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## **Powell Gardens Names New Vice President of Gardens**

Kansas City, Mo, December 12, 2017—After an extensive search, Powell Gardens, Kansas City’s botanical garden, is pleased to announce the appointment of Kunso Kim as vice president of gardens, a new role marrying the duties of director of horticulture with maintenance oversight, in addition to garden and collections management. Kim will strengthen the strategic future of the gardens when he replaces former Director of Horticulture Alan Branhagen, now Director of Operations at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Kim joins the team at Powell Gardens in early January 2018.

“The Board of Directors and I are thrilled to welcome Kunso Kim to the Gardens,” said Tabitha Schmidt, President and Executive Director of Powell Gardens. “His love of plants is contagious, and his expertise and broad experience will serve us well as we grow.”

For the past three years, Kim has led and advised a team in the implementation of a horticultural master plan for Samsung’s Everland, in Yongin, South Korea. Everland is a 653-acre theme park featuring rides, horticultural attractions and a zoo, attracting more than eight million visitors annually.

“Mr. Kim’s rich, diverse experience and knowledge will be an extremely valuable asset for Powell Gardens,” said Jeanie Latz, chair of the Board of Directors. “We look forward to the many educational opportunities he will bring to the Kansas City region.”



Kim’s move to Kansas City brings him back to the Midwest where he worked for 16 years as Curator and Head of Collections at The Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois. He completed the Longwood Graduate Program in Public Horticulture at the University of Delaware in Newark, Delaware and also was Curator of Plants for Norfolk Botanical Garden in Norfolk, Virginia. His interest in the Midwest and its plant species led him to participate in a recent plant expedition in the Ozarks where he was immersed in the extensive variety of flora in this region.

“I was amazed by the rich diversity of plant species that are supported by different habitats such as prairie, woodland and bottomland forest,” Kim said. “I am excited to see that many wonderful plants native to these habitats are well-represented in Powell Gardens.”

With nearly 30 years of international experience in horticultural organizations, Kim will assume his new role in the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary year as an integral part of the future of Powell Gardens.

### **Powell Gardens**

Powell Gardens, Kansas City’s botanical garden, resides on 970 acres of lush, rolling hills just east of Kansas City on U.S. Highway 50. Known for its contemporary architecture and stunning display gardens, Powell Gardens offers classes, performances and festivals year-round.

Thirty miles east of Kansas City on 50 Highway, Powell Gardens is open March through December, seven days a week (except major holidays). For information, admission and seasonal hours, call 816.697.2600 or visit [powellgardens.org](http://powellgardens.org).