

DENVER BOTANIC  
GARDENS

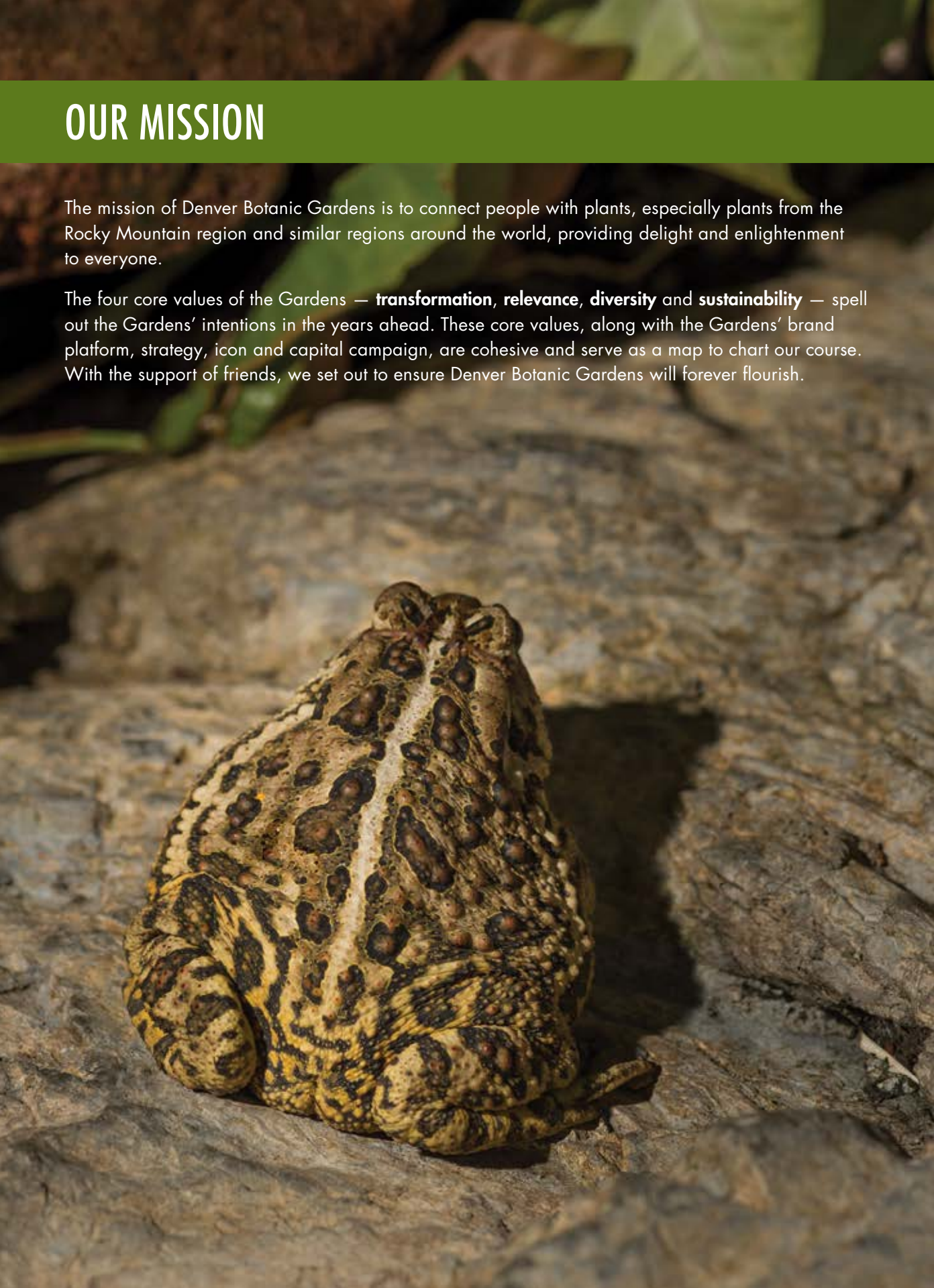
ANNUAL REPORT 2018



# OUR MISSION

The mission of Denver Botanic Gardens is to connect people with plants, especially plants from the Rocky Mountain region and similar regions around the world, providing delight and enlightenment to everyone.

The four core values of the Gardens — **transformation**, **relevance**, **diversity** and **sustainability** — spell out the Gardens’ intentions in the years ahead. These core values, along with the Gardens’ brand platform, strategy, icon and capital campaign, are cohesive and serve as a map to chart our course. With the support of friends, we set out to ensure Denver Botanic Gardens will forever flourish.



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## MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



In some ways, 2018 felt like the beginning of an end. After more than a decade of intense fundraising, planning, designing and building, the final project of the Master Development Plan was ready to get underway.

The crowd was gathered. The board chairs who initiated the plan were lined up. The architects and builders looked like proud parents. Representatives from the City and County of Denver spoke of more than 60 years of partnership.

