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Franklin Park Conservatory Completes First Project of Major Expansion
*John F. Wolfe Palm House Additions Include Rooftop Gardens, Brides Garden and
Special Events Area*

(August 8, 2008 – Columbus, Ohio) – Franklin Park Conservatory will unveil to the community tonight its recently expanded John F. Wolfe Palm House. As the first step of the Conservatory's \$21 million multi-faceted Master Plan to transform Franklin Park and the Conservatory, this expansion includes two rooftop gardens, a brides garden, a new event venue and event support facilities.

"This completion of the John F. Wolfe Palm House expansion is a major milestone for Franklin Park Conservatory that will enrich the artistic and cultural fabric of our community for years to come," said Bruce Harkey, executive director of Franklin Park Conservatory. "The expansion will not only be more accommodating for special events, it will improve functionality, increase events capacity and generate additional revenue."

"Today wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our public and private partners that backed this expansion," said Frederick L. Ransier, III, Franklin Park Conservatory's board president. "Because of their support, the John F. Wolfe Palm House additions will generate new revenue for the Conservatory to help support our community outreach, exhibitions and horticulture programs."

The lead donors to the campaign are American Electric Power Foundation; city of Columbus, The William H. Davis, Dorothy M. Davis and William C. Davis Foundation; Limited Brands Foundation; Nationwide Foundation; The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company; the state of Ohio; and the Robert E. Wolfe and Edgar T. Wolfe Foundation.

The Conservatory worked with landscape designer Julie Moir Messervy and local urban design and landscape architecture firm MSI on the landscape design for the Palm House additions. Messervy is known for her work on the Toronto Music Garden in conjunction with cellist Yo-Yo Ma. The Conservatory also worked with the architecture firm Schooley Caldwell Associates and Miles-McClellan Construction.

The John F. Wolfe Palm House expansion includes:

- **Special Events Addition** – Special event visitors will enter the Conservatory through a new entrance in the addition adjacent to the Palm House to the north. A new special events venue in this addition will seat up to 170.
- **Event Support Facilities** – Adjacent to the Palm House to the south, the second addition will provide facilities for back-of-the-house activities. Located in this area will be dressing rooms for event clients, a catering area, conference rooms for event client meetings and offices for the Conservatory's special events staff.
- **Rooftop Gardens** – Atop each addition will be a rooftop garden – one with an Asian theme and one with a Mediterranean theme. The gardens will be accessed through the Show House and will be available for special events as well as enjoyed by general visitors.
- **Brides Garden** – Adjacent to the north addition will be the Brides Garden, a terraced garden that can be used for small weddings, receptions, or more intimate gatherings.

Franklin Park Conservatory recently broke ground for its new Community Garden Campus, the second major project of its Master Plan, which is set to open in summer 2009. This expansion, once complete, will consist of a four-acre campus on the southeast corner of Franklin Park that will become the center for the Conservatory's expanded horticulture and environmental programs. Located on the campus will be the Community Garden Center, an Education Pavilion, a summer kitchen and culinary and demonstration gardens to be used for new outreach and education initiatives.

The campus will be anchored by the restored caretaker's house, the soon to be headquarters of the American Community Gardening Association (ACGA) – a bi-national organization that helps build communities by increasing and enhancing community gardening and greening efforts across the U.S. and Canada – and the Conservatory's community gardening program, *Growing to Green*.

The Conservatory's Master Plan was developed in 1999-2000 with input from a numerous stakeholders, including community, business and government leaders, surrounding neighborhood residents, school children, Franklin Park Conservatory staff and board, and volunteers. The Conservatory has raised \$19.2 million of the \$21 million goal for the first capital campaign in its history.

About Franklin Park Conservatory

Franklin Park Conservatory offers unique botanical collections, art exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. The Conservatory features the historic Victorian John F. Wolfe Palm House built in 1895 and 73,000 square feet of glasshouses and classrooms situated in an 88-acre urban park minutes from downtown. Franklin Park Conservatory is the only botanical garden in the world to own a signature collection of the work of acclaimed glass artist Dale Chihuly and a permanent light installation by world-renowned artist James Turrell.

Franklin Park Conservatory is located at 1777 E. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio, 43203 and is open Tuesday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors and students, and \$4.00 for children 2-12. Members and children under 2 are free. All exhibitions are included in the general admission price. For more information, visit the Conservatory's Web site at www.fpconservatory.org.

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