



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

COLUMBUS, OH — On Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 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.

The Growing to Green Awards & Harvest Celebration showcases the dedication and hard work of many Central Ohio communities and individuals while furthering Growing to Green's objective of promoting participation in community gardening and urban agriculture.

Growing to Green program coordinator, Sean McKay and Conservatory President & CEO, Bruce Harkey made remarks about another successful year of Growing to Green. This year, there were over 50 nominations. Dinner was served potluck style and supplemented courtesy of Franklin Park Conservatory's Women's Board and the community gardeners themselves. There was an elegant performance by Urban Strings, a string orchestra based in Columbus, Ohio. 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.

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: Sunbury Urban Farm



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: Mid-Ohio Food Collective

Community Garden of the Year Award

The Community Garden of the Year Award is announced by the City of Columbus Land Bank Program 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: International Harvest Garden

Bill Dawson Community Gardener of the Year Award

The Bill Dawson Community Gardener of the Year Award is announced 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: Richard M. Harris

Education Garden of the Year Award

The Education Garden of the Year Award is announced by the Franklin Park Conservatory Community Outreach and Education Department 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: Heritage Kids Camp Mobile Gardens

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: Serenity Edwards

Neighborhood Improvement Project of the Year Award

The Neighborhood Improvement Project of the Year Award is announced by OSU Extension 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: Love Your Alley



Sustainability Award

The Sustainability Award is announced by the Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Garden's Women's Board 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: Mezzacello Urban Farm

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, GreenScapes Landscape Co., Hinson Family Trust, Osteopathic Heritage Foundations in cooperation with the Boyd Bowden Family, Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, Franklin County Board of Commissioners and Franklin Park Conservatory Women's Board.

For more information, please visit fpconservatory.org/growing-to-green, and follow the Conservatory on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens offers world-class horticulture, art & nature-based exhibitions and educational programs. The 13-acre indoor and outdoor facility—situated two miles from downtown Columbus—features glasshouses including the historic John F. Wolfe Palm House; botanical gardens including the Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Children's Garden and Scotts Miracle Gro-Foundation Community Garden Campus; and event venues. The Conservatory is home to the largest collection of Chihuly glass in a botanical garden and Light Raiment II by internationally renowned artist James Turrell. Committed to the community, the Conservatory strives to provide an accessible and welcoming experience to all.