

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Quarterly Report February 2020

Olbrich Botanical Gardens Attendance	2019	2018
YTD Attendance as of December 31	322,149	335,153

Construction Update:

- **Production Greenhouse:** The greenhouse is fully occupied and staff are working with the project manager and contractor on punch list items.
- **Frautschi Family Learning Center:** The Learning Center will be used February 1 & 2 for Orchid Quest, providing that the building passes occupancy inspection. The 2nd floor, elevator, and some interior 'finishes' may not be complete at that time. Classes and programs are relocated to the Evjue Commons, Atrium, and Meeting Room – until the contractor has completed the finishes and details – we hope by the end of February. Recognition signage, directional signage, outdoor garden development, and so forth will be completed in spring.
- **Staff moves:** As construction nears completion, many staff will be moving into new or different locations.
- **Soft and Grand Opening:** Olbrich Staff are planning a soft opening of the new Learning Center. An open house that introduces the 2020 programmatic theme – 'the Elements' -- will feature activities in the Production Greenhouse and Learning Center on February 15, 2020. A celebration for donors and city officials, as well as a public grand opening, will take place in mid-June.

Bolz Conservatory:

- **Orchid Escape** (February 2020) – is a month long celebration of the 2020 Elements theme interpreted by orchid habitats. Earth, Fire, Air, and Water are exhibited. Additional blooming orchids were purchased to complement Olbrich's own orchid collection. Orchid Escape will be an excellent addition during the gloomy month of February. Kudos to Terry Hodge, Conservatory and Orchid Horticulturist, and Colten Blackburn, Conservatory Curator for pulling this exhibition together.



Fire



Water

Volunteers:

- February is the month when OBG celebrates its volunteers. A luncheon is planned for those 357 volunteers whose 2019 contributions exceed 25 hours, 95% of total hours in 2019. A total of 608 individual volunteers and 10 corporate service groups contributed 27,447 hours in 2019. Also impressive is the long-term commitment many volunteers make to Olbrich Botanical Gardens. 93 current and active volunteers have given the Gardens 1,000+ hours each during their volunteer careers.

Education:

- The **Tropical Explorer** school program is underway for K – 5 classrooms and runs through the. Classrooms from around the Madison region filled the 36 available bookings.
- Education and Conservatory staff collaborated to train Bolz Conservatory volunteers – docents, greeters, explorer program volunteers – assisted by Volunteer Services Manager, Marty Petillo. The volunteers learned about orchids and Orchid Escape and about the *Cycadaceae* in the Conservatory. The *Cycadaceae*, very ancient cone-bearing genera, are threatened throughout the tropical, subtropical and desert zones. This collaborative effort to train volunteers will be a model for future volunteer training programs.



***Cycas revoluta* (Cycadaceae)**

Programs & Exhibitions/PR & Marketing:

- Olbrich Botanical Gardens will have a booth at **Garden Expo** February 7 - 9 – be sure to stop by!
- **Elements Open House**
Experience the programmatic theme for 2020 – the Elements: Earth, Water, Air, and Fire
Saturday, February 15 from 9 am – 5 pm
includes Orchid Escape, kite making, sun-catcher making, a sneak peek of the Spring Flower Show, a sneak peak of the Production Greenhouse, plant potting, iron pour scratch tiles, and an iron pour on the Great Lawn with FeLion Studio (weather permitting).
- **Canopy Sessions** in the Bolz Conservatory will take place the first Fridays of February, March, and April from 5 – 7 pm.
 - Friday, February 7: Ancora String Quartet, *classical*
 - Friday, March 6: B~Free & Quinten Farr, *jazz, soul fusion*
 - Friday, April 3: Panchromatic Steel, *steel drums*
- **Spring Flower Show**, March 7 – 24, 10 am – 4 pm