

The logo features a stylized green plant with three leaves and a central stem with three horizontal bars, positioned above the number 85 in a large, bold, orange font.

85

1939 YEARS 2024

DESERT  
BOTANICAL  
*garden*

A photograph of a desert garden pathway. The path is made of light-colored sand and is bordered by low, rustic stone walls. On either side of the path are various desert plants, including tall, columnar cacti and spiky agave-like plants. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

## DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN Press Kit | Spring 2024





# 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

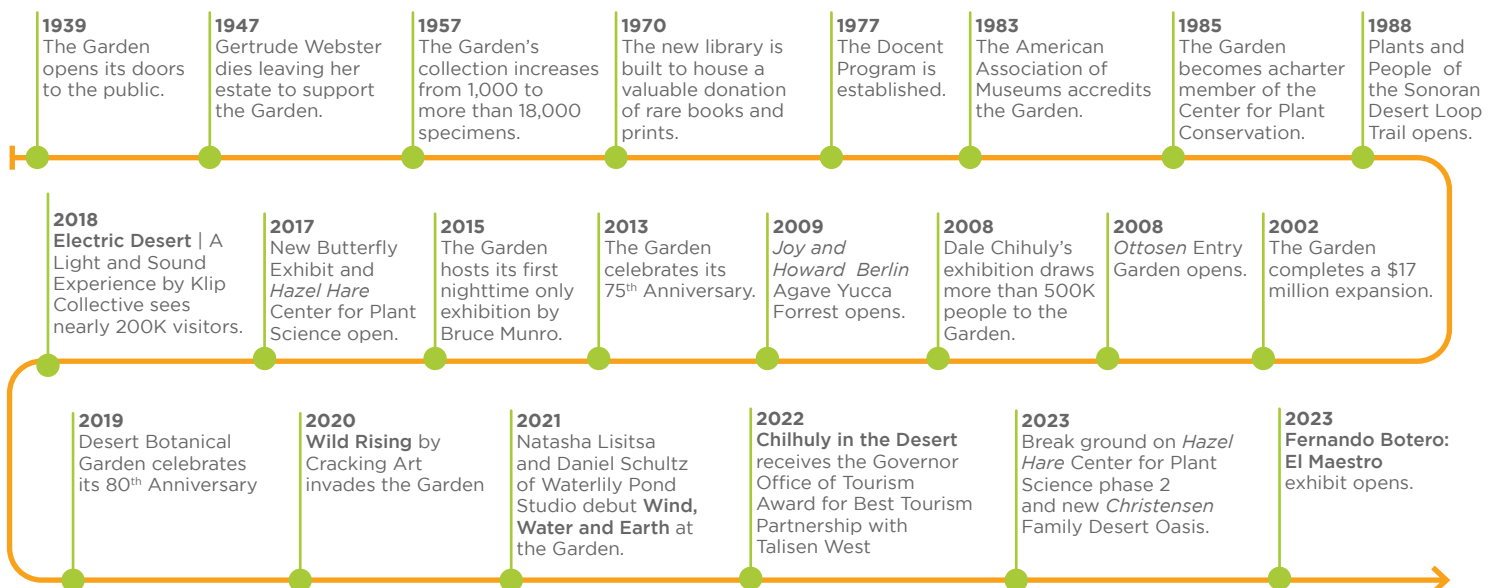


**600+**  
VOLUNTEERS



## 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 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 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.



