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**CARLA L. CEFARATTI TO BE HONORED WITH THE ANN ISALY WOLFE AWARD
DURING HAT DAY ON FRIDAY, MAY 1**

COLUMBUS, OH – Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is proud to announce that longtime leader and philanthropist Carla L. Cefaratti will be honored with the Ann Isaly Wolfe Award at Hat Day 2026, marking the 25th anniversary of the Conservatory’s signature spring celebration.

A member of the Conservatory since 2003, Carla’s dedication spans more than two decades of volunteer leadership, visionary philanthropy and impactful service. Originally inspired by the Conservatory’s Chihuly exhibition, she began volunteering and quickly became a transformative partner within the organization.

Carla joined the Women’s Board in 2009, serving as Treasurer in 2009, 2011, 2021, and 2024, and as President in 2012. She co-chaired Field to Table in 2011—the event’s third year—and has remained a dedicated committee member for many years, helping grow the event into one of the Conservatory’s most impactful fundraisers.

Her leadership extended to helping establish the Monarch Society, strengthening a vibrant community of philanthropic supporters. Through generous financial support of the Monarch Society, Hat Day and Field to Table, Carla has consistently advanced the Conservatory’s mission.

Her philanthropy has significantly expanded access to the Conservatory’s educational programs. Carla has helped underwrite scholarships, primarily supporting youth summer camp experiences, and helped establish the field trip scholarship fund to ensure students of all backgrounds can experience hands-on learning in nature. She has also supported capital campaigns through the Conservatory’s Master Plan for major capital projects and is a member of the Conservatory’s Heirloom Society.

Beyond her leadership and giving, Carla remains actively involved as a volunteer with Growing to Green and the Conservatory's hands-on cooking classes. Now retired from a distinguished career in public service, she continues to dedicate her time and passion to cultivating growth—both in the gardens and in the lives of those served.

“Carla embodies the heart of Hat Day and the legacy of the Ann Isaly Wolfe Award,” said Bruce Harkey, President & CEO of Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. “Her extraordinary generosity, leadership and commitment to expanding access to education have created opportunities for thousands of children and families. As we celebrate 25 years of Hat Day, it is especially fitting to honor someone whose impact will be felt for generations.”

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:

2025: Tom Katzenmeyer

2024: Bill Gerhardt

2023: Cathy M. Lyttle

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 25th 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. All proceeds from the event benefit the Conservatory's youth education and outreach programs.

Hat Day 2026 is led by Chair Kristie Nicolosi Lagos, with generous support from the presenting sponsor, The Davis Foundation.

Individuals can recognize Carla's leadership and generous spirit by making a gift to the Hat Day fundraiser in her honor. More information is available on the Conservatory's website (fpconservatory.org/hat-day) or through the Conservatory's Hat Day Event Coordinator (nmerino@fpconservatory.org).