

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement of the Passing of CEO, Brian Vogt



With great sadness, we announce the passing of Denver Botanic Gardens' CEO, Brian Vogt.

Brian, CEO of the Gardens since 2007, was an exceptional leader, mentor and friend. The Gardens would not be the thriving hub of enlightenment, healing and connection without Brian's passionate and dedicated vision. We are grateful for the many years he gave the Gardens, and his imprint will help us flourish for years to come.

Most of Brian's dreams for the Gardens have come true - chief among them was making it a "garden for all people" - in the words of Brian's close friend and former board chair Dr. Jandel Allen-Davis.

Board of Trustees Chair Mary Lee Chin said, "Brian's influence on Denver Botanic Gardens was deep and lasting, shaping its growth and beauty for nearly two decades. His legacy will continue to inspire all who walk these paths. 'Onward' was more than just one of his favorite sayings—it was a testament to his spirit and optimism. That spirit will be carried forward in all the Gardens does."

"Brian was one of the true visionary leaders in our community," said Deborah Jordy, SCFD Executive Director. "All that is great about Denver Botanic Gardens owes its origin to his boundless optimism and bottomless kindness. It is hard to come to terms with the loss of someone so fundamental to the fabric of our metro area. But, as was Brian's way, he has quietly but steadfastly left us all a legacy of grace, beauty and connection that will stand for generations."

Our thoughts are with Brian's family and all those that he impacted throughout his life.

While we are heartbroken, Brian would have wanted us to find a path forward, and the Board of Trustees appointed Director of Marketing and Social Responsibility Jennifer Riley-Chetwynd as interim CEO.

Jennifer said, "Brian will be profoundly missed. We will strive to maintain the standard of excellence he has built, working in partnership with the Gardens' board and staff."

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About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens' living collections encompass specimens from the tropics to the tundra, showcasing a plant palette chosen to thrive in Colorado's semi-arid climate. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Blue Sky is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Blue Sky Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.