



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ALL ABOARD! PAUL BUSSE GARDEN RAILWAY OPENING SOON**

Columbus, OH – Beginning June 3, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens will reopen the *Paul Busse Garden Railway*. The exhibition will be on display from June 3, 2023 through January 7, 2024.

Franklin Park Conservatory is proud to announce, with the help of 42 generous donors who raised over \$45,000, the *Paul Busse Garden Railway* is now part of the Conservatory's permanent collection. This grassroots fundraising effort was made possible through the leadership of an enthusiastic anonymous donor. Visitors will find donor recognition near the trains that recognizes the contributions of the Columbus Garden Railway Society, with special thanks to Deb and Donald Sweet.

*Paul Busse Garden Railway* features four botanical themes—Fairytale Land, Wild West Town, European Travels and the animals of Who Lives Here—placed throughout 1,122 feet of track. Nine g-scale model trains will weave through the botanical landscapes, sometimes passing overhead!

The world of trains is brought to life by Paul Busse and his team at Applied Imagination, Ltd. The team collected all-natural plant material to build over 50 botanical models to accompany the tracks, creating a unique and immersive world to explore. Special elements include an enchanted tree hollow, waterfalls and a brook. Select sections of the *Paul Busse Garden Railway* were generously donated by the Wolfe Family in memory of John F. Wolfe.

Throughout the seasons, Conservatory staff will coordinate the plantings to match the models and botanical themes. In the summer, colorful blooms will fill the gardens surrounding the railway. As fall arrives, pumpkins and gourds will be placed throughout the railway. Before the exhibition comes to a close, holiday decorations will be added during the winter months.

*Paul Busse Garden Railway* is included with general admission and special engagements (after 5pm on select evenings). The exhibition is made possible with ongoing support from The Columbus Foundation, Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Ohio Arts Council.

For more information on all the Conservatory has to offer, please visit [fpconservatory.org](http://fpconservatory.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

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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.*