



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**POWELL GARDENS LAUNCHES INAUGURAL SPRING FESTIVAL IN PARTNERSHIP
WITH NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART**

*Art and design collide as local artists reimagine works of art through whimsical
floral installations across the Gardens*

KINGSVILLE, Missouri— Powell Gardens announces Bloom Fest: Play Outside, a new spring festival focused on art, design and plants, presented in partnership with the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Celebrated designer John Rufenacht debuts an immersive conservatory display inspired by *Birthday Bouquet*, a painting by Florine Stettheimer. Along with this attraction, six regional artists create large outdoor displays inspired by additional pieces from the museum’s collection. Bloom Fest begins April 15 and runs Thursday-Sunday, ending on May 9.

“After a long winter and an even longer year, Powell Gardens invites our community outside to experience the hope and rebirth that comes with spring,” said Tabitha Schmidt, Chief Executive Officer for Powell Gardens. “We are thankful to have support from the arts community and look forward to exploring connections between art and nature. While Powell Gardens is not immune to the impact of COVID-19, we are looking forward with gratitude. We are glad to steward an expansive outdoor venue for high-level cultural experiences and are thrilled to partner with leading cultural organizations in 2021.”

The four-week festival highlights spring blooms throughout seven themed gardens. Spread out over 25 acres, visitors have the chance to see spring favorites, calling out the long-awaited transition from winter to warmer days. Highlights include a greenhouse with a spring meadow and a living wall, as well as a dessert bar in the Perennial Lounge and a unique Mother’s Day brunch offering. For tickets and more information, please visit powellgardens.org/bloomfest.

“The installation is my interpretation of the emotions in the painting,” said John Rufenacht, featured Bloom Fest artist. “Selecting a moment in time of the painter’s birthday celebration in her garden among her family and friends. Florine was a lady of divine individuality and total self-confidence. Her views and setting them in motion made her the celebrated personality of her peers. It’s a glorious, colorful, imaginative celebration in the garden.”

All offerings are included with festival admission, with the exception of the Mother’s Day picnic baskets (\$12 general admission; \$5 children 5-12; Free for members and children under 4; Discounts for seniors and active military).

Special Events during Bloom Fest: Play Outside

Kansas City Ikebana at Powell Gardens: April 15-19 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Japanese floral arrangements created by six student designers of the Kansas City Ikebana group will be on display in the Grand Hall.

Spring Bloom Tour: April 15-19 | 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Join a Powell Gardens docent for a walking tour of all the spring blooms!

Lyric Opera of Kansas City at Powell Gardens: Saturday, April 17 | Performances at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Artists from the Lyric Opera of Kansas City will present a concert featuring opera and musical theater hits to usher in the spring season.

The Strawberry Swing at Powell Gardens: April 23-25 | 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This highly curated indie craft fair is the Midwest's celebration of the handmade movement. The Strawberry Swing has become a Kansas City tradition and will be nestled in the heart of Powell Gardens.

Family Frolic: WILDly Cute: Saturday, May 1 & Sunday, May 2 | 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Experience wildly cute animals with the whole family while learning about plant and animal relationships. Baby goats and other adorable animals will be on-site for you to enjoy.

Mother's Day Picnic Brunch: Saturday, May 8 & Sunday, May 9 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Treat Mom to a carefree day of great food, family and the beauty of spring. Your picnic brunch, crafted by Kansas City Chef Mark Juhnke, features local, fresh ingredients, as well as herbs and blooms hand-picked from our Heartland Harvest Garden. Outdoor and indoor seating available.

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About Powell Gardens

As Kansas City's Botanical Garden, Powell Gardens plays a vital role in the community as a space for release, rejuvenation, and the celebration of the fleeting nature of nature itself. Visitors enjoy eight themed display gardens, a three-mile nature trail, seasonal festivals, rotating exhibitions, exceptional architecture, and dining options featuring ingredients grown in our Heartland Harvest Garden, one of the nation's premier edible landscapes. Established in 1988, Powell Gardens is a non-profit, public garden, maintaining 970 acres of lush, rolling hills and windswept meadows, with more than 175 acres and a large collection of plants open to the public for education, exploration, and recreation. Many of the plants in the Gardens are regionally native, and all highlight the changing seasons and Midwest spirit of place.