Volunteers and staff gathered around with looks of enthusiasm and a little disbelief. And a phalanx of donors stood and graciously accepted waves of appreciation.

The crescendo came when Ginny and John Freyer and Bob and Judi Newman took turns breaking the ground for the new science, art and education center that would bear their names. They tossed soil into a pot that would be home to a cutting from a juniper planted at the Gardens' original site in City Park. As it grows, it will be planted in the gardens surrounding the Freyer – Newman Center.

And then the realization hit. Completing a project, even the last and largest one, in a Master Development Plan is not an ending. These projects were all carefully chosen because of how they will serve future generations.

As the Center rises, we are dreaming of possibilities. How much biodiversity can the herbaria document? Which scholars will be drawn to the rare books collection? We can envision the auditorium activated every day, the classrooms teeming, the art galleries showcasing international legends and local protégés. The neighborhood will have a wonderful new gathering place. And there will be storage – that elusive, unquenchable need – lots of storage.

Wrapped together, this Master Development Plan will surpass \$115 million in improvements and endowment support. And as we begin with these new assets, we are beginning to see new projects on the horizon. Three York Street gardens need attention. And why not begin a new Master Development Plan for Chatfield Farms?

Add in countless new partners, programs and services, and you quickly realize that at Denver Botanic Gardens, it's all about beginnings.

Brian Vogt  
Denver Botanic Gardens CEO

# YEAR IN REVIEW

## EXHIBITIONS, ART AND LEARNING ENGAGEMENT



Artist-in-Residence Asuka Hishiki

The School of Botanical Art & Illustration (SBAI) served nearly 1,500 registrants through 140 courses, including programs at El Charco Botanical Garden in Mexico. This marks an almost 30 percent increase in registrations over 2017.

As artist-in-residence, Asuka Hishiki from Japan documented Colorado native plants, working with collections and curatorial staff.

Six exhibitions were presented throughout the year including *Pixelated: Sculpture* by Mike Whiting and *Invisible Links: Botanical Art & Illustration*. Small-scale installations rounded out visitor experience through interactive video games, music generated from plants and glass poppies in honor of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day.

Interpretation efforts at Chatfield Farms yielded 40 bilingual interpretive and wayfinding signs; at York Street biodiversity and water conservation themes were highlighted through 264 bilingual plant labels and signs.

Ten students received a foundational certificate in botanical illustration.

Spanish language capacities increased with the addition of a bilingual Learning Engagement & Interpretation Coordinator.

## CENTER FOR GLOBAL INITIATIVES

In September, Dr. Sarada Krishnan, director of horticulture and Center for Global Initiatives, presented a lecture at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) capacity building workshop in Laos on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (PGRFRA). The goal is to bring together the ASEAN Member States (AMS) to understand the gap in capacities related to PGRFRA and promote agricultural development, food security and rural viability through four workshops focused on region-wide sharing of PGRFRA and developing collaborations for joint breeding.

The first teacher workshop on World Food Prize Global Food Security was held at the Gardens to equip teachers with the tools to offer the World Food Prize Youth Institute program at their schools.

Identified as one of the four major steppe regions of the world, the Lesotho highlands are an important region for Denver Botanic Gardens to visit, collect from and gain an understanding of its flora. Curator of Steppe Collections Mike Bone joined scientists and horticulturists from the Munich Botanical Gardens in Lesotho to collect seed and to provide horticultural training to staff members of the Katse Alpine Botanical Garden. During this trip, 176 accessions were collected. The seeds are currently undergoing germination tests.

The Gardens continued a partnership with the Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria (INTA) in Argentina. Seeds received in 2017 were germinated and are undergoing field trials. Seeds collections were made in 2018 to be received in early 2019. The agreement between INTA and the Gardens was extended through December 2020.

## CHATFIELD FARMS

A record 57,564 people attended Corn Maze and the haunted maze.

Renovations were completed on the exterior of the Wayne Christian Center, which houses staff offices.

Director of Chatfield Farms Larry Vickerman spoke about soil management strategies for achieving water efficiency in small-scale agriculture at the Water, Food, Energy and Environment Nexus with the UNESCO World Water Assessment Programme in Perugia, Italy in November.

Private rentals set a record for number of events and total revenue.



Iris Garden at Chatfield Farms

Lavender Festival highlighted a ½ acre of new garden with 1,250 plants representing 10 new lavender varieties.

Despite the comparatively small size of the Republic of Georgia, it is rich in plant and ecosystem diversity. Germplasm from the region is broadly adaptable to a variety of climates throughout the United States, and particularly so in the mid-Atlantic and Midwestern states. In collaboration with the Plant Collecting Collaborative (a consortium of 15 U.S. botanic gardens), Panayoti Kelaidis, director of outreach and senior curator, travelled there targeting seed collections of selected geophyte taxa and their various geographical variants. Fifty-four accessions were brought back to Denver and are undergoing testing.

