



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FRANKLIN THE PEOPLES PARK**

**Documenting over four decades of Franklin Park history through photography by Steve Harrison**

COLUMBUS, OH – Beginning June 24, Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens will feature the works of local photographer, Steve Harrison. *Franklin the Peoples Park* focuses on the activity in Franklin Park from everyday occurrences to historical moments over the last 50 years.

Harrison began photographing the park in the 1960s when it was a gathering place for young black people. He also captured historical moments in the park from the 1960s to present-day, including Ameriflora and Dick Gregory's Food Run. The exhibition will display approximately 50 of his photographs taken in Franklin Park, including large panoramic pieces.

With nearly five decades of experience, Harrison was the photographer for the State of Ohio for 35 years. He worked with the State Auditor, the Department of Development and was the photographer for six Ohio governors.

During his career, Harrison has had assignments all over the United States and Canada with his work appearing on magazine covers, music projects, and a variety of publications and newspapers including Ebony, Forbes and Variety.

Since retirement, Harrison spends his time running Ram Studio, here in Columbus, which specializes in portraits and special events. Harrison also serves as staff photographer for the African American News Journal.

In his free time, Harrison enjoys shooting photos of him and his wife's nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

*Franklin the Peoples Park* is on display from June 24 to November 19, 2023 and is included in admission. The exhibition is sponsored by Friends of the Conservatory donors and made possible with support from The Columbus Foundation, the Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Ohio Arts Council. For more details, visit the [Conservatory's website](#), and follow the Conservatory on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#).

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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.*