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DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS RECEIVES GRANT FOR NON-LIVING COLLECTIONS



Denver Botanic Gardens received a \$247,840 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services' (IMLS) Museums for America program to increase accessibility of the non-living collections. These collections will be relocated to the new Freyer – Newman Center for Science, Art and Education that is scheduled for completion in 2020. This federal grant leverages individual and corporate donations along with the Elevate Denver Bond Program approved by Denver voters in 2017 to build the Freyer - Newman Center.

The Center will allow world-class stewardship of the non-living collections and foster programming, inquiry and collaborations that unite science, art and education. IMLS grant funds will support new collections storage. The non-living collections are organized in three collections: natural history (plant, fungal and arthropod); library (rare books, archives and special collections); and art.

The Natural History collections document vascular plant, fungal and arthropod diversity and distribution in the Southern Rocky Mountain Region over the last hundred years. These holdings actively support collections-based biodiversity research that directly impacts conservation of Colorado's wild lands.

The Helen Fowler Library & Archives collections contain rare books, archives and special collections focused on the natural world, many of which explicitly celebrate the intersection of art and science such as rare books by Charles Darwin and Robert John Thornton; seed and nursery catalogs; and botanical-themed stamps. These collections are used by researchers from diverse disciplines such as historians, botanical artists and writers. The Library also houses approximately 25,000 titles in the circulating collection.

The Gardens' art collection includes contemporary and historical botanical illustration as well as other works on paper that connect people to the natural world and document its flora.

The Freyer - Newman Center is the final part of a four-phase Master Development Plan that began in 2007. The LEED GOLD building is designed by Denver's Davis Partnership Architects. In addition to the above offerings, the building will provide more accessible and enriching public engagement with an auditorium, classrooms, a coffee shop and 144 more parking spots. A children's zone will be created in the Boettcher Memorial Center.

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About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens' living collections encompass specimens from the tropics to the tundra, showcasing a plant palette chosen to

thrive in Colorado's semi-arid climate. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude garden and interpretive site on the Mount Evans Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.