Dr. Krishnan traveled to Tashkent, Uzbekistan as part of a delegation of the Plant Collecting Collaborative for a workshop hosted by the Uzbekistan Institute of Botany Central Academy of Sciences. This workshop brought together representatives from botanical institutes from other middle Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. At the end of the workshop, the “Tashkent Accord” was signed to strengthen collaboration between participating institutions in joint scientific ventures, plant expeditions and exchange of information.

Lesotho, photo by Mike Bone



## DEVELOPMENT



Architectural rendering of the Freyer - Newman Center

The Sturm Family Foundation committed to a challenge grant of \$2,050,000 to finish the funding of the Freyer - Newman Center. The challenge was completely met by year end, with a total of \$43 million raised for the capstone project of the Master Development Plan.

UMB Bank committed to another two years (2019 and 2020) as the Presenting Sponsor of the Summer Concert Series as well as the naming of the UMB Bank Amphitheater.

The Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) awarded the Gardens a \$250,000 grant for the move to the Freyer - Newman Center; it will assist in moving, housing and cataloging the institution's invaluable library, archival, natural history and art collections.

Urban Food Initiatives continue to attract individual and foundation funders for the Chatfield Farms Veteran Farm Program and farm stands in underserved parts of Denver.

In April 2018, the Gardens began asking gift shop customers if they would like to donate to the Gardens by rounding up their purchase to the next dollar. In nine months, 22,605 transactions of less than a dollar each totaled \$10,728.27 in new gifts to the Gardens.

Contributing Memberships at \$2,500 and above reached record numbers of 78 member households representing revenue in excess of \$308,000.

## EDUCATION AND LIBRARY

Children's Education offered its first Arid Climate Terrarium Program to Denver Arts and Culture Venue Summer Enrichment Scholarship recipients. Children planted an arid climate plant and explored adaptations of succulents, connecting back to the Youth One Book One Denver book that was set in the Arizona desert.

The Teacher Professional Development effort ran more classes at more locations than ever, including a new series on the World Food Prize drawing on horticulture staff expertise.

The Helen Fowler Library was gifted the Connors Rare Book Collection, a donation from Trustee Edward Connors.

Archives received a large donation of materials about George Kelly, local gardening author and first acting director of Denver Botanic Gardens.

The Gardens hosted the second annual Early Childhood Health Outdoors (ECHO) Summit in October. The ECHO initiative is a partnership between the National Wildlife Federation, Qualistar and the Natural Learning Initiative and aims to provide training to early childhood programs in Colorado to include natural learning environments to their programs. The number of participants increased from 100 to 121 early childhood professionals.

The Bonfils-Stanton Series brought 46 programs to 1,179 adult students, reflecting a deliberate increase in the number of small classes.

Librarians assessed the circulating books and serials collection in preparation for moving the collections.

Children's Education offered its first offsite Family Workshop, Build a Fairy Garden, which was held at Riverdale Regional Park in Adams County.

## EVENTS

The fourth year of Glow at the Gardens™ was a huge success:

- o Attendance: 17,444 (sold out all five nights)
- o Attendance Revenue: \$286,028
- o Overall Gross Revenue: \$354,480.45

Spring Plant Sale was record-breaking:

- o Attendance: 14,337
- o Gross revenue achieved: \$379,402.47 (23% higher than 2017)

Blossoms of Light™, the Gardens' largest event, welcomed 145,406 visitors and \$1.6 million in revenue, which exceeded the revenue goal by \$500,000.



At the Plains Conservation Center, in partnership with the City of Aurora, the Gardens provided programming, lunch and transportation to at-risk north Aurora students.

This was the seventh year of Five Seasons of Cherokee Ranch Nature and Bird Hikes; all hikes sold out.

The classes accompanying Lavender Festival at Chatfield Farms sold out.

Thanks to a collaboration between the Helen Fowler Library and IT staff, access to JSTOR (the digital library for scholars, researchers and students) was improved for users at York Street and Chatfield Farms.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Gardens hosted the Daisy Welcome to the Flower Garden program in collaboration with the Girl Scouts of Colorado. This program has grown significantly over the past five years.



## HORTICULTURE

Dan Johnson, curator of native plants, conducted a collection expedition for Jeffery pine, *Pinus jeffreyi*, on the east side of Lake Tahoe. Collections included cones for seeds and scion material for grafting from specific trees selected for their unique tree characteristics. Germination rate has been high and many grafts survived. Once large enough, several will be distributed to Denver city parks for planting. Several characteristics justify the effort to increase the Jeffery pine's use in cultivation:

- o Excellent heat and drought tolerance
- o Very ornamental, with the longest needles of any cold-hardy pine for our region
- o Very resilient under heavy snow loads
- o Tall and generally slender in maturity with spire-like silhouette
- o Adaptable to many interior growing conditions of the American West
- o Rarely used in the Denver/Front Range area; this adds diversity to urban forest canopy

Mike Kintgen, curator of alpine collections, and Michael Guidi, horticulturist, made a seed-collecting trip to the Bighorn and Beartooth mountains in Wyoming to expand and diversify the Gardens' living collections. External participants included representatives from the Gardens on Spring Creek, Fort Collins, Yampa River Botanic Park, Steamboat Springs and a visiting scientist from the Czech Crop Research Institute. Altogether, 120 collections representing 102 taxa were made. Pending ID verification of several collections, 10 new taxa and 23 new wild collected taxa will be added to the Gardens' living collections.

