



DESERT
BOTANICAL
garden



DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN
Press Kit | Fall 2023



The Garden

Discover the tranquil vibrancy of 50,000 desert plants nestled amid the red rocks of the Papago Buttes at Desert Botanical Garden. Visitors can stroll through five thematic trails to explore plants, including towering cactus, alluring succulents and brilliant desert wildflowers. Delve deeper to experience world-class art exhibitions, festive events and so much more.

By the Numbers (as of 2022)



870K+
TOTAL ATTENDANCE



33,108
MEMBERS AND DONORS



909
NEW ACCESSIONS ADDED



50,000
PLANTS IN THE COLLECTION



95,900
TOTAL HERBARIUM SAMPLES

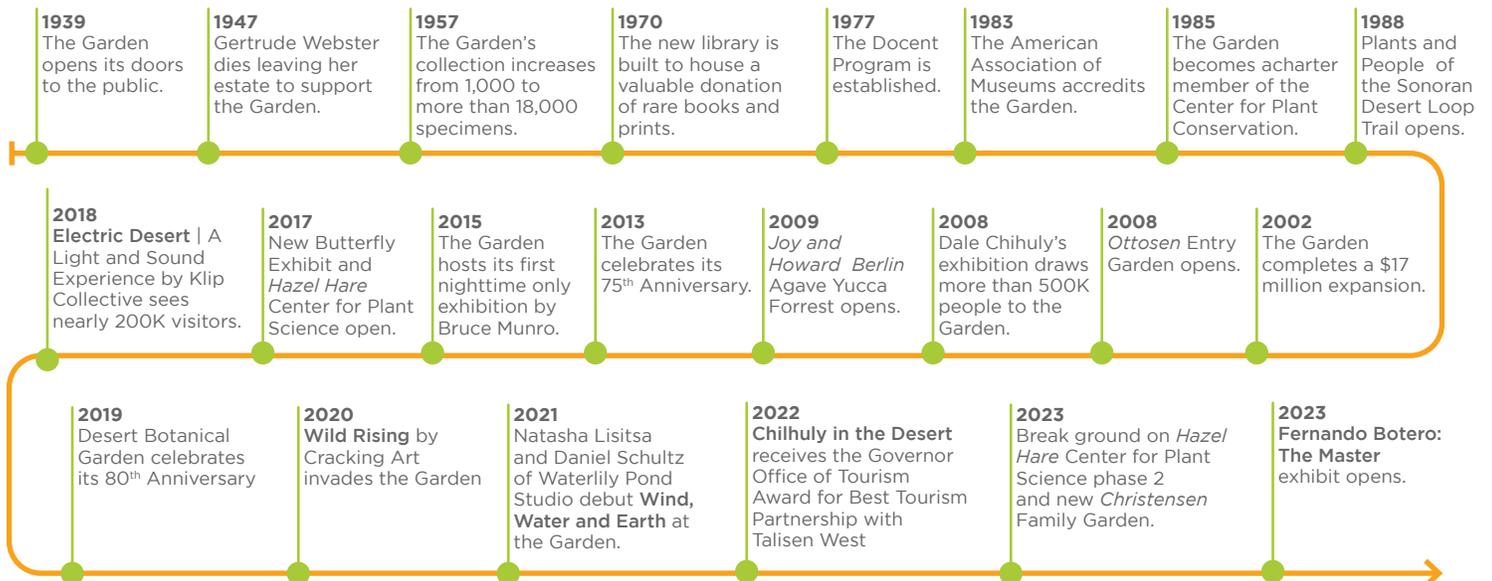


600+
VOLUNTEERS



History

In the 1930s, a small group of passionate local citizens saw the need to conserve the beautiful desert environment. One was Swedish botanist Gustaf Stark, who found like-minded residents by posting a sign that said “Save the desert,” with an arrow pointing to his home. More than eight decades later, thanks to leadership and investments from many individuals, Desert Botanical Garden has blossomed from a dream into a living museum unlike any other. See how the Garden has grown during its history into a compelling attraction and desert conservation pioneer.



