



DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



Our Mission

The mission of Denver Botanic Gardens is to connect people with plants, especially plants from the Rocky Mountain region and similar regions around the world, providing delight and enlightenment to everyone.

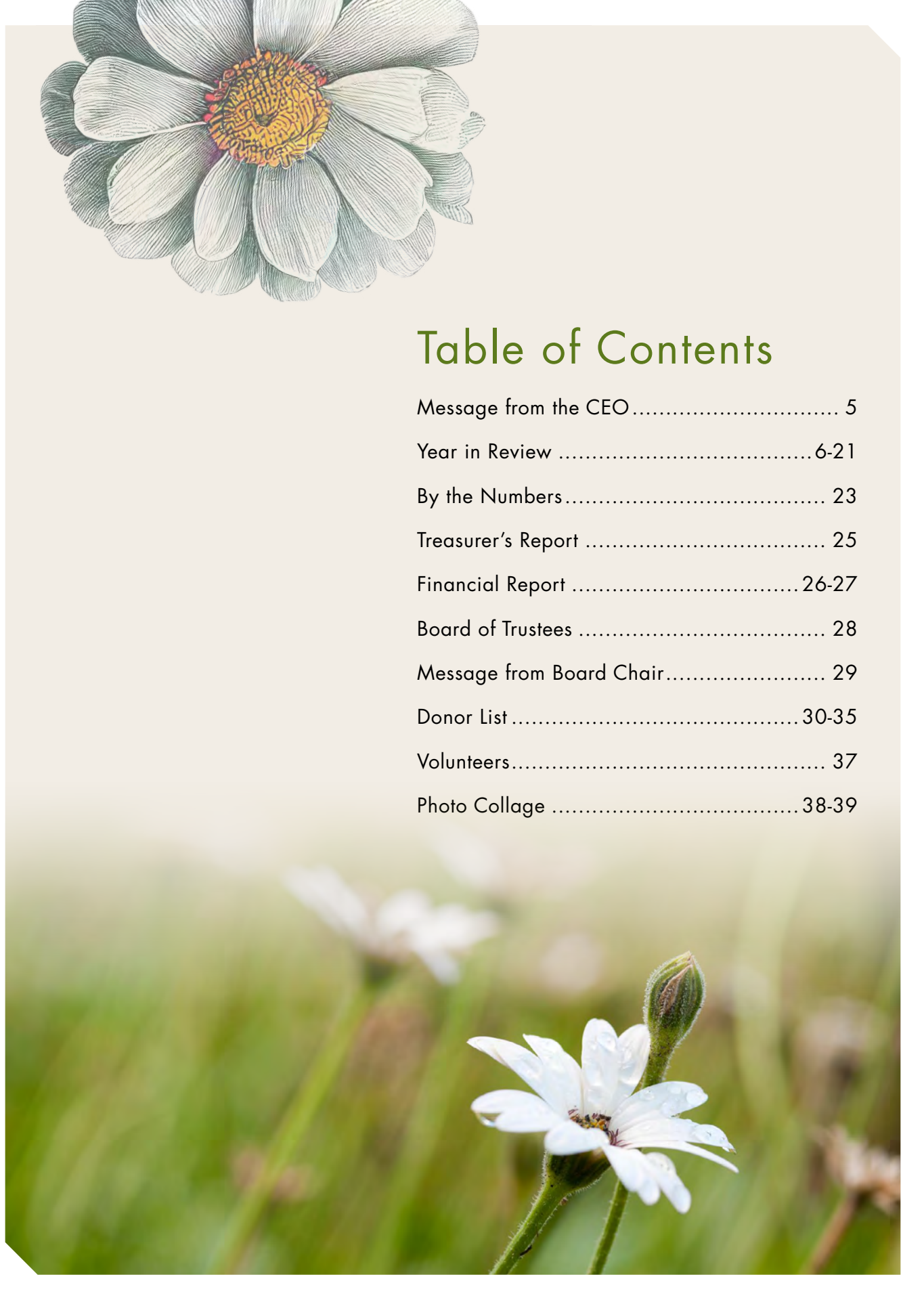
The four core values of the Gardens – **transformation, relevance, diversity** and **sustainability** – spell out the Gardens' intentions in the years ahead. These core values, along with the Gardens' brand platform, strategy, icon and capital campaign, are cohesive and serve as a map to chart our course. With the support of friends, we set out to ensure Denver Botanic Gardens will forever flourish.

Front cover: *Lantana camara* 'Calippo Tutti Frutti'
This page: School of Botanical Art & Illustration printing demonstration



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Message from the CEO



All systems go. That's what 2022 felt like. Every aspect of our work roared to new life after the rough and tumble of the two years prior. We welcomed over 1.3 million visitors, expanded outreach efforts, brought the Freyer – Newman Center to full life, held record-breaking events and expanded our collections. We also launched Denver Botanic Films and the IDEA Center for Public Gardens.

When experiencing so much good news, there is only one appropriate reaction: gratitude.

Every day inspires appreciation. For example, we have an exceptional Board of Trustees. They bring diverse perspectives and experiences and share devotion to the Gardens and our mission. Every meeting of the full Board or one of their committees is filled with vision, dynamic discussion and kindness. Trustees contribute in every way to our success and culture.

When it comes to joyful support, we surely have the best volunteers anywhere. They infuse every day with camaraderie and excellence. I see them working in the gardens, greeting visitors, leading tours, directing waves of eventgoers, prepping exhibits and herbarium sheets, and inspiring children.

The generosity of donors and sponsors is astounding. They make so many things possible, so many dreams come true. Behind every major project – from events to new gardens, Urban Food Initiatives to free public access – there are human beings of good will. It is all wonderfully overwhelming.

Every visitor comes to one of our sites for a reason. More often than not, it is about something deep. They are here for inspiration, joy and peace. One of my favorite things to do is wander around and talk with guests, hearing their reactions and watching as they experience something unique to them.

And the staff. What a remarkable team. While the world seems a bit unhinged, this group of humans understands the magic of great culture, passion and purpose. They forever support one another, forgive easily, celebrate and raise the bar.

You see, all these champions get both sides of what it means to connect people and plants. Both need nurture. Both are worthy.

As one year blends to the next, I am awash in gratitude, ready to see a bright future where the work we all do moves the world.

Brian Vogt
Denver Botanic Gardens CEO



Year in Review

The IDEA Center for Public Gardens™

The goals of the Center in its first year (2022) included a needs assessment, the launching of an annual cohort program for public gardens and the creation of a website.

- The needs assessment sought to understand where organizations are in their journey, to find out what they are prioritizing and to get better clarity of barriers and challenges to the embodiment of IDEA principles (inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility). The [Needs Assessment Summary Report](#) is available on the Center's website.
- The inaugural cohort program was launched as a pilot in May 2022 (ending May 2023) and aimed to develop a program to help gardens prioritize IDEA work, build greater fluency in IDEA principles, and create a community of shared experiences and stories that help to support growth and change. Program participants included board members, executive garden leadership and staff from over 20 public gardens, arboreta and parks across the United States and Canada.
- The Center launched a [website](#) to promote visibility and branding awareness, while also creating a place for organizations to learn more about and apply for the cohort program. Goals for 2023 include developing a webpage dedicated to resources, including a garden(s) from the UK in the second annual cohort program, and developing a story-telling prototype for how the Center will identify and share the impact of our work.



Horticulture

Plant Distributions

- The cover art on the *Index Seminum* featured *Eriogonum jamesii* (photo by Julian Gonzales), one of the many medicinal plants grown at the Gardens.
- Nineteen samples from the Gardens' living collections were shared with three researchers, one university, five botanic gardens and one government entity:
 - Seeds, divisions or plants were shared for display purposes with Regis University, Chicago Botanic Garden, Cheyenne Botanic Gardens and Longwood Gardens. Conservation work was a noted purpose for propagules shared with Bartlett Tree Research Lab and Arboretum and Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden.
 - Seeds were loaned to USDA-APHIS PPQ staff for teaching purposes; high resolution imagery was created of three species, and images were returned along with the seeds.
 - Leaf tissue was shared with researchers at universities for molecular research. Wild-collected *Erythronium grandiflorum* tissue was shared with a researcher at Gachon University, South Korea. Four species of North American oak leaves were shared