The Timber Press field guide "Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountain Region" was published and is available at most retail and online book outlets, as well as the Shop at the Gardens. Authored by 11 staff experts, this easy-to-use reference is a comprehensive publication covering the entire Rocky Mountain range from New Mexico to Canada, separated into three main regions: the Southern Rockies, the Middle Rockies and the Northern Rockies.

*Salix humilis*, or the dwarf prairie willow, is a deciduous, colonial shrub native to North America, mostly east of the Mississippi river with a range from Nova Scotia to Florida. One of the most drought-tolerant native willows, *Salix humilis* is found not only in riparian transitional areas, but in sandy and dry upland patches of prairie. Its potential for use in the Denver landscape and the horticultural community is vast and should be explored. Mike Bone, curator of steppe collections, and Kevin Philip Williams, horticulturist, undertook a six-day collection trip searching Iowa and North Dakota for specimens of *Salix humilis* and associated species. Collections were taken from 12 specimens, including six selections of *Salix humilis* (five wild, one cultivated) and eight different habitat-associated species. Selections will be installed throughout the Gardens.

As the International Registrar of Nymphaeaceae through the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society, Tamara Kilbane, senior horticulturist, aquatics, registered 38 new waterlily cultivars from the U.S., 34 from nine different hybridizers in China, and one from Italy.

The Gardens hosted six interns and a Doctor of Plant Health intern, which was a specialized internship through the University of Nebraska. Participants were enrolled in or recent graduates from horticulture programs from Wisconsin, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and New York.

From the Gardens' living collections, 170 accessions were distributed in the form of leaf samples for molecular research, propagules for horticultural research/breeding, and plants and plant parts for educational displays and collections. Some of the interesting research use of our collections include:

- o Continuation of the *Penstemon* scent and pollinator studies by researchers at Uppsala University, Sweden
- o Molecular research of *Phacelia* at Colorado State University
- o Molecular research of *Opuntia* spp. at Arizona State University to study the viral diversity and distribution within *Opuntia* spp. and related species to characterize newly identified viruses, look for recombination signatures as well as their evolutionary dynamics and correlations to potential host
- o Anatomical research of various species at University of Denver that included spectroscopy of pollen for a project entitled "Development of an inexpensive fluorescence spectrometer for bioaerosol detection and analysis."

## MARKETING & SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



Día de los Muertos attracted more than 11,000 people to the Gardens on November 3. The ninth annual event included onsite and offsite collaborations with Museo de las Americas, the Denver Broncos and the Westwood neighborhood/BuCuWest.

The Gardens and Metropolitan State University of Denver became partners in the United Nations Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture through their jointly managed One World One Water Center. This partnership will facilitate joint research on and application of water-efficient agricultural practices in the developing world.

Students from University of Colorado Boulder's Environmental Design program designed and built two ticket booths to help the Gardens welcome and process visitors to public events at both York Street and Chatfield Farms. The booths not only keep staff and volunteers comfortable year round, but their external illuminated panels against a wood and metal frame impressed design judges around the world. The booths won awards from the City of Denver and the Architectural MasterPrize, awarded in Bilbao, Spain.

Authors of "Wildflowers of the Rocky Mountain Region"



## OPERATIONS



Construction of the Freyer — Newman Center

Excavation for the Freyer – Newman Center was complete by the end of 2018.

The flat roof surrounding the Boettcher Memorial Tropical Conservatory was re-lined.

The Tropical Conservatory entrance in the Boettcher Memorial Center was replaced with a new, solid structure.

The El Pomar waterwall was given a facelift with colorful tile and a new scupper to cast the waterfall out into the pond.

The parking garage lighting system was upgraded to entirely LED.

A brick pathway was laid through the new Secret Garden, adjacent to the Welcome Garden.

The irrigation control system was upgraded and fully mapped.

## RESEARCH & CONSERVATION



Researchers at the High Line Canal

Herbarium staff led 10 weeks of collecting along the High Line Canal with the support of seasonal employees and volunteers. More than 1,600 specimens were collected along the canal, creating a baseline of data. In addition to plant collecting, a University of Colorado Denver graduate student conducted a bee survey along the canal.

Through a commitment to train the next generation of conservation practitioners, the Research and Conservation Department engaged with local universities to mentor three graduate students and host 12 undergraduate interns, as well as taught courses through the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Colorado Boulder.