Trails

Desert Botanical Garden provides a world-class experience for every visitor. Through permanent trailside exhibits, temporary art installations and seasonal experiences, the Garden ignites discovery about the desert and the plants that have adapted to this fascinating ecosystem.



DESERT DISCOVERY LOOP TRAIL

Explore the Garden's main trail and discover the many ways desert plants from around the world have adapted to the environment. Featuring a diverse array of cactus and succulents as well as historic plant collections, this central route connects visitors to the beauty of the desert.



Harriet K. Maxwell DESERT WILDFLOWER LOOP TRAIL

Stroll along this meandering trail where you'll encounter brightly colored blooms as well as the pollinators they attract, like bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Find out how flowers, insects and birds play an essential role in thriving desert ecosystems.



CENTER FOR DESERT LIVING TRAIL

Fragrant herbs, vegetable beds and shady spots to relax make this trail a delight for the senses. Come see what's growing this season and discover tips for creating a robust, water-wise home garden.



SONORAN DESERT NATURE LOOP TRAIL

Take this trail to the top for sweeping mountain views, telescopes and an organ pipe cactus forest. Then look closer to gain insight to the resilience and survival strategies of Sonoran Desert plants and animals.



PLANTS AND PEOPLE OF THE SONORAN DESERT LOOP TRAIL

Wander through five diverse desert habitats and discover the variety of ways indigenous people have used native plants for food, fiber and shelter.



Christensen FAMILY GARDEN

The Garden broke ground this summer to revamp the layout of the former *Stardust Plaza* to offer guests an idyllic visit with a colorful horticultural design. Nestled between the *Sybil B. Harrington Cactus and Succulent Galleries*, the *Christensen Family Garden* includes a new bridge, a calming water feature, shade trees and displays of seasonal plants. The thoughtfully designed *Christensen Family Garden* provides an inspirational space to wander and appreciate the beauty of the desert.

Opening Spring 2024

Experiences

Fernando Botero (Colombia, 1932);
Reclining Woman / Mujer recostada, 2007;
Bronze sculpture / Escultura en bronce;
132 x 76 x 77 inches / pulgadas; Private
Collection of the Botero Family / Colección
privada de la familia Botero



FERNANDO BOTERO: THE MASTER

Oct. 7 – March 31

Harmony of color and beauty of form come together in this exhibition of paintings, drawings and monumental sculpture celebrating the visionary Colombian artist, Fernando Botero. As a poet of daily life in Latin America and a pioneer of figurative art, Botero has been creating art for more than 60 years, in a unique, sumptuous style that is immediately recognizable known as “Boterismo”. Experience the Maestro’s artistic creations in the Garden and in *Dorrance Hall*, with an expanded gallery space that takes an intimate look at his influences, motivations and working methods.

Exhibition organized by the Museum of Latin American Art (MOLAA), Long Beach, California in collaboration with Desert Botanical Garden.



MAJESTIC MARIPOSAS

Sept. 23 – Nov. 12

Don't miss this living exhibit that features more than a thousand free-flying Southwestern butterflies. Get an up close and personal experience with these winged beauties, learn about each stage of their life cycle and discover what actions we can take to protect them.

Included with general admission.



GUELAGUETZA

Oct. 7-8

¡Viva la Guelaguetza! The lively festivities of a traditional Mexican indigenous holiday come alive at the Garden. Celebrate Oaxacan culture through music, dance, art, food and more.

Included with general admission.

Experiences Continued



FALL PLANT SALE

Oct. 19-22

Find the perfect desert plant and houseplant at the Fall Plant Sale. Choose from aromatic herbs, vegetables to flowering perennials, as well as a selection of cactus, succulents and agaves. Garden experts will be available to help you select the ideal plants for your home.

