



AUTUMN AT THE CONSERVATORY

Crisp air, vibrant leaves, and unforgettable moments await. Step into a world of seasonal splendor as the Conservatory comes alive with rich fall color, immersive outdoor exhibitions, and festive activities designed to delight all ages.

Inside this magazine, you'll find a curated guide to everything happening now through mid-November—each section includes clickable links to help you plan your perfect visit.

These magical moments are made possible thanks to the generous support of our community. Help us keep the spirit of the season growing—learn how you can support the Conservatory by making a gift to the Perennial Fund.

[LEARN MORE](#)

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE MEMBERSHIP!

If you love *Pumpkins Aglow*, *Conservatory Aglow* and *Chihuly Nights*, the Patron membership is the best value for you. Patron members receive unlimited free admission to all Special Engagements for everyone named on your membership and up to four guests!

With *Pumpkins Aglow* and *Conservatory Aglow* around the corner, now is the time to upgrade!

[JOIN TODAY!](#)

fpconservatory.org | [f](#) [i](#) [p](#) [t](#)

AUTUMN 2026 IN THIS ISSUE

Pumpkins Aglow
Harvest Blooms
Hot Shop Classes
and much more!

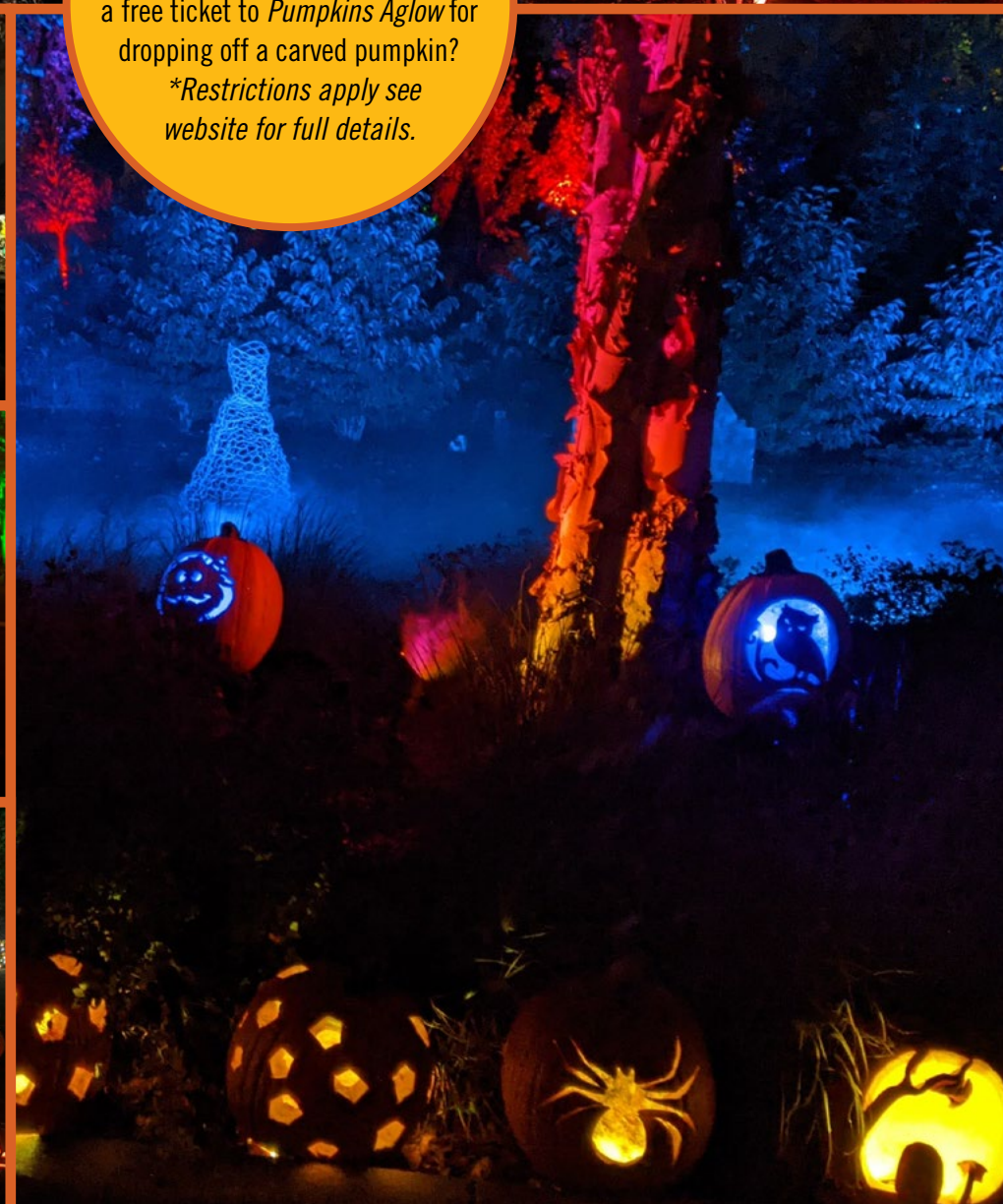
SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT