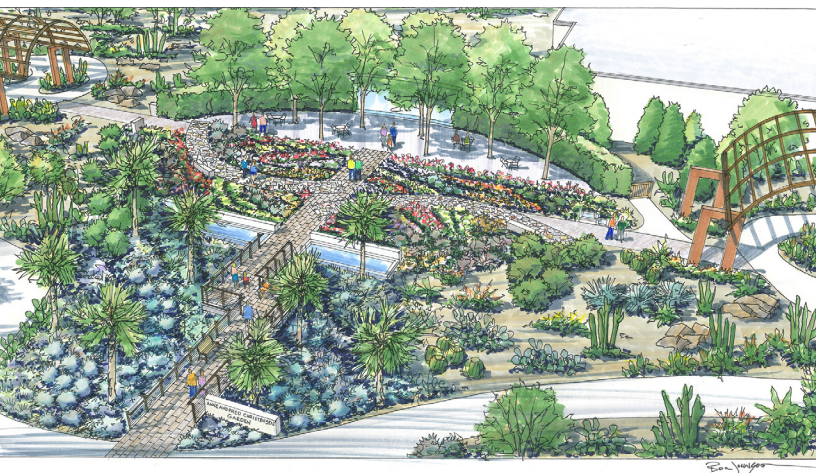
### **SONORAN DESERT NATURE TRAIL**

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 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 DESERT OASIS**

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 Desert Oasis includes a new bridge, a calming water feature, shade trees and displays of seasonal plants. The thoughtfully designed *Christensen* Family Desert Oasis provides an inspirational space to wander and appreciate the beauty of the desert.

**Opening Spring 2024**



## Experiences

**Fernando Botero** (Colombia, 1932-2023);  
*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: EL MAESTRO

Now - 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 created 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.



## Celebrating 85 YEARS

**Feb. 10 | 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.** **1939 - 2024**

Enjoy complimentary cookies, hands-on nature play activities, musical performances, behind-the-scenes tours and more. Plus, pups can join the pawty from 8-11 a.m. for a special Dog Days and receive a complimentary bandana.

**February 2024** | Feb. 10 Celebration

**March 2024** | Celebrate the closing of **Fernando Botero: El Maestro**

**April 2024** | Celebrate 35 Years of Music in the Garden

**May 2024** | Celebrate National Cactus Day

**July & August 2024** | Step Inside our Collections & Research Programs

**September 2024** | Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

**October 2024** | Celebrate the Fall Butterfly Exhibit

**November 2024** | Plants & People of the Sonoran Desert Celebration

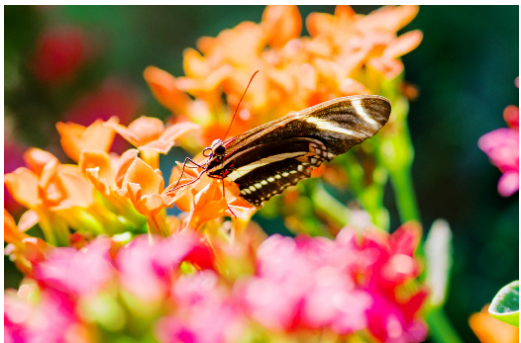
**December 2024** | Celebrate Las Noches de las Luminarias with new holiday light experience

**January 2025** | New Year, Commitment to Conservation

**February 2025** | Looking Ahead 85 Years



## Experiences Continued



### MAJESTIC MARIPOSAS

March 2 - May 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.



### CACTUS CLUBHOUSE

Now - May 26

Cactus Clubhouse has relocated as the Garden is growing and under construction. Please visit us in our new location in the Weisz Academic Bulding. In this temporary space, kids encounter several activity areas designed to spark independent play, while encouraging physical, cognitive and behavioral growth.

Included with general admission.



### SPRING PLANT SALE

March 14-17

Spring has sprung! Discover hundreds of varieties of native plants, succulents, cactus and pollinator-friendly species with more than 30,000 plants to choose from. Free admission to shop!



### FUND THE FARM CELEBRATION

March 22

Fund the Farm celebration is a festive party helping grow Spaces of Opportunity! Enjoy local drinks and local bites from some of the Valley's best caterers and enjoy musical entertainment as you stroll the Garden's trails



## 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.



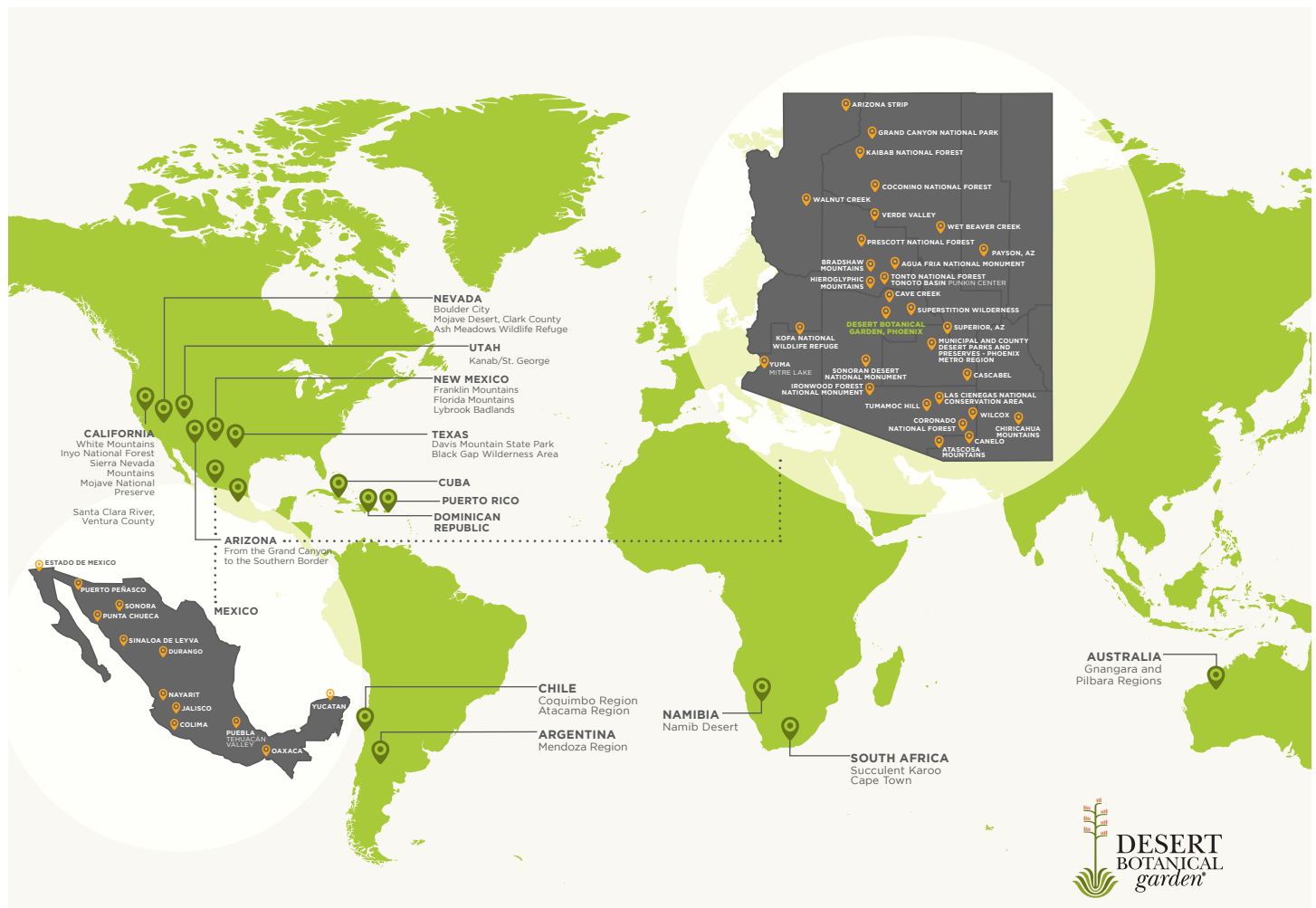
**519**  
Rare and  
Endangered  
Plants



**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 conversartiyon 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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