



WINTER 2026 IN THIS ISSUE

*Winter Ice Festival
Orchids
A Beautiful Journey
Blooms & Butterflies
and more!*



Franklin Park Conservatory
and Botanical Gardens

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

A new year invites us to slow down, refocus and realign with what matters most. This winter, let the Conservatory be your place to recharge, where you are surrounded by nature, meaningful moments with loved ones, and experiences that spark curiosity.

Inside this digital magazine, you'll find a snapshot of everything happening through March, with clickable links to explore further.

[BECOME A SUPPORTER](#)

CLOSURES

The John F. Wolfe Palm House and Dorothy M. Davis Showhouse are currently closed for renovation and are expected to reopen in Fall 2027. Guests can find additional information about these closures on signage posted near the closed-off areas.

VISITING

For the best experience, all guests are asked to comply with the listed safety and operational policies:

[KNOW BEFORE YOU GO](#)

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT | 5–9PM

WINTER ICE FESTIVAL

JANUARY 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 25

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT RATES APPLY

The Winter Ice Festival is back in 2026, with more special engagement nights to enjoy a stroll through the wintery grounds and have some winter fun!

Cheer on your favorite ice carver during Fire & Ice, a throwdown ice carving competition from the professional ice carvers from Rock on Ice. Each night at 7pm the carvers will face a 45-minute countdown clock and each other in a friendly competition for bragging rights. Guests in attendance will help us determine the nightly winner. Come early and watch them warm up and stay after to engage with the artists.

Enjoy ice skating on the synthetic ice rink from 5–9pm nightly. Skates will be available to borrow or bring your own. Skating and skate rental is complimentary with admission.

When you are ready to warm up, head inside to take a leisurely stroll through the warm tropical biomes and take in the breathtaking Chihuly glass sculptures at night. Activities in the Grand Atrium will keep the kids entertained with a winter craft, family games and puzzles.

Please note: During the run of the Winter Ice Festival, the Conservatory's daytime experience will close at 4pm to prepare for the evening events. The Conservatory will re-open at 5pm. Thursday, January 15 will be a Cocktails at the Conservatory event, and will be a 21+ night, no exceptions.

TICKETS ON
SALE NOW
[GET TICKETS NOW](#)

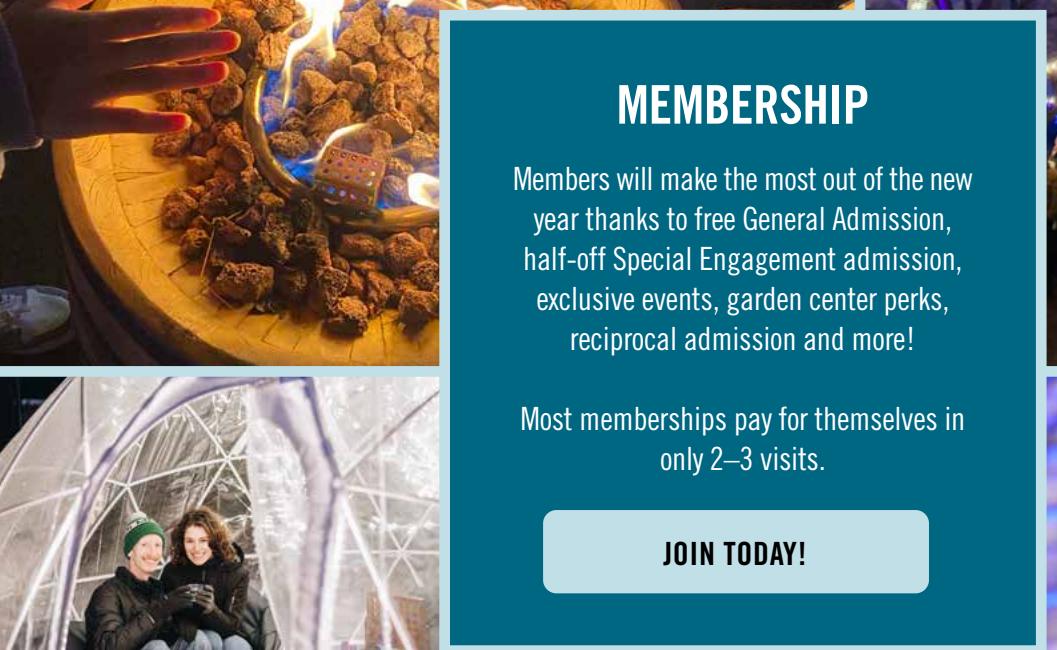
[RESERVE TICKETS](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Members will make the most out of the new year thanks to free General Admission, half-off Special Engagement admission, exclusive events, garden center perks, reciprocal admission and more!