Mycology staff launched the Colorado Mycoflora Project to document Colorado's macrofungal species diversity and distribution to create a functional mycoflora, which will enable the conservation and preservation of Rocky Mountain forests. The project launch was successfully funded through the fundraising platform Experiment.com.

Staff are conducting restoration experiments at Chatfield Farms to understand invasive species removal methods and appropriate species and techniques for restoration plantings. This work is being conducted by a graduate student at the University of Colorado Denver, and a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Using herbarium specimens to look back in time and assess flowering date for several hundred species, it was found that, on average, species that showed earlier bloom times than in previous years bloomed 39 days earlier at the end of the 61-year study than at the beginning. These results speak to the sensitivity of these species to climate change. This work was published in the scientific publication Biodiversity and Conservation.

**Urban Food Initiatives and science and research continue to be large focuses of the Gardens. For detailed information on these 2018 endeavors, see separate reports on our website.**

## BY THE NUMBERS

January through December 2018

### Visitors

Total annual attendance: **1,346,456**

### Membership

Total member households: **43,655**

### Staff

Full-time, part-time and seasonal staff: **278**

### Communications

Total online pageviews: **7.2 million**

Visits via mobile device: **54.7%**

Total email subscribers: **180,000**

Social media followers: **175,000**

### Living Plant Collection

Plant families: **255**

Genera: **2,288**

Species: **10,874**

Taxa: **18,674**

Accessions: **32,366**

### Plant Propagation & Production

Plants produced for displays: **57,098**

Plants produced for CSA and Market Garden: **71,131**

Spring and fall plant sales: **20,291**

### Index Seminum Seed Program

Institutions that ordered seeds: **39**

Countries that participated: **14**

Distributed seed packets: **426**

Accessions acquired: **430**

### Research & Conservation

Tissue samples collected for Global Genome Biodiversity Network: **approximately 2,100**

Plant specimens collected: **over 7,200**

Fungal specimens collected: **332**

Arthropod specimens collected: **4,011**

Peer-reviewed scientific articles published: **11**

Presentations at national and international conferences: **19**

Seed collected for conservation: **49,428**  
Scouted 30 species across Colorado, collected seed from 10 populations of 9 species.

Outreach participation: **70 events engaged 3,386 people**

### Community Garden

Rented plots: **90**

Registered gardeners: **155 gardeners**

Produce donated to SAME Café: **1,190 lbs**

Visitors to the garden: **4,220**

### Horticulture Therapy Program

*Participants per category*

SPARK: **120 people**

Summer Sensory: **120 people**

Winter Green: **180 people**

Low Sensory Mornings: **70 people**

Rocky Mountain Cancer Center Meditative Walks: **48 people**

Rocky Mountain Cancer Bonsai Program: **12 people**

Sensory Garden Volunteer Program: **served 27 people with disabilities**

Possibility Pool job placement: **hired 2 groundskeepers**

### Interpretation and Visitor Engagement

York Street: **241 tours served 3,381 people**

Chatfield Farms: **8 tours served 137 people**

Mount Goliath: **19 volunteers engaged 1,675 people**

Roving docent interactions:

York Street: **more than 11,000 people** (an almost 70% increase over 2017)

Chatfield Farms: **more than 200 people**

Science Chats: **485** (more than 18,000 visitor interactions)

More than **46,000 words** were translated from English into Spanish for interpretation purposes.

### Education Programs

School children served: **28,933**

Different schools served: **376**

Family and youth program attendance: **12,167**

Family and youth program offerings: **516**

Adult class and workshop attendance: **12,998**

Adult class and workshop offerings: **645**

### Helen Fowler Library

**Circulation:**

items checked out: **2,501**

items used in house: **1,758**

periodicals used in house: **825**

JSTOR periodicals used: **1,108**

**Patrons:**

new patrons were added: **312**

visitors to the library: **22,477**

**Catalog:**

new items/records added to the library collection: **1,080**

eBooks added to the library collection: **6,745**

library records edited/corrected: **2,436**

**InterLibrary Loan:**

items lent to other libraries: **70**

items borrowed for staff and members: **235**

Reference questions answered: **2,279**

Gardening Help questions answered: **2,065**

### Rentals and Private Events

Chatfield Farms: **195 events, \$705,337 in revenue**

York Street: **258 events, \$766,688 in revenue**



## TREASURER'S REPORT

The accompanying financial statements also include the accounts of Denver Botanic Gardens Endowment Inc. ("DBGE") a separate nonprofit organization established in 1991 that holds a majority of the Gardens endowment funds and also includes the accounts of Denver Botanic Gardens Guild, an affiliated volunteer organization that works for the betterment of the Gardens by providing volunteer assistance and financial aid.

In 2018, the Gardens continued its mission of connecting people with plants with an operating budget of \$22.5 million. We ended the current year with an operating surplus of nearly \$2.4 million, compared to \$2.6 million in 2017.

