



Every day, it strikes me what a rare and wonderful thing it is to be surrounded by people who are driven to make the world a better place. The mission and values of the Gardens are guide stars that motivate and inspire us all. We know that the showcases we create of natural beauty from around the world serve a personal purpose for each visitor, bringing delight, enlightenment, healing and perspective.

There is so much more we do now. Community access is always front of mind. Our education team is laser-focused on ensuring all children have the opportunity to learn about plants and the natural world. We have multiple programs that create free or reduced-cost classes and experiences, and we recently launched the IDEA Center for Public Gardens to help colleagues in the United States and Canada learn how to make their institutions relevant and accessible for all.

For many years, we have worked on regenerative agriculture and food access. Today, the Urban Food Initiatives program results in thousands of pounds of fresh vegetables grown at Chatfield Farms and York Street that we make available through food banks and other services.

And we are working hard on one of the top issues of the day: water scarcity. Within Colorado, the Gardens' Sustainable Landscape Program is teaming up with local governments and private institutions to rethink and redesign everything from street medians to home gardens to corporate campus landscapes. The aim is to use native and native-adapted plant palettes that require little irrigation, are beautiful and authentic, and create dispersed habitat.

To help get the message out, we launched Denver Botanic Films and produced our first documentary. This and future works will examine powerful stories of the connections between people and plants.

All this expansive work is made possible by an incredible community of friends and donors. A group of these generous supporters have established a matching fund that will double all gifts to the Gardens Fund, until we reach our goal of \$100,000.

If you can help us reach this goal, please know that your support enables work that truly and positively impacts lives and communities. The Board, staff, volunteers – we would all be deeply grateful. Let's make the world better, together.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Vogt". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "B" and "V".

Brian Vogt, CEO