**CALL FOR
MEMBER PUMPKINS**

Did you know Members can get
a free ticket to *Pumpkins Aglow* for
dropping off a carved pumpkin?

**Restrictions apply see
website for full details.*



PUMPKINS AGLOW

OCT 7–11, 14–18, 21–25 & 28, 30, 31 & NOV 1

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT
5–9PM WITH EXTENDED HOURS
FRIDAY & SATURDAY EVENINGS 5–10PM

Step into the autumn wonderland *Pumpkins Aglow*, the Conservatory's signature fall experience! Explore dazzling displays filled with pirates, spooky pumpkins, under-the-sea mermaids, and performing skeletons.

Wander with the glow and enjoy beloved favorites like the pumpkin house and the singing pumpkin patch before showing off your dance moves on the light-up dance floor! Complete your evening with interactive games, performances that will wow and a variety of refreshments. Come experience the magic!

FAMILY FUN ALL EVENINGS | 5:30–8:30PM

Sand Art (\$5) • Stuff-A-Squishie (\$20)

NEW THIS YEAR!

Kids of all ages, with their accompanying adults, will be able to wander the paths of our Straw Bale Maze!

NIGHTLY ENTERTAINERS FROM 6-8PM

OCTOBER 7–11 & 14–18
CINCINNATI CIRCUS

Wheel of Death Aerial Acrobats & Fire Juggling Duo

OCTOBER 21–25 & OCTOBER 28–NOVEMBER 1
AMAZING GIANTS

Sway Pole Witch & Spider Stilt Walker

RESERVE TICKETS



WHERE WONDER GROWS: THE NATURE OF CONNECTION

SEPTEMBER 5–NOVEMBER 22, 2026

The Cardinal Health Gallery will transform into an immersive space where guests can experience the positive link between nature and our health. Broken into four sections, the exhibition will highlight the four pillars of the ***North Star Master Plan***: Preserve, Inspire, Create, and Cultivate.

Guiding the North Star Master Plan, these pillars will be represented through projected imagery developed by our partners at OBLSK. This is an opportunity to learn updates on the master plan, view design renderings, and self-reflect on the importance of nature to our mental, physical, spiritual, and social health.

MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO



WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)

HARVEST BLOOMS

SEPTEMBER 26–NOVEMBER 1, 2026

Returning this fall, the Botanical Garden landscapes and containers will be transformed with thousands of pumpkins, chrysanthemums, exquisite cabbages, and more. Wander through vibrant displays of autumn color and explore two charming pumpkin houses that bring autumn whimsy and wonder to life. From sweeping seasonal plantings to horticultural displays, the Conservatory offers a unique and unforgettable way to experience the beauty and magic of fall.