Non-operating activity included: endowment and capital campaign contributions for the Freyer – Newman Center for Science, Art and Education of more than \$5.1 million; investment return on the endowment (net of distribution) of minus \$2.5 million; and capital expenditures of \$6.6 million. In addition, the Gardens received the first \$4.8 million out of \$18 million in bond proceeds allocated for construction of the Freyer – Newman Center under the Elevate Denver bond program. Under the operating agreement with the City all capital improvements are assets of the City and as such are not reflected as the Gardens' assets in the accompanying financial statements. These capital improvements, however, are central to our mission and the experience of visiting the Gardens.

Total program services expenditures (representing core programs in the areas of horticulture, research, education and Chatfield Farms) totaled \$19.3 million.

Endowment net assets declined from \$30.1 million in 2017 to \$28.3 million in 2018 after contributions, realized and unrealized gains, and a \$985,000 distribution to the Gardens' operating budget. Endowment investments are stated at fair market value each year and for 2018 the change in fair value resulted in a loss of 4.9%. In accordance with the endowment's investment policy, determined by the DBGE Board of Directors, the portfolio is diversified to limit risk. Since its inception in July 1992, the portfolio has earned a compound annual growth rate of 7.4%.

During 2018, the finance committee of the board of trustees, the chair of the board, the CEO and the CFO met regularly to review financial statements and results. This committee also approved the annual operating budget, the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 and made recommendations on various policy decisions to the Board of Trustees and the CEO.

On behalf of the Gardens, I would like to thank the members, donors, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) the City and County of Denver, and the staff and volunteers for their foundation of support as we endeavor to ensure that the Gardens will forever flourish.

Michael Imhoff  
*Treasurer, Board of Trustees*



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

DECEMBER 31, 2018

ASSETS	2018	2017
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$5,657,948	\$4,116,515
Cash Restricted for Capital Projects	13,320,349	7,662,280
Supplemental Lease Payment Fund	936,313	335,629
Accounts Receivable	1,620,000	1,789,892
Bond Proceeds Receivable	1,284,027	–
Contributions Receivable	6,983,246	9,618,402
Prepaid Expenses	225,809	144,658
Inventory	333,763	257,115
Investments	28,294,782	30,004,373
Property, Plant and Equipment – Net	972,448	809,979
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$59,628,685</b>	<b>\$54,738,843</b>

## LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Liabilities	2018	2017
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$3,293,16	\$1,786,396
Deferred Revenue	677,097	533,511
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,970,263</b>	<b>2,319,907</b>

## Net Assets

Without Donor Restrictions	13,898,762	12,139,477
With Donor Restrictions	41,759,660	40,279,459
<b>TOTAL NET ASSETS</b>	<b>55,658,422</b>	<b>52,418,936</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$59,628,685</b>	<b>\$54,738,843</b>

COMBINED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	2018	2017
<b>Operating Revenues, Gains &amp; Support</b>		
SCFD	\$4,657,267	\$4,429,136
Membership Dues	3,370,997	3,271,160
Admissions	2,739,637	2,528,064
Special Events and Facility Rentals	4,235,593	4,080,887
Contributions and Grants	3,098,242	2,585,020
Chatfield Farms	2,144,468	2,069,467
City and County of Denver	1,089,928	1,058,183
Educational/Public Programs	1,196,911	1,033,857
The Shop at the Gardens	865,665	788,003
Endowment Distribution	985,309	941,521
Other	534,099	520,274
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES, GAINS &amp; SUPPORT</b>	<b>\$24,918,116</b>	<b>\$23,305,572</b>

## Operating Expenditures

Program Services	19,280,956	17,297,946
Supporting Services	3,246,572	3,442,061

<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>22,527,528</b>	<b>20,740,007</b>
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Change in Net Assets from Operating Activities	2,390,588	2,565,565
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## Non-Operating Activities

Endowment and Capital Campaign Contributions	5,101,544	13,648,609
Capital Improvements	(6,560,776)	(1,730,219)
Bond Proceeds Received for Capital Projects	4,760,396	–
Investment Return on Endowments, After Distribution	(2,452,266)	2,965,626
Change in Net Assets from Non-Operating Activities	848,898	14,884,016

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	52,418,936	34,969,355
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<b>NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$55,658,422</b>	<b>\$52,418,936</b>
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## MESSAGE FROM THE 2018 BOARD CHAIR



**Back row (left to right):** Catherine Hance, Jeanette Pryor, Joe Black, Margie Soileau, Caroline Schomp, Dawn Wood, Nancy Schotters, Dick Clark, Kathy Hodgson, Vicki Eppler, Al Gerace, Scott Richards, Missy Eliot, Cindy Scott, Mary Lee Chin, Wy Livingston, Jane O'Shaughnessy, Patricia Lepiani, Mike Imhoff, Christina Caulkins, Tish Maes, Marianne Sulser, BJ Dyer

**Front (seated left to right):** Ed Connors, Bea Taplin, Janet Mordecai

**Not Pictured:** Jandel Allen-Davis, Dawn Bookhardt, Papa Dia, Rhonda Fields, Cory Freyer, Happy Haynes, Ding Wen Hsu, Richard Kirk, Jim Lochhead, Allyson Mendenhall, Judi Newman, Abe Rodriguez, Ryan Ross, Harold Smethills, Charlie Woolley

Best wishes from the Board of Trustees of Denver Botanic Gardens. Due to the tremendous support from our members, neighbors, volunteers, donors, staff and board committees, 2018 was a spectacular year for the Gardens. We thank each and every one of you.