Free Admission. Reservations required. Reservations open Aug. 25.



STRANGE GARDEN

Oct. 27-28

Get spooky at the Garden with more treats than tricks! Dress up in your Halloween best, enjoy a night filled with mad botanists, peculiar plants and photo ops. All kids get to take home a free pumpkin from the patch, while supplies last.

Included with general admission.



DÍA DE MUERTOS

Nov. 4-5

Celebrate the colorful and vibrant Mexican tradition of Día de Muertos at the Garden. The two-day festival will be filled with Mexican art, music, dance, storytelling y más! Honor a loved one at the Community Altar exhibit. Join La Procesión, a procession that honors the dead through the Garden with performers and audience members, each day.

Included with general admission.



LAS NOCHES DE LAS LUMINARIAS

Nov 24 & 25 Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 19-23, 26-30

The Garden shines bright during the holiday season! Enjoy live music performances, entertainment and thousands of dazzling hand-lit luminarias at the Garden with family and friends. For 46 years, the Garden's trails sparkle during this iconic holiday tradition, and it will remind you of what the season is all about.

Tickets on sale Oct. 16



LA POSADA

Dec. 17

La Posada will transport garden visitors to Mexico, where it is celebrated, as they make their way through the Garden with singing processions, traditional food and beverage

Tickets on sale Oct. 16.

Research & Conservation

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) identified cactus as one of the most threatened groups of living organisms, but the Garden is working to protect and conserve these treasured desert plants and many others. The Garden's researchers often collaborate internationally, as well as with federal and state agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Parks Service, to protect Arizona flora and habitat.