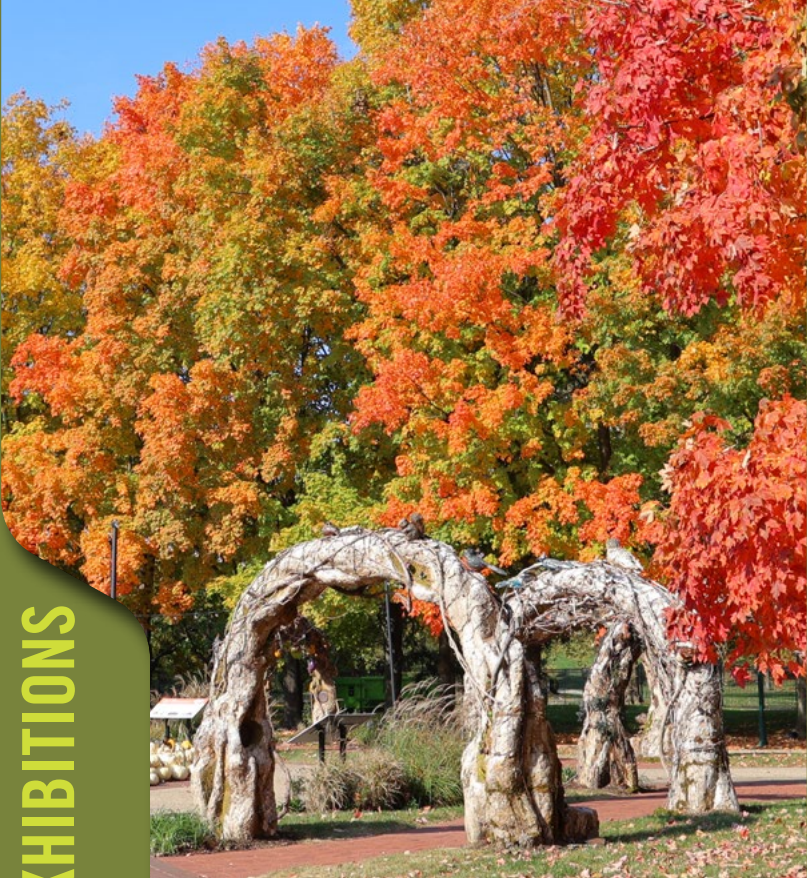
PRESENTED BY



TURNER

TINYWINS

[VIEW HARVEST BLOOMS](#)



Through the Vines

A SEASONAL JOURNEY

ON VIEW THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2027

Step into a stunning, seasonal journey with this site-specific installation by Applied Imagination. Wander through vine arches crafted from natural materials, each one bursting with the lights, colors, and sounds of spring, summer, fall, and winter.

[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)

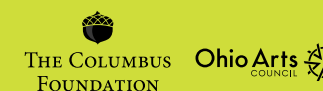
Paul Busse GARDEN RAILWAY

ON VIEW THROUGH JANUARY 3, 2027

The *Paul Busse Garden Railway* returns to the Grand Mallway this summer. Guests can make a return trip to their favorite destinations: Fairytale Land, Wild West Town, European Travels and the animal-themed Who Lives Here. Nine g-scale model trains travel across over 1,000 feet of track that runs high and low through the themed destinations.

[VIEW EXHIBITION](#)

THESE TWO EXHIBITIONS FROM THE MINDS OF APPLIED IMAGINATION ARE
MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO WITH ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM



BONSAI COLLECTION

ON DISPLAY THROUGH LATE OCTOBER

Trees from the Conservatory's Bonsai collection are on display in the Himalayan and Desert Biomes and the Botanical Garden Welcome Patio.

[VIEW BONSAI COLLECTION](#)



WHITE OAK



AMERICAN STRAWBERRY BUSH



BUSH CLOVER



SASSAFRAS



SUGAR MAPLE



FLOWERING DOGWOOD



OHIO BUCKEYE



CHRYSANTHEMUM



SEVEN SON FLOWER



GINKGO

EXPERIENCE AUTUMN'S COLORS AT FRANKLIN PARK CONSERVATORY

Each year, the season transforms our gardens into a living canvas where pumpkins, warm drinks and cozy sweaters meet brilliant blooms and fiery foliage. Summer lingers as the vivid pinks and purples of American Strawberry Bush and Bush Clover color September before giving way to autumn's rich palette.

White Oak and Sugar Maple glow with amber, red and gold. Flowering Dogwood offers a canopy of crimson leaves with button-shaped buds. Sassafras shifts to deep red, the Ohio Buckeye shines in gold, and the Seven Son Flower creates late-season bouquets on its own.

For your own arrangements, Chrysanthemums bring pastel shades and warmth to any bouquet. As the days shorten, ginkgo's brilliant yellow leaves light the way into winter, a reminder that each season holds its own beauty.

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR:

Acer saccharum

Sugar maple
October to November

Heptacodium miconoides

Seven son flower
October

Quercus alba

White oak
October to November

Cornus florida

Flowering dogwood
October

Lespedeza thunbergii

Bush clover
September to October

Aesculus glabra

Ohio buckeye
October to November

Euonymus americanus

American strawberry bush
September to October

Sassafras albidum

Sassafras
September to November

Chrysanthemum sp.