Due to our many visitors – we were one of the most visited public gardens in the U.S. during 2018 – and extensive media coverage, you have probably attended or heard about many of our successful programs and events, such as Lavender Festival, Pumpkin Festival, Corn Maze and Santa's Village, all at Chatfield Farms, and the Summer Concert Series, Glow at the Gardens and Blossoms of Light, at York Street. You may even have visited the *amorphophallus titanum* (corpse flower) when it bloomed again in August and shared its stinky fragrance!

But, 2018 was also significant because the Gardens continued to be a leader in conservation and water stewardship, projects which are extremely important to all of us in the Rocky Mountains' semi-arid climate. The Gardens and Metropolitan State University of Denver jointly manage the One World One Water Center (OWOW) which collaborates on research and education in water-efficient agriculture. OWOW recently became a partner in the United Nations' Global Framework on Water Scarcity in Agriculture. Through the efforts of OWOW and the Gardens' Center for Global Initiatives, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed on March 22, 2018 between Denver and the City of San Luis Rio Colorado in Sonora, Mexico that creates several cross border collaborations which further water-wise landscape and agricultural practices.

Also, during 2018, through collaboration with Zero Mass Water, the Gardens installed four solar-powered atmospheric water harvesters – three at York Street and one at Chatfield Farms – which use the power of the sun to convert water vapor into water for residential and commercial use. Although currently small in scale, these experiments in technology could benefit people world-wide who live in water challenged environments. In June, the Gardens hosted the fourth annual Watershed Summit which was attended by nearly 200 water professionals to discuss technology, innovation, sustainable development and water wise agriculture.

The Gardens is committed to showcasing beautiful gardens, attractive landscaping and productive agriculture for semi-arid climates by advancing water-efficient gardening, proper agriculture principles, and water conservation.

I have been honored to serve with our wonderful board, staff, volunteers and donors which make our sites wonderful places to observe and appreciate floral beauty, but also places to research, study, and learn about the importance of water stewardship and conservation.

Dick Clark  
*Chair, Board of Trustees*

# 2018 GIFTS & DONATIONS

## \$25,000 and Above

Citizens of the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District  
Anonymous  
The Anschutz Foundation  
The Barton Family Foundation  
Mrs. Laura Barton and Mr. William Matthews  
William and Sondra Bechhoefer  
Boettcher Foundation  
Bonfils-Stanton Foundation  
The Clinton Family Fund  
Colorado Garden Foundation  
Edward P. and Hope S. Connors  
Denver Botanic Gardens Guild  
Denver Debutante Ball  
The Denver Foundation:  
Thomas and Beatrice Taplin Fund  
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Colorado Homes & Lifestyles  
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 Mr. and Mrs. George Sissel  
 Amy Slothower  
 Anne Smith  
 Shaun Spaid  
 Bryanna Spaulding  
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 Rosa Wesley  
 Virginia Westgaard  
 Westminster College Hill Library  
 Wilson's Charitable Account  
 Kenneth and Janet Wolfgram

Amy Wood  
 Matt and Amanda Yonan  
 Andrew York  
 Nonnie Young  
 Kimberly Zingale and Phillip Zelnar

## Perennial Friends

S. Lorraine Adams and Deborah M. Horner  
 Anonymous  
 Mr. Hartman Axley  
 Patricia Baker  
 Dennis E. Baldwin  
 Dr. Paul H. Barrett and Ms. Sally Barrett  
 Ms. C. C. Barton  
 William and Sondra Bechhoefer  
 Anne T. Bobal  
 Dorothy and Jim Borland  
 Mr. and Mrs. George C. Bulpitt  
 Thomas Burns  
 Ms. Charlene Butler  
 Mrs. Frances F. Cameron  
 Mrs. Jan W. Chase  
 Raymond and Linda Clark  
 Dale T. Colclasure  
 George Cole  
 Edward P. and Hope S. Connors  
 Ms. Anita Cox  
 Ms. Ann L. Crammond  
 Jane and Tim Davis  
 Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ebrahimi  
 Susan Eslick  
 Ms. Stephanie J. Franklin  
 Mr. and Mrs. John E. Freyer  
 Caleb and Sidney Gates  
 Mr. Pat Giarritano and Ms. Janina Kozacka  
 Mr. Thomas J. Gibson and Mr. Nathan Williams  
 Marilyn Girouard  
 Mr. and Mrs. James Golanty  
 Carole and Larry Goodwin  
 Ms. Janet Grant  
 Newell and Judy Grant  
 Ms. Cindy Hagerman  
 Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hasday  
 Susan and Michael Hawes  
 Mr. Tom Hawkey and Mr. Dennis Hamann  
 Ms. Sarah T. Hodge  
 Ms. Christine L. Honnen  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael H. Hurtt  
 Nora and Jack Jones  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Kany  
 Lisa and Robert Kessler  
 Mr. Richard A. Kirk  
 Bonnie J. Kissling  
 Mrs. James B. Kurtz

