



Date: August 8, 2025
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Tanya Zastrow, Executive Director
Subject: Request for Installation of Trail Cameras for Gleam Exhibit

Board of Park Commissioners,

Olbrich Botanical Society is requesting to install temporary trail cameras to provide security for light installations during GLEAM at Olbrich Botanical Gardens. GLEAM is the annual light art exhibit featuring installations from artists from around the world. This is the 10th year of GLEAM which opens on August 30th, 2025, and runs every evening Wednesday-Saturday until October 25, 2025. This year's exhibition features artists from Australia, Japan, Canada, and around the United States. There will be 10 featured installations along with numerous way-finding features. This year's exhibit also includes a variety of pop-up events that feature Cycropia, adult-only nights, and family nights with entertainment. GLEAM is the largest fundraiser for Olbrich Botanical Society that brings in over 30,000 attendees.

This request for temporary security cameras is to provide extra security for the art installations. OBS is seeking approval for this request due to an increase in overnight trespassers, acts of vandalism, and most recently theft in the gardens. Remnants from a small fire were found in the Autumn Garden, which is the second fire started during overnight hours in the past year. Most recently, someone broke into all four hoop houses (where we store plants) and cut all the electrical cords from the fans. Due to this increase in trespassing, vandalism, and now theft, we are seeking approval to improve security for the art installations for GLEAM. If any of these installations are damaged, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to replace or repair the installations since each piece is a unique work of art. OBS is a vital partner in the successful operation of Olbrich Botanical Gardens. GLEAM is

an important fundraiser for OBS and it relies on the income generated from GLEAM for its annual operations.

Olbrich Botanical Society is seeking to install trail cameras that will focus on each installation. They will operate during the evening and overnight hours when the exhibit is not running. OBS will take full responsibility for purchasing, installing, and maintaining the trail cams. Any irrelevant footage captured by the trail cams will be deleted and not retained. The footage will be used only for investigative purposes in the event vandalism does occur. No City Staff will have access to this footage, and it will not be used by either organization for purposes of surveillance. The trail cams will be removed promptly upon the removal of the art installations at the end of GLEAM. OBS will work with City Olbrich staff to choose an inobtrusive location for the camera that would minimize any potential privacy or personal property issues. We understand the community concern about unnecessary surveillance in public spaces and want to do our best to be considerate of those concerns while maintaining our relationship with our guests and protecting the investments by both OBS and the GLEAM artist.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tanya Zastrow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent flourish at the end.

Tanya Zastrow, Executive Director