

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Quarterly Report October 2020

Attendance and Visitors:

More than 43,000 visitors have enjoyed the outdoor gardens since OBG reopened in mid-June. The vast majority of visitors adjusted well to the physical distancing guidance that we put in place for a safe visit.

- More than 100 disposable masks were distributed at the lobby greeter desk.
- Growing Gifts store opened in mid-July. There is a one-way traffic flow and limits of 4 customers. In addition, Growing Gifts added an online store with curbside pick-up.
- Twelve concerts were held at Olbrich Gardens through the end of September. All but one sold out with 50 total (25 in roof deck & 25 on lawn) guests.

Staff:

- Olbrich staff – both City and OBS continue to work hard to keep visitors, members, donors and community engaged.

Pollinators:

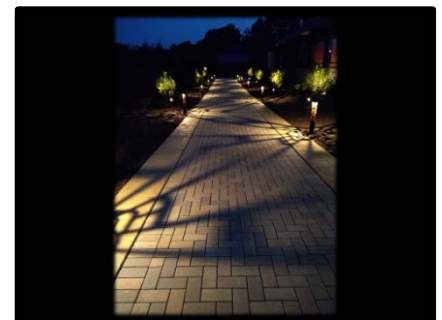
- Nearly 4000 pollinator craft kits were distributed to child visitors during July, August and early September. Four different kits featured with four different pollinators. Each kit included a craft as well as information about the pollinators – and – a coupon for a *Chocolate Shop* cone.
- Pop-Up pollinator story times, hosted by Education staff, ran through mid-September because there was so much interest and such limited numbers (fewer than 26 participants) at each session.
- The self-guided Pollinator Walk was extended into September –because of positive feedback from visitors and increased interest.



Lots of pollinators and creatures = healthy garden environment

Frautschi Family Learning Center Landscape:

- The woody plants and gardens are planted in the FFLC garden. The Long Walk will be a stunning addition in both the day and evening experience, and the Lussier Terrace is completely transformed. The slides below show current status of the Long Walk, the inspiration for future perennial plantings (when funds are made available), and the nightscape with gorgeous shadows cast by the light fixtures.



Bolz Conservatory:

- Staff plan to open the Bolz Conservatory in mid-October at less than 50% capacity. Signage and staffing plans are in the process of development. Some interpretive signage will be added to the experience, and, of course, the orchids will be brought into the Conservatory environment when they come into bloom.



Phalaenopsis (l) and Vanda (r) orchids in the Vera Lee Orchid House

Programs and Exhibitions:

- With so many fund-raising exhibitions and programs cancelled due to the pandemic, Programs and Exhibitions staff have been exploring online options such as virtual Cocktails in the Conservatory, flash flower sales and more.
- A special Halloween Concert has been added – the performer is *Sunspot*. *Sunspot* has won the 'Best Rock Album' from Madison Music Awards five times! Band members Mike and Wendy Lynn host the paranormal podcast *See You on the Other Side* Concert attendees (limited to 25 on the lawn and 25 on the rooftop) are invited to attend in costume!

Education:

- Classes are limited to 10 participants indoors and 25 participants outdoors. The Frautschi Family Learning Center space allows for these classes and programs to have plenty of space for physical distancing
- Education staff are exploring virtual learning options – Tai Chi classes are totally virtual with many others following suit.