Christopher K. M. Leach  
 Beverly Littlepage  
 Dr. Patrick McCrann and Dr. Elizabeth McCrann  
 Mr. and Mrs. Michael McLaughlin  
 Ms. Joanne Meras  
 Barbara Miller  
 Heather and Mike Miller  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald A. Milzer  
 Mrs. John C. Mitchell, III  
 Mrs. Janet R. Mordecai  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ron W. Neel  
 Susan E. Osgood  
 Linda R. Patille  
 Mrs. Marjorie A. Petersen  
 Ms. Deborah Phillips  
 Patricia Powell  
 Keith Pryor and John Hayden  
 Dr. Charlotte A. Redden  
 Dina and Ken Robke  
 Mr. and Mrs. Gerald B. Ross  
 Ms. Debra Schaefer  
 Mr. and Mrs. Barney Schotters  
 Mr. and Mrs. David Schultz  
 Mary Ann Schultz  
 Mrs. Merrill Shields and Dr. M. Ray Thomasson  
 Ms. Florence Smith  
 Ms. Gayle Stallings  
 Dr. Pat Sutton  
 Ms. Carol Svendsen and Jay L. Mead  
 Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Turetzky  
 Mr. Brian R. Vogt  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff J. Wagner  
 Ms. Barbara N. Walton  
 John Westcott  
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward D. White III  
 Mrs. Esther L. Witte  
 Ms. Carol Wolf  
 Joan E. Wood  
 Karen Woods  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zaparanick

*We apologize for not being able to include any Perennial Friends after December 31, 2018.*



# VOLUNTEERS

The Gardens is grateful for dedicated volunteers who offer their passions and skills to ensure we fulfill our mission and create important connections between plants, conservation, art and our community.

**Total Active Volunteers:** 2,941  
**Total Volunteer Visits:** 25,841  
**Total Volunteer Hours:** 92,463

## Hours by Department and Affiliate Volunteer Groups

York Street Horticulture:	17,378
Special Events:	19,089*
Public/Private Events:	447*
Exhibits:	465
Research and Conservation:	6,759*
Chatfield (CSA, Horticulture, Greenhouse and Occasional Programs):	6,374
Chatfield (Visitor Experience):	1,265
Children's Education:	2,938*
Adult Education:	1,437*
Science Pyramid:	1,154
Summer Teen Program:	3,815
Gardens Teen Leaders:	287
Ambassador Program:	7,770
Docent Program:	5,498*
Library:	848
Membership:	5
Administration:	69
Development:	59
Summer Concerts:	1,578
Marketing:	747
Gift Shop:	98
Volunteer Services:	4,587*
Plains Conservation Center:	182

\*Includes hours from York Street and Chatfield Farms

## Hours by Affiliate Volunteer Groups

Denver Botanic Gardens Guild:	8,839
Volunteer Leadership Council of Denver Botanic Gardens:	45
Garden Club of Denver:	206
Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild:	1,783
Master Gardeners Garden Help:	809

## Volunteer Award Recipients

**Congratulations to our 2018 Volunteer Award Winners!**

Outstanding Behind the Scenes Volunteer: **Ed and Ikuko Lubow**  
 Outstanding Education Volunteer: **Dale Rudolph**  
 Lainie Jackson Outstanding Horticulture Volunteer: **John Feek**  
 Outstanding Chatfield Farms Volunteer: **Sharon Montague**  
 Marilyn Skelton Most Number of Hours Contributed: **John Feek**  
 Outstanding Teen Volunteer: **Farah Hasan**  
 Excellence in Event Leadership: **Marcia Lavochkin**  
 Bernice "Pete" Peterson: **Anita Cox**  
 Volunteer of the Year: **Marsha Hennessy**



Top: Planting lavender at Chatfield Farms  
 Bottom: Pumpkin Festival



Corn Maze



Día de los Muertos



Blossoms of Light



Pumpkin Festival



Spring Plant Sale



Lavender Festival



Fête des Fleurs



Bumblebee Jamboree

Santa's Village



Horticultural Therapy



Glow at the Gardens



Summer Concert, York Street



Pixelated: Sculpture by Mike Whiting



Mount Goliath







DENVER BOTANIC  
**GARDENS**

1007 York Street  
Denver, CO 80206  
[botanicgardens.org](http://botanicgardens.org)



American  
Public Gardens  
Association



American  
Alliance of  
Museums

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