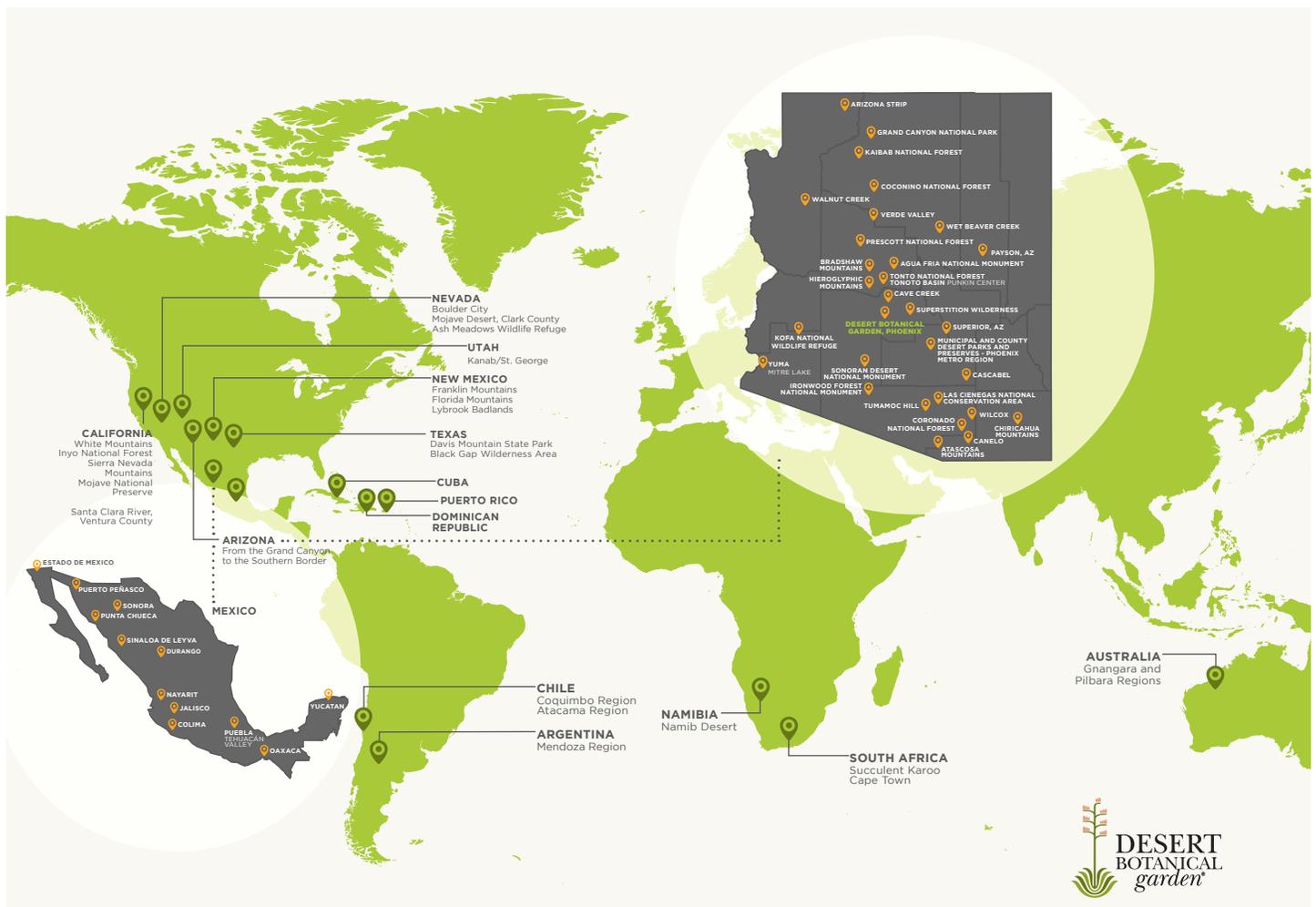
519
Rare and
Endangered
Plants



4,833
Taxa (includes
plant and seed)



26
Scientists
Doing Work in
9 Countries and
4 Continents



Garden scientists are fulfilling our mission through projects in arid regions around the world.



Here We Grow Again

Desert Botanical Garden recently broke ground for the Phase 2 *Hazel Hare* Center for Plant Science. This \$17 million project will advance the Garden's vision to become a global leader in desert plant conservation and the most sophisticated center in the Southwest for cactus and agave horticulture, conservation and research. Expected completion date is 2025.

Phase 2 will include:



Ahearn HORTICULTURE CENTER

A unified, energized workspace designed to inspire the passion and dedication of the Garden's horticulture team.



GREENHOUSE EAST

Doubling the amount of climate-controlled areas to propagate and nurture region-specific plants.



EXHIBITION GALLERY

This space is designed to showcase the Garden's living collections and temporary art exhibits, as well as insight to research and conservation practices.



TEACHING GARDEN HOUSE

Premier local resource for Sonoran Desert gardening and landscaping education, and will amplify the impact of the Garden's community educational programs.



SHADE PAVILION

The Shade Pavilion will be a 10,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility that redefines the care of desert plants and other succulents that require shade, humidity and temperature controls.



Expected Impacts

The work made possible by the completion of HHCPs will enable the Garden to not only identify and study threats to our ecosystem, but to also mitigate those threats and improve conditions for desert plant species. The capacity of these new facilities will accelerate the Garden's efforts to cultivate and preserve flora from arid deserts in Arizona, North America, and across the globe. Additionally, greater access to enhanced tools, technology and workspace will advance our comprehensive plant propagation program – the cornerstone of our conservation work.



These state-of-the-art spaces will also be fully equipped with conversartyion features such as:

- The Solar & Shade Canopy will continue our efforts in creating sustainable solutions that allow the Garden to be a part of this community for generations to come.
- Energy-Efficient Site Improvements will include additional micro solar collectors, rain water-harvesting systems and temperature and light management technology.



Mission:

The Garden's commitment to the community is to advance excellence in education, research, exhibition and conservation of desert plants of the world with emphasis on the Sonoran Desert. We will ensure that the Garden is always a compelling attraction that brings to life the many wonders of the desert.

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