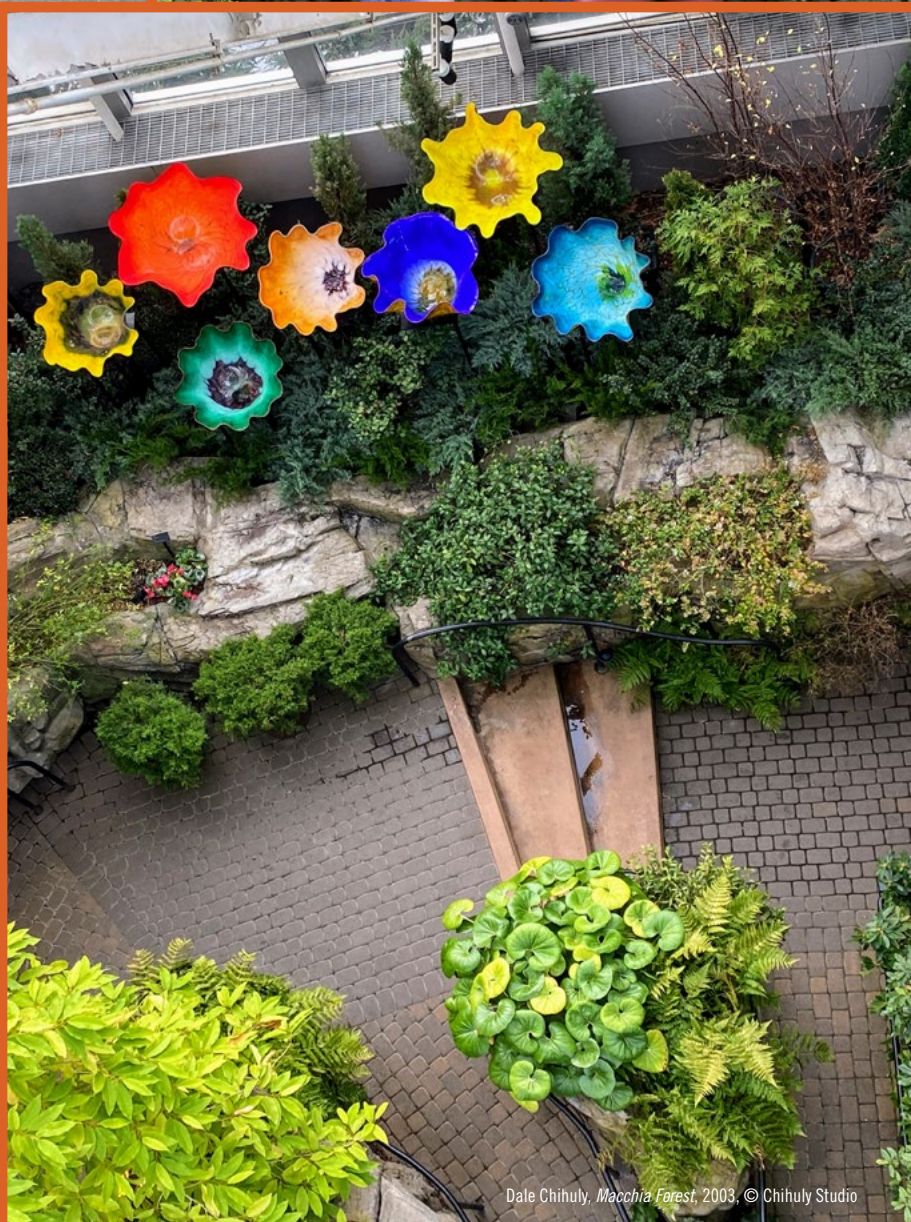
Chrysanthemum
October to November

Ginkgo biloba

Ginkgo
November to December



Dale Chihuly, *Torchier*, 1997. © Chihuly Studio



Dale Chihuly, *Macchia Forest*, 2003. © Chihuly Studio



Dale Chihuly, *Neodymium Reeds and Green Grass*, 2003. © Chihuly Studio



Dale Chihuly, *Nijima Floats*, 2003, *Sunset Chandelier*, 2019. © Chihuly Studio

CHIHULY COLLECTION ON PERMANENT DISPLAY

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

CHIHULY NIGHTS SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT | 6–10PM OCT 3 | NOV 7

ADD A GUIDED TOUR TO YOUR CHIHULY NIGHT!

