

For Immediate Release
November 26, 2019

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Go Green on Black Friday with the Festival of Lights

Kansas City, MO—Powell Gardens, Kansas City’s botanical garden, invites area residents to get outside this holiday weekend and enjoy the new path and reimagined features in the third annual Festival of Lights. This year’s display, which will open to the public on Friday, November 29th, centers on the theme of “Luminosity” and will take visitors on a mile-long journey through the full color spectrum with special moments installed throughout such as Blushing Boulevard, Crimson Court and Dogwood Dazzle. The festival is open 4-10 p.m., Thursday through Sunday, through January 5, 2020 and a special members-only preview is scheduled for this evening. Members of the press are also invited to experience the festival this evening.

“Festival of Lights is an experience that encourages visitors to take a breath and enjoy the holidays with their loved ones,” said Tabitha Schmidt, president and executive director of Powell Gardens. “It is a beautiful respite from the bustle of the holiday season and inspires a sense of togetherness”.



The illuminated gardens provide a serene setting with botanically-themed light displays installed along a mile-long, accessible pathway through the Gardens. Visitors on select evenings will enjoy roving carolers and Santa. Festival-goers can warm their hearts and toes by the fire at the Holly Jolly Rest Stop. Café Thyme will be serving up family favorites, house-made soups, and an assortment of holiday dessert items.

Additional holiday offerings at Powell Gardens:

Gingerbread House & Landscaping Workshop
Sunday, December 8
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Spend an afternoon designing your gingerbread dream house and landscape with chef Melissa Fahlstrom of Sugar Whipped Bakery. Receive instruction on assembling a pre-baked gingerbread house and some

fabulous tricks of the trade, including how to make windows look like stained glass and cookies look like snowy shingles. Finish off your masterpiece with a variety of frostings and ready-made candies.

Family Frolic: Winter Wonderland

Saturday, December 14, 2-5 p.m.

Join in the family fun and enjoy the festive family activities during this drop-in event. Create nature-themed ornaments, listen to storytelling by the fire, and enjoy a live holiday concert by Janie Next Door. Stay until dusk to get a picture with Santa and walk the magical trail of the Festival of Lights.

Dogs Day

Sunday, December 15, 4-10 p.m.

Join us for this special day and bring your furry friends for a stroll through the Festival of Lights.

Chapel Concert Series

7-8 p.m.

Powell Gardens, Marjorie Allen Powell Chapel

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Kevin Stanfield Duo

Keith Stanfield began playing the violin at the age of 3, and made his solo debut at the Royal Festival Hall in London (England) aged 6. Experience beautiful violin and piano music this holiday season.

Saturday, December 14, 2019

Crossroads Saxophone Quartet

Crossroads Saxophone Quartet was formed at the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory and is made up of graduate students from all over the country.

Saturday, December 21, 2019

The Kansas City Flute Choir

The Kansas City Flute Choir will feature a variety of flutes showcasing holiday repertoire, including excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite.

Saturdays, December 28, 2019

The Wires

Hailing from Kansas City, Missouri, The Wires compose and perform original music for violin and cello. Take a break from the mayhem of the holiday season and join The Wires for a meditative, introspective exploration through the darkest time of the year, The Winter Solstice, to the hopeful renewal of the New Year.

Powell Gardens

The mission of Powell Gardens, Kansas City's botanical garden, is to be an experience that embraces the Midwest's spirit of place and inspires an appreciation for the importance of plants in our lives. Powell Gardens was incorporated in 1988 as a 501(c3) tax exempt organization. The Gardens consist of 970 acres of land originally owned by George E. Powell, Sr., former Chairman of the Board of Yellow Freight System, now YRC Worldwide. The Gardens feature 6,000 varieties of plants, 225,000 plants on seasonal display and world-renowned architecture, designed by American architect, E. Fay Jones. Jones is one of the best-known protégés of Frank Lloyd Wright, and his partner, Maurice Jennings. Opened in 1996, The

Marjorie Powell Allen Chapel, a 4,700 sf, non-denominational chapel accommodating up to 120 guests, is an exquisite example of Jones' organic building architecture.

Garden staff manages 175 acres for the public including the gardens, green spaces and facilities. A series of annual festivals draw thousands of visitors and include Bloom Fest (spring), Festival of Butterflies (summer), Fall Fling (fall) and the Festival of Lights (winter). The annual overall number of visitors to the Gardens is approximately 80,000. Powell Gardens is governed by a 19-member Board of Directors that represent the business, civic, and philanthropic leadership of the region.