



DESERT  
BOTANICAL  
*garden*

# DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

## Press Kit | Fall 2025



# 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 2024)



**634K+**  
TOTAL ATTENDANCE



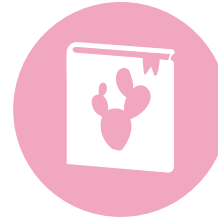
**28,826**  
MEMBERS AND  
DONORS



**608**  
NEW ACCESSIONS  
ADDED



**548**  
RARE, THREATENED &  
ENDANGERED TAXA



**100,000**  
TOTAL HERBARIUM  
SAMPLES

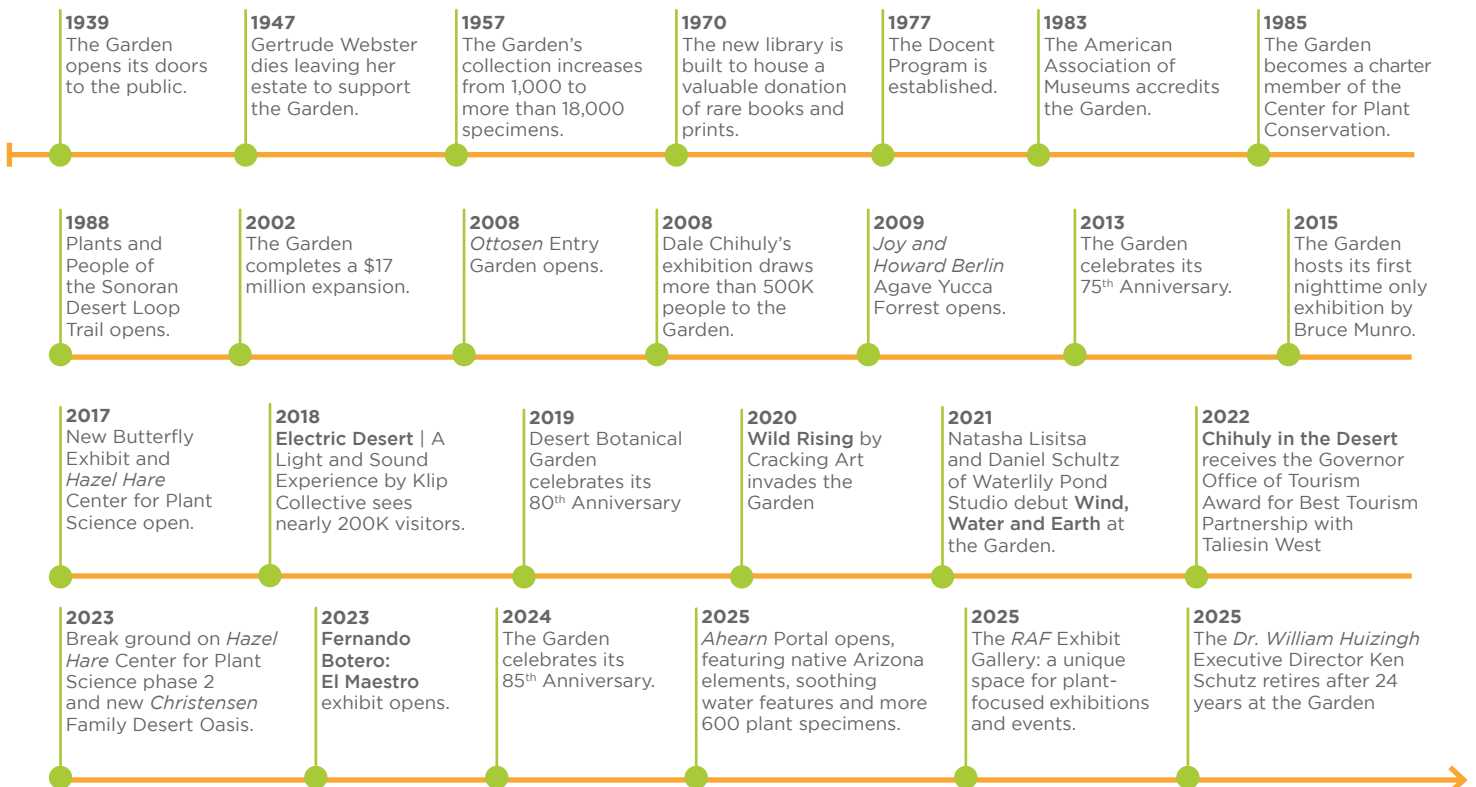


**770+**  
VOLUNTEERS



## 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 core trail takes you on a journey to celebrate 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 lush, water-wise home garden.



### **SONORAN DESERT NATURE TRAIL**

Take our nature trail to learn how plants and animals survive in the desert with so little water. Watch for wildlife on your way to the top and take in mountain vistas that will change your point of view.



### **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.





ScanLAB Projects

# FRAME | RATE Desert Pulse

DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

Oct. 11, 2025 – May 10, 2026



**Membership Reservations Now Open. General Admission Tickets on sale Sept. 3**

FRAMERATE: Desert Pulse, a multi-sensory art exhibit by ScanLAB Projects, invites visitors into the visual and emotional energy of the Sonoran Desert. Through photography, LiDAR scanning, motion and sound, it reveals new ways of seeing and deepens appreciation for our vibrant ecosystem. **Learn more at [desertpulse.org](https://desertpulse.org).**



## Desert Pulse Experiences



### OPENING WEEKEND CELEBRATION

Oct. 10-12

Join the Desert Pulse Kickoff Weekend celebration with hands-on art activities, exciting giveaways, interactive photo stations and the chance to meet the artists behind the exhibition. Get creative in the desert landscape with familyfriendly fun and unique experiences for all ages. Don't miss this vibrant start to our new season!



### DESERT STUDIO: EMERGING ARTISTS SERIES

Oct. 17 & Nov. 14

Experience a fresh pick of entertainment in our new series. We will feature emerging artists, never-before heard music and the occasional album release that is sure to excite Garden members and guests.

## Desert Pulse Experiences



### ROOTED: VOICES OF OUR COMMUNITY

Oct. 23 & Nov. 20

In partnership with Bar Flies, each night storytellers will share impactful stories that build upon and reflect the messages of Desert Pulse.



### DESERT VIEWS: A CONVERSATION SERIES EXPLORING DESERT PULSE

Nov. 6

Learn about the behind-the-scenes of the 3D scanning technology and conservation work that makes Desert Pulse come to life. Join us for an interactive panel discussion and conversation about capturing change in the natural world with a photographer, a research botanist and an ASU professor.



### PULSE PARTIES

Nov. 7

Inspired by Desert Pulse, a dynamic multi-sensory art exhibit that captures the visual and emotional energy of the Sonoran Desert, these themed Garden parties are designed to ignite your senses and elevate your spirit. Move to the rhythm of the desert with immersive experiences featuring music, movement, creativity and more.



## Experiences Continued



### MAJESTIC MARIPOSAS

Sept. 27 – Nov. 16

Step into a world of enchantment and beauty this fall at our *Cohn* Family Butterfly Pavilion. Witness more than 1,000 Southwestern butterflies, including the stunning monarch. Don't forget to capture a moment in front of our stunning butterfly mural, and delve deeper into the fascinating lifecycle of these beautiful creatures. Relax and let the world of pollinators around you come alive.



### CACTUS CLUBHOUSE

Oct. 11 – May 10

Cactus Clubhouse is an engaging, hands-on nature play space designed especially for kids 12 and under. Bursting with opportunities for curiosity and discovery, it's the perfect place for young explorers to let their imaginations run wild! Join us on the weekends too for fun hands-on activities and crafts.



### DOG DAYS

Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25 | Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22

Kickstart your weekend with a paw-fect day out! Enjoy a scenic stroll with your furry friend Saturday mornings at the Garden and capture those adorable moments together.

## Experiences Continued



### FALL PLANT SALE

Oct. 16 Members Day, Oct. 17-19 General Public

Ready to give your green space a much-needed refresh? Reserve your spot for Fall Plant Sale and discover more than 30,000 desert-adapted plants! Whether you're after native Sonoran Desert gems, stunning aloes or heat-loving trees, we've got something to brighten up your yard. Plus, get expert advice on hand and enjoy a shopping experience in a picture-perfect outdoor setting.



### STRANGE GARDEN

Oct. 24-25

Explore the boo-tanical wonders of our Garden at Strange Garden. Revel in live music, immersive experiences and meet intriguing creatures. Perfect for all ages, it's spooky, fun and fascinating. Plus, kids get a free pumpkin- hurry while the stock lasts.



### DÍA DE MUERTOS

Altar On View Oct. 31 and Nov. 1-3 | Festival Nov. 1-2

Día de Muertos returns to the Garden with a stunning open-air community altar featuring the work of Oaxacan artisans in an authentic and moving display honoring lost loved ones. Visitor will enjoy face-painting, crafts, food and a moving sunset procession through the Garden.



## 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.



**548**  
Rare and  
Endangered  
Plants



**4,818**  
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:



Now Open

#### **Ahearn HORTICULTURE CENTER**

**Opened June 2025**

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.



Now Open

#### **The RAF EXHIBITION GALLERY**

**Opened Feb. 2025**

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 equipment with conversation 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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