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 will walk you through the collection and focus on installations, as you learn about the history of the Chihuly Collection and the incredible contributions that Dale Chihuly has made to the development of glass as an art medium.

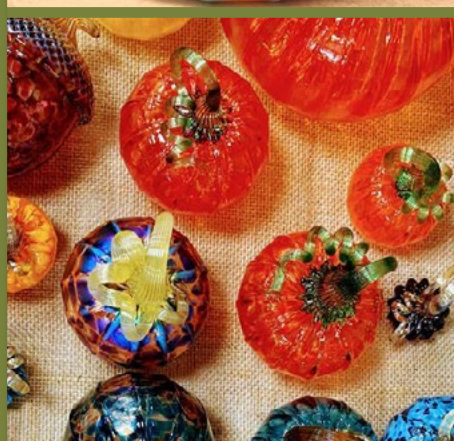
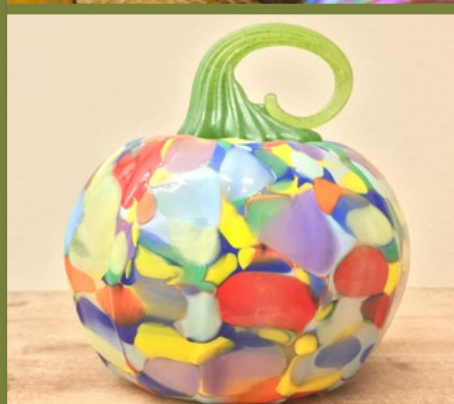
TOURS AVAILABLE 6:30, 7, 7:30 & 8PM NIGHTLY
Pre-registration is recommended as spaces are limited.

CHIHULY NIGHT PERFORMANCES

HONEY & BLUE TRIO: OCTOBER 3 | 8:30–9:30PM
Fresh off releasing a new album, Honey and Blue, a self-described blend of pop and soul music is fronted by singer/songwriters Adam Darling and Stephanie Amber.

STARLIT WAYS: NOVEMBER 7 | 8:30–9:30PM
An acoustic duo made up of international singer Rose Nkechi and guitarist Chris Glover. This husband-and-wife duo will perform an eclectic repertoire including classic jazz, Broadway, modern, and even country hits.

RESERVE TICKETS



BOTANICA

GIFT SHOP & GREENHOUSE

PLANT OF THE MONTH

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



OCTOBER: Snake Plant
NOVEMBER: Peperomia

GLASS PUMPKIN PATCH

OCTOBER 10-11 | 17-18 | 24-25 (11AM-4PM) &
DURING *PUMPKINS AGLOW* EVENINGS

Hundreds of beautiful glass pumpkins and autumn themed items hand crafted by local glass artists will be on display and offered for sale.

VISIT BOTANICA

HOT SHOP & GLASSBLOWING CLASSES

The Conservatory's glass blowing studio offers daily demonstrations, included with admission. Make your own glass pumpkin or small vessel in the Hot Shop's Studio classes. Classes sell out fast, sign up today!

MAKE YOUR OWN PUMPKIN

SPECIAL EVENTS



PUMPKINS AGLOW PRIVATE IGLOO RENTAL

Make your visit to *Pumpkins Aglow* truly magical with a private igloo experience. Nestled among dazzling light displays, your cozy, heated igloo offers a unique and festive setting for celebrating with friends and family. Available through November 1.

RESERVE NOW



SPIRITS & SPELLS

\$35, \$30 FOR MEMBERS
RESERVATIONS REQUIRED | 21+ ONLY
OCTOBER 29 | 5:30-9:30PM

Leave the trick-or-treating to the kids, because tonight the Conservatory is strictly 21+, completely child-free, and local distilleries are excited to share their spooky cocktails with you. This is the ultimate escape for friends and date nights looking for maximum fun and zero doorbell duty!

