



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CATHY M. LYTTLE WILL BE HONORED WITH THE ANN ISALY WOLFE AWARD DURING HAT DAY**

COLUMBUS, OH – The Ann Isaly Wolfe Award recognizes individuals who, through enduring service, leadership and financial support, have enabled Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens to take its place among the leading cultural institutions in Columbus. Cathy M. Lyttle is this year's honoree, and her lasting, transformative support of the Conservatory spans over a decade.

Mrs. Lyttle first became involved at the Conservatory as a member of the Board of Trustees from 2002-2007. She rose to the position of Board President in 2004. During her Board tenure, Mrs. Lyttle helped lay a foundation that would allow the Conservatory to prosper for decades. Most notably, she helped raise millions of dollars through the Conservatory's first capital campaign, and she helped with the fundraising effort to acquire the Chihuly Collection, the largest privately owned collection of Dale Chihuly artwork in a botanical garden. The Conservatory would not be a place where hundreds of thousands gather to experience nature, appreciate art and make cherished family memories without her support. Mrs. Lyttle made her own share of memories since becoming involved with the Conservatory, from watching her son get married in the John F. Wolfe Palm House to sharing the joy of visiting with her granddaughter.

Mrs. Lyttle's dedication to the Conservatory is consistent with her commitment to the entire Central Ohio community. Mrs. Lyttle has served the community through her roles as the founder and current Chair of the Columbus Blue Jackets Foundation, Chair of Experience Columbus, Board Member of CelebrateOne, Board Member of Columbus State and Chair of the Columbus State Foundation. The Conservatory is not the first to recognize Mrs. Lyttle, she was named a Woman of Achievement by the YWCA in 2008 and received the Columbus Award from the Columbus Chamber of Commerce in 2019.

"It is such a great pleasure for the Conservatory to honor Cathy Lyttle with this year's Ann Isaly Wolfe Award," said Conservatory President & CEO Bruce Harkey. "Cathy's board leadership came during a pivotal time for the growth of the Conservatory. Her influence can be seen throughout our organization, from the projects completed during our first capital campaign, to the exquisite Chihuly sculptures on permanent display that continue to attract visitors from around the world. Through this award, we are excited to recognize Cathy's impact at the Conservatory, and with so many other nonprofit and civic organizations in our community."

The Ann Isaly Wolfe Award was created in 2004 and is given annually in honor of Ann Isaly Wolfe, a passionate and dedicated champion of the Conservatory and founder of Hat Day. Previous recipients of the Award include:

2022: DeeDee Glimcher

2021: Nancy Cardenas

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

The 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of *Les Chapeaux dans le Jardin*—lovingly known as Hat Day—promises an elegant celebration of flowers and fashion. In addition to the ceremony to bestow the Ann Isaly Wolfe Award, the event features a cocktail party, a luncheon, a runway show, and, of course, fabulous hats and garden party attire! Ticket sales, sponsorships and additional funds raised at the event benefit the Conservatory's youth education and outreach programs.

Hat Day 2023 is being planned under the leadership of Chair, Nancy B. Russo. Sponsors of this year's event include Presenting Sponsor, The Davis Foundation; Lead Sponsors, The Waterworks; Cocktail Party Sponsor, Nationwide; and Supporting Sponsor, Worthington Industries.

For those who want to join in the festivities, limited tables and single seats are still available for Hat Day. Individuals can match Mrs. Lyttle in the spirit of giving and make a gift to the Conservatory in her honor. More information is available on the Conservatory's website ([fpconservatory.org/hat-day](http://fpconservatory.org/hat-day)) or through the Associate Director of Development ([jfaqan@fpconservatory.org](mailto:jfaqan@fpconservatory.org)).

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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.*