Most memberships pay for themselves in only 2–3 visits.

[JOIN TODAY!](#)



ORCHIDS

JANUARY 24–MARCH 15, 2026

Orchids returns in grand style, taking over the North Conservatory with more than 2,600 stunning orchids. Explore vibrant displays woven among the plant collections, where orchids take center stage amidst bromeliads, cyclamen, and vivid foliage. Discover floral topiaries inspired by animals native to our Rainforest, Himalayan, and Desert biomes, along with suspended spheres, cascading arrangements, and a spiraling column of blooms—all celebrating the beauty and diversity of orchids.

[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)

A BEAUTIFUL JOURNEY

WORKS BY LANCE JOHNSON

JANUARY 17–APRIL 12, 2026

The Cardinal Health Gallery will showcase the work of artist Lance Johnson in his exhibition titled *A Beautiful Journey*. Using a combination of mediums such as collage, graffiti, stencils, texture, and found materials, Lance recreates the feeling of walking through a neighborhood where every wall tells a story.

The exhibition is both a celebration and a reflection of his evolution as an artist. Lance Johnson is a multi-disciplinary visual artist and muralist based in Columbus, known for his bold, expressive use of color, collage, and layered text to tell stories rooted in identity, culture, and community.

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO



WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)



BLOOMS & BUTTERFLIES

FEBRUARY 21–JULY 5, 2026

Experience Blooms & Butterflies in the Pacific Island Water Garden, where hundreds of exotic butterflies glide through bright nectar flowers. As you wander the garden, you'll see butterflies feeding, resting, and gliding through the air in an ever-changing display of color and movement. Don't miss the Metamorphosis Lab, where you can watch butterflies take their very first flight as they emerge from their chrysalises throughout the day.

[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)

FAMILY FUN

Included with admission, unless otherwise noted.

BLOOMS & BUTTERFLIES

OPENING DAY: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 | 11AM–2PM

A sure sign that spring is on the way is when the butterflies arrive at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens! Join us for opening day and make a special Sand Art butterfly or flower to commemorate the day. \$5 fee per sand art craft.

SPIN ART: SATURDAY, MARCH 28 | 11AM–2PM

Some of our furry friends are raising babies and waking up from their winter hibernation this month. Come make a beautiful spin art craft to celebrate March and spring babies! \$3 fee per spin art craft.

BRING THE FARM TO YOU: FRIDAY, APRIL 3 | 11AM–2PM

Barnyard friends descend upon the Conservatory! This hands-on program will connect visitors of all ages to an up-close experience with cuddly rabbits, goats, sheep, and other farm animals.

[VIEW CALENDAR](#)

CHIHULY COLLECTION

ON PERMANENT DISPLAY

The Conservatory's Chihuly Collection—the largest permanent collection in a botanical garden—is on view year-round. Eighteen installations of stunning glass art is displayed throughout the interior Conservatory.

CHIHULY NIGHTS

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT | 6–10PM

JAN 31 | FEB 28 | MAR 21 | APR 25
MAY 30 | SEPT 5 | OCT 3 | NOV 7

Chihuly Nights offer you the opportunity to view 16 installations illuminated to create heightened drama and breathtaking views within the backdrop of the interior and of the warmth of the Conservatory. Explore the plant collections and current exhibitions after dark.