MORE COCKTAILS IN 2026
WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2: SLEIGH BELL SIPS
THURSDAY DECEMBER 3: SLEIGH BELL SIPS

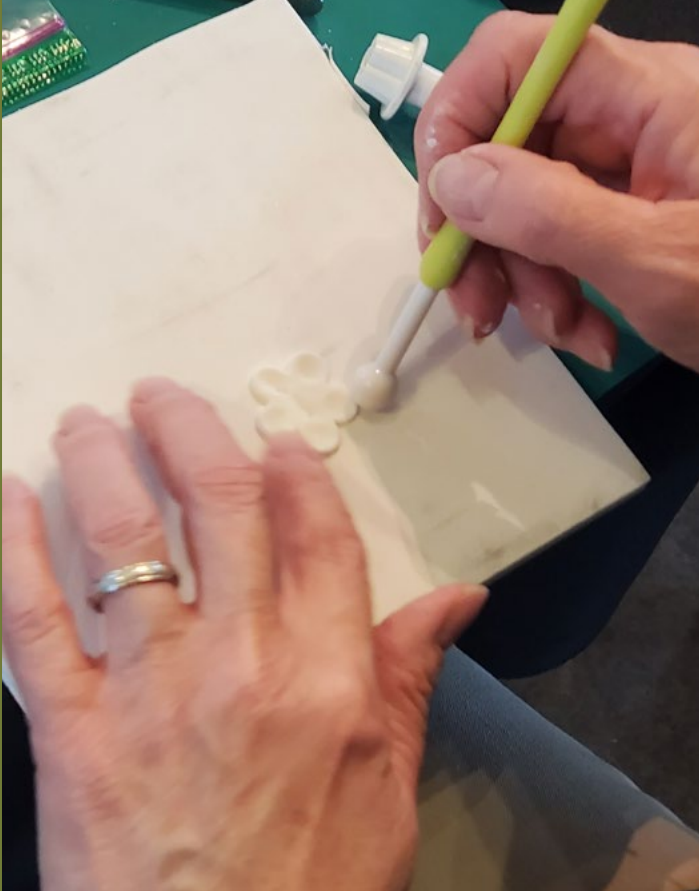
GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

HOST YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY!

EVENT SALES | 614.715.8100
EVENTSALES@FPCONSERVATORY.ORG

Host a holiday party at Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens. The natural beauty of our venues brings a magical ambiance to your event. Holiday parties in the Wells Barn, Garden Pavilion and Veridian are available to book now!

BOOK NOW



LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

A new season calls for new experiences! Take an arts and crafts, gardening or culinary class taught by Conservatory educators and local experts.

FINE ARTS & CRAFTS

Halloween Porch Decor	OCTOBER 14
Watercolor: Nocturnes	OCTOBER 24
Fused Glass Plant Stakes	NOVEMBER 14
Stained Glass Cardinal	NOVEMBER 21

GARDENING & ENVIRONMENTAL

Botanical Cleaning Products	OCTOBER 11
Mindful Nature	OCTOBER 15
Winter Gardening For Birds	NOVEMBER 22

CULINARY ARTS

Pumpkin Cake Decorating	OCTOBER 2
Tacos Al Pastor	OCTOBER 9
CHEFS IN THE CITY: Festive Holiday Dinner	OCTOBER 22

A full list of classes can be found on the online calendar:

[VIEW FULL CLASS SCHEDULE](#)

LEARN TO BLOW GLASS

The Conservatory offers a wide arrange of glassblowing classes; including a one-night class experience to create your own glass pumpkin, ornament or small vessel (or) schedule a 3-hour personal session to work one on one with a glass blowing instructor. No prior experience required.

[TAKE A CLASS](#)

SCOTTS MIRACLE-GRO FOUNDATION CHILDREN'S GARDEN

Included with admission, the Children's Garden is part of the year-round Conservatory experience, with educational programming included through September!

[PLAN YOUR VISIT](#)

EDUCATION



COMING SOON:

HOLIDAY BLOOMS & CONSERVATORY AGLOW

NOVEMBER 21, 2026–JANUARY 3, 2027
Tickets available for purchase starting
October 26.

19TH ANNUAL GINGERBREAD COMPETITION & DISPLAY

ON PUBLIC DISPLAY: DECEMBER 2–31

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

After a year hiatus, the Conservatory's
annual Gingerbread Competition is BACK
BY POPULAR DEMAND!

This year's competition theme will be Winter
Wonderland Contestants will enter and
compete for prizes in one of three categories:

YOUTH

(15 and under)

ADULT

(16 and over)

FAMILY/COMMUNITY

(mixed ages or unrelated participants).

Entry Drop Off dates:

*November 28–29, 2026
10am–4pm or 5–9pm*