

PRESS CONTACT

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DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS OPENS FREYER – NEWMAN CENTER
SCIENCE, ART AND EDUCATION UNDER ONE ROOF



Denver Botanic Gardens opens Freyer – Newman Center, a physical manifestation of the Gardens' celebration of the fusion of science and art. The Center marks the final step in a four-phase Master Development Plan that began in 2007. The Center's art galleries are currently open. The library, classrooms and auditorium remain closed due to COVID-19.

The Gardens broke ground in May 2018 for the Freyer – Newman Center. The LEED GOLD building, designed by Denver's Davis Partnership Architects with GH Phipps serving as the general contractor, was completed in spring 2020 but the opening was delayed due to COVID-19. The total project cost is \$45 – \$40 million for the Freyer - Newman Center and \$5 million for the renovation of the Boettcher Memorial Center that features redesigned staff offices and children's classrooms. The building was made possible with funding from Elevate Denver (2017 General Obligation Bond) and private donors including Robert and Judi Newman and Ginny and John Freyer.

Freyer-Newman Center Stats:

- 100,000 sq ft
- Six classrooms
- Three climate-controlled galleries
- Helen Fowler Library features three times increased collection and archive space; two study rooms; children's area; Edward P. Connors Rare Books Reading Room; climate control
- Herbaria houses nearly 100,000 preserved plant and fungal collections and has space for 50 years of growth
- Science labs allow for expanded ecology, genetic and tissue culture work
- The Sturm Family Auditorium seats 265 with five wheelchair spaces
- Copper Door Coffee Roasters shop
- Two outdoor balconies
- Underground parking with 144 staff parking spots

- Jonathan Merage Foundation Nature Immersion Wall in the atrium features a 10' x 40' video wall consisting of 420 LED panels
- Substantial solar array on the roof – expected year one production is 93,000 kWh

“As one of the first Elevate Denver-supported projects to break ground, the Freyer - Newman Center is an outstanding example of how these community approved investments can move a project to reality and enhance our world-class museums and cultural,” said Mayor Michael B. Hancock. “Institutions like Denver Botanic Gardens provide opportunities for our residents and visitors of all ages and backgrounds to learn, have fun and explore together.”

Brian Vogt, CEO of Denver Botanic Gardens adds, “We are all filled with gratitude for the completion of the final chapter of our Master Development Plan with this stellar project. Deep appreciation goes to Denver voters for their support of the 2017 General Obligation Bond and to all of the donors, designers, builders, neighbors, staff and volunteers who took us to the finish line.”

The Gardens is a unique living museum where horticulture, plant conservation and preservation, mycology, art, education and special events unite to document human relationships with plants and the larger environment. The Freyer - Newman Center will house each of these programmatic elements in a single building, enhancing the visitor experience.

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About Denver Botanic Gardens

Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens began 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 Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail 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.