CHIHULY NIGHT PERFORMANCES

THE DROWSY LADS: JANUARY 31 | 8:30–9:30PM

A traditional Irish five-piece band, the Lads provide lively and dance worthy classic Irish tunes and songs.

CAP CITY STRING QUARTET: FEBRUARY 28 | 8:30–9:30PM

Solomon Liang, Koko Watanabe, Jessica Pasternak, and Joseph Mueller dazzle with their versatile modern-day arrangements, classical favorites and more!

KELLY CRUM DELAVERIS: MARCH 21 | 8:30–9:30PM

Kelly Crum Delaveris & Trio perform a collection of jazz and big band hits.

ADD A GUIDED TOUR TO YOUR EXPERIENCE!

Learn more about Dale Chihuly and the Conservatory's Chihuly Collection by adding a docent-led tour to your Chihuly Night experience. These 45 minute experiences walk you through the collection and focus on installations. *Pre-registration is recommended as spaces are limited.*

[VIEW COLLECTION](#)





COCKTAILS AT THE CONSERVATORY

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED | 21+ ONLY

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE!

Each ticket includes a \$5 donation to support our mission to connect people to nature and create life-enhancing experiences.

COLD AS ICE

JANUARY 15 | 5:30–9:30PM

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED | 21+ ONLY

Embrace the chill and kick off the Conservatory's Ice Festival with this 21+ experience! The evening includes perfectly chilled, ready-to-drink cocktail samples, served right over ice while you enjoy festive outdoor lights, ice carving and an outdoor skating rink. Bundle up and toast to the heart of winter!

HEARTS & HIGH STAKES

FEBRUARY 13 & 14 | 5:30–9:30PM

A spectacular two-night revival of Roaring 20's during the most romantic weekend of the year. Get your exclusive ticket to either Friday or Saturday (or both!) to experience the Conservatory after dark while sampling unique, prohibition-inspired cocktails from local distilleries. Enjoy live jazz, test your luck at casino games and perhaps find your way into a hidden speakeasy... Dress in your finest for an unforgettable, adults-only evening of glitz and glam!

MORE COCKTAILS IN 2026

THURSDAY APRIL 16: PETALS & PROSECCO

FRIDAY MAY 1: AND THEY'RE OFF

FRIDAY JULY 17: SUMMER OF SANGRIA

THURSDAY AUGUST 6: FROM VINE TO VINTAGE

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 24: ULTIMATE TAILGATE

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29: SPIRITS & SPELLS

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2: SLEIGH BELL SIPS

THURSDAY DECEMBER 3: SLEIGH BELL SIPS

[LEARN MORE!](#)

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer opportunities are available throughout the Conservatory in Visitor Experience, Horticulture, Exhibitions or Education. Fill out an online application or contact us for information about opportunities.

VOLUNTEERS

COMMUNITY GARDENING

The Conservatory's Scotts Miracle-Gro Company Community Garden Campus is one of many community gardens improving neighborhoods throughout the city. It's a living demonstration and education space with garden plots tended by our neighbors. To get involved, sign up for the plot waitlist, or let us connect you with a nearby community garden through our free community garden program, Growing to Green.

COMMUNITY GARDENING

FARMERS MARKET

Farmers, bakers, artisans, food trucks and musicians are invited to be a part of the Conservatory's Farmers Market on Wednesdays from 3:30–6:30pm starting June 3–September 16. An application is required. **FARMERS MARKET APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

FARMERS MARKET

JOIN THE MONARCH SOCIETY

Monarch Society is a group of enthusiastic and engaged individuals who support the Conservatory's mission. Create transformational change at the Conservatory that supports education, outreach, arts, culture and horticulture offerings while ensuring programming is constantly improving and accessible to all. Monarch members experience a variety of exciting benefits every season of the year.

To join or learn more, contact Marly Coldiron, Individual Giving Manager mcoldiron@fpconservatory.org

MONARCH SOCIETY





PLANT OF THE MONTH

20% off for members and 10% off for non-members.



JANUARY: Orchid

FEBRUARY: String of Hearts

MARCH: Oxalis

BOOK SALE: JANUARY 17 & 18

20% off all books

BLOOMS & BUTTERFLIES : FEBRUARY 21 & 22

20% off all butterfly merchandise

HOT SHOP GLASS BOGO SALE: MARCH 21 & 22

All glass made in the hot shop is buy one get one free

[VISIT BOTANICA](#)

TAKE A CLASS!

Take horticulture, arts and culinary classes taught by Conservatory educators & local experts.

FINE ARTS & CRAFTS

Winter Sunset in Acrylic	JANUARY 18
Drawing Orchids	JANUARY 29
Botanical Perfumes	FEBRUARY 21
Botanical Bath & Body Workshop	MARCH 8

GARDENING & ENVIRONMENTAL

Orchid 101	JAN 17 & MAR 7
The Language of Flowers	JANUARY 31
Pretty in Pink Planter	FEBRUARY 5
Winter Birding Walk	FEBRUARY 6

CULINARY ARTS

Cake Decorating: Watercolor Cake	JANUARY 16
Cake Decorating: Sweetheart Art	FEBRUARY 6
Creme Brulee	FEBRUARY 8
Chefs in the City: Spring Dinner	MARCH 3

[VIEW FULL CLASS SCHEDULE](#)



THE HOT SHOP WILL
OPEN FOR THE SEASON
MARCH 21, 2026.
Spring & Summer Hot Shop
class registration will drop
February 23, 11am!
[VISIT HOT SHOP](#)



PHOTO CREDITS FOR SPREAD 3

Middle row 2nd from top: Lance Johnson, *Self Love (Tapestry)*, 2025

Middle row 2nd from bottom: Lance Johnson, *We Rise*, 2024

Top Right: Lance Johnson, *Beautiful Journey (Collage)*, 2025

PHOTO CREDITS FOR SPREAD 5

Dale Chihuly, © Chihuly Studio

Left page: *Neodymium Reeds and Green Grass*, 2003

Top middle: *Nijima Floats* (detail), 2003, *Sunset Chandelier* (detail), 2019

Top right: *Persian Window*, 2019

Center: *Pale Confetti Chandelier*, 2003

Macchia Forest (detail), 2003

Lower right: *Persian Ceiling* (detail), 2003

**COMING UP IN 2026****COLUMBUS BLOOMS****SPRING 2026**

A dazzling celebration of spring! More than 140,000 tulips, narcissus and other stars of the season bloom throughout the gardens and container displays.

COLOR, FLY, BUTTERFLY**APRIL 25–AUGUST 23, 2026**

Step into the Cardinal Health Gallery's immersive butterfly experience: color your own butterfly at a station, scan it at the kiosk, and watch it come alive, fluttering through the illustrated Pacific Island Water Garden. See your creation swoop, play, and interact with the digital garden!

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO



GREATER COLUMBUS
ARTS COUNCIL

WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

**MATH IN BLOOM****A THREE PART CELEBRATION OF NATURE**

Mathematics meets nature in unexpected and delightful ways. *Math in Bloom* invites visitors of all ages to discover the hidden mathematical patterns in nature, from Pi to the Golden Ratio.

Made possible through generous support from the Simons Foundation and in collaboration with the San Antonio Botanical Garden, these special days feature educational classes, free activities, and a lot of fun.

While many activities are designed with adults in mind, families will find engaging experiences that bring math to life through the beauty of art and nature.

MATH IN BLOOM EVENTS

March 14: (3.14) *PI DAY*

August 8: (8.8) *INFINITY DAY*

Nov 23: (11.23) *FIBONACCI SEQUENCE DAY*

LEARN MORE