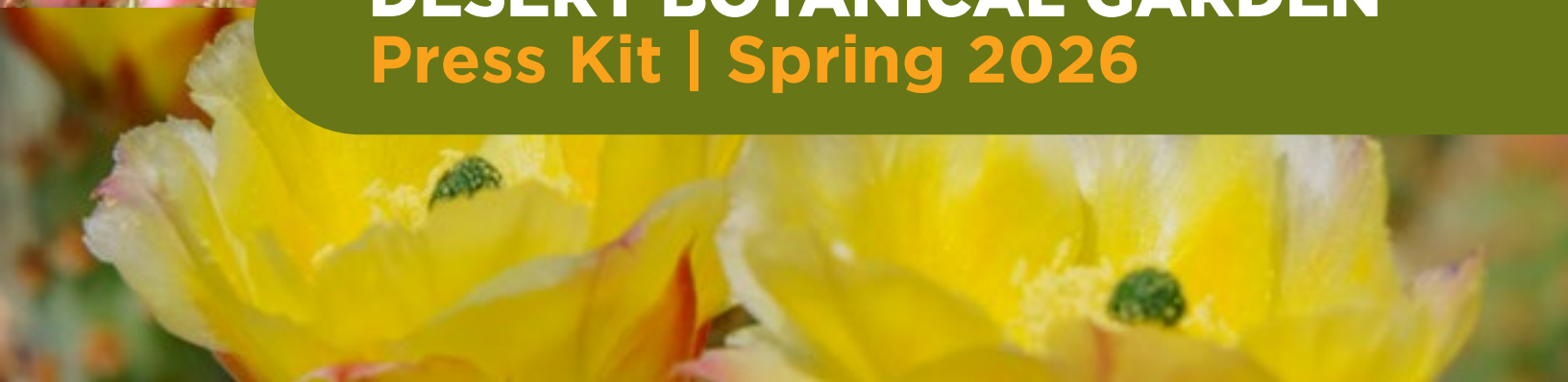




DESERT
BOTANICAL
garden

DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN
Press Kit | Spring 2026



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



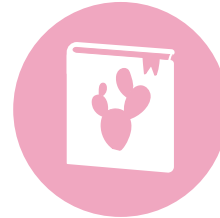
28,826
MEMBERS AND DONORS



608
NEW ACCESSIONS ADDED



548
RARE, THREATENED & ENDANGERED TAXA



100,000
TOTAL HERBARIUM SAMPLES

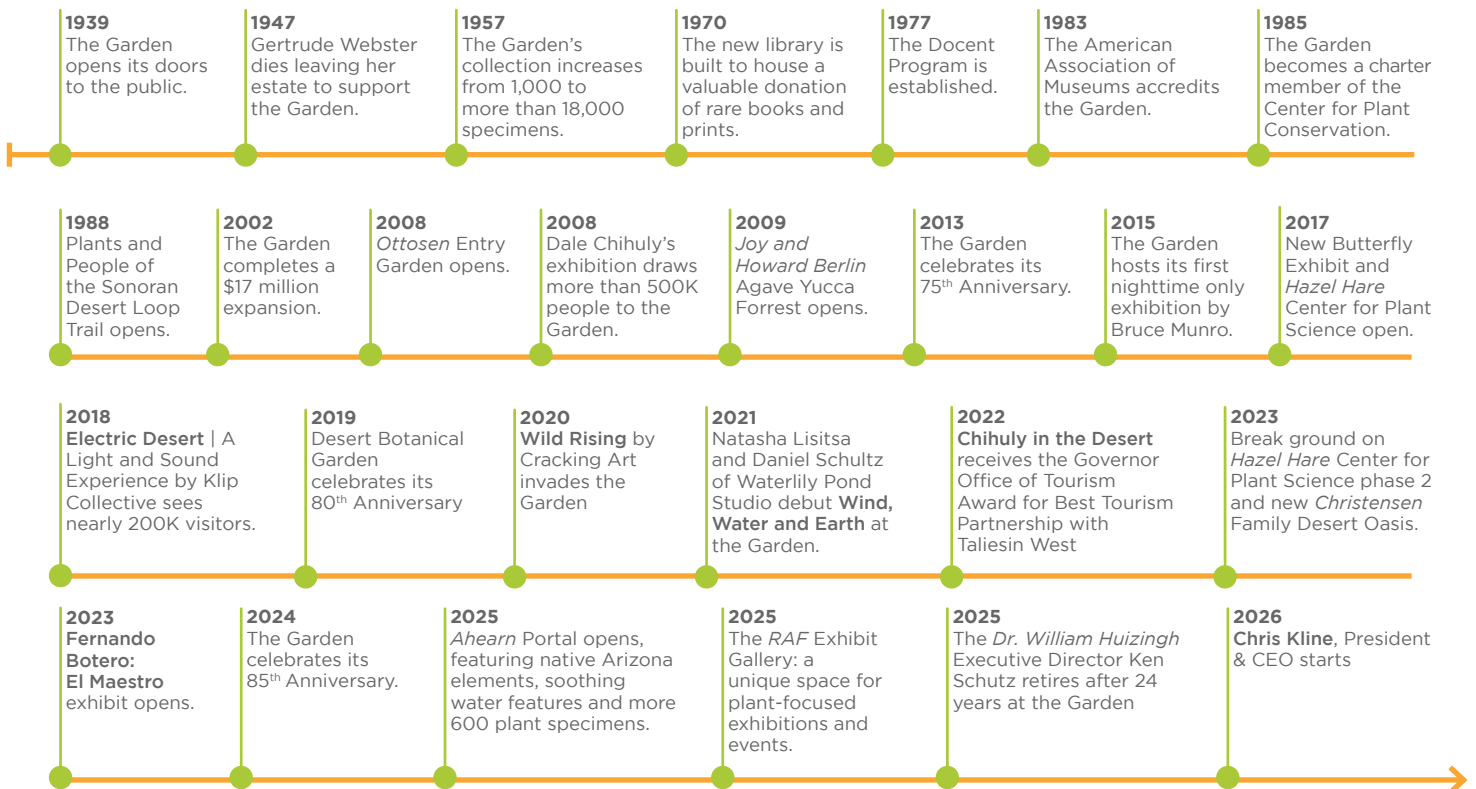


770+
VOLUNTEERS



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

Now – May 10, 2026



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, motion, and sound, it reveals new ways of seeing and deepens appreciation for our vibrant ecosystem. **Learn more at desertpulse.org.**



Desert Pulse Experiences



SPRING GARDEN AFTER DARK

Now – May 31

Experience Spring Garden: After Dark, where the desert shines brighter, the trails glow with color and Desert Pulse creates a perfect nighttime escape. Wander through the Garden's 10 vibrant light displays, five immersive Desert Pulse installations and discover the desert at night.



PULSE PARTIES

May 1

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.



DESERT STUDIO: EMERGING ARTISTS SERIES

May 8

Discover the next wave of talent with our new series—uncover emerging artists, never-before-heard music and album drops designed to spark excitement for Garden members and music lover alike! All ages event.

Experiences Continued



DOG DAYS AT THE GARDEN

Now - May 9 | 6-11 a.m.

Enjoy a weekend excursion with your four-legged friend through the Garden's trails. A paw-fect place to enjoy the outdoors together with some great photo opps.



MAJESTIC MARIPOSAS

Now - May 10

Celebrate the arrival of spring at the *Cohn Family* Butterfly Pavilion, where hundreds of colorful Southwestern butterflies fill the air with life. Watch the monarchs and other stunning species dance from flower to flower and discover their incredible lifecycle up close. Snap a photo by our vibrant butterfly mural or simply pause and experience the serene world of pollinators surround you.



BALLET ARIZONA: AN EVENING AT DESERT BOTANICAL GARDEN

May 13 - May 30

By popular demand, An Evening at Desert Botanical Garden is back and better than ever before! Surrounded by the magnificent desert landscape with the setting sun as its backdrop, this audience favorite now features two ballet experiences as a double-feature event.

Spring Season Finale Weekend

Experience spring's last unforgettable bloom

May 8-10 | 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.

A FULL WEEKEND OF YOUR SPRING FAVORITES



Desert Studio: Emerging Artist Series | May 8, 6:30–9 p.m.



VIP Pup Club & Dog Days in the Garden | May 9, 6–10 a.m.



Flashlight Nights: Spring Edition
May 9, 7–9:30 p.m.



Mother's Day in the Garden
May 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



Garden: After Dark
May 8-10, 6–10 p.m.




Shopping & Dining | Daily

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.



520
Rare and Endangered Plants



4,847
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

Opened June 2025

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 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.

Contact:

1201 N. Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, AZ 85008
480.941.1225 | dbg.org

Open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

#desertbotanicalgarden | @dbgphx



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