bruce Harkey. "Her financial support, volunteerism and advocacy have been extraordinary. We feel very fortunate to have Nancy as part of our Conservatory family and we are excited to honor her with the Ann Isaly Wolfe Award."

Nancy Cardenas has been a devoted advocate and friend to the Conservatory for more than 16 years. A committed supporter through her own philanthropy, she's also led efforts to expand the Conservatory's community of donors. In 2014, she helped start the Monarch Society—a circle of patrons who provide a stable source of annual support—co-chairing the group for five years. In 2018, she chaired Hat Day, achieving one of its highest-netting years on record. An active member of the Women's Board since 2004, she co-chaired the group's former Antiques & Gardeners' Fair in 2007, and led the Women's Board as president in 2008.

Nancy's genuine passion shines in her volunteerism with the Conservatory's community outreach and education programs. She's been a dedicated volunteer and youth mentor through many programs, including the Nature Therapy program for adults with developmental disabilities, and the Teen Corps program, a paid summer work experience that helps teens develop life and work skills through experiences in urban agriculture.

Nancy's community involvement also includes the Girl Scouts of Ohio's Heartland. She and her husband, John, have been married for 29 years and have two children, Alexandra and Clay.

**Previous recipients of the Ann Isaly Wolfe Award include:**

2019: Cindy Rasmussen

2018: Karen Fiorile

2017: Barbara Brandt

2016: Alexis Jacobs

2015: I. Lorraine Thomas



2014: Beth Fisher  
2013: Beth Henry  
2012: Liz Fox  
2011: Paige Crane  
2010: Barbara Trueman  
2009: Beth and Doug Morgan  
2008: Pamela Farber Thomas  
2007: Mo Meuse  
2006: William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis and William C. Davis Foundation & Bill and Jackie Wells  
2005: Cherie Lucks  
2004 Ann Isaly Wolfe

This year's special 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Hat Day fundraiser was planned under the leadership of Hat Day co-founder and inaugural award winner, Ann Isaly Wolfe, and her daughter, Katie Wolfe Lloyd. In addition to the award presentation, Hat Day is a luncheon to benefit the Conservatory's youth education and outreach programs. This year, over \$500,000 was raised which will provide learning and growth opportunities to more than 25,000 individuals.

Sponsors of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary Hat Day include Presenting Sponsors The Davis Foundation and Wolfe Associates Inc. and Anniversary Sponsors Leslie & Abigail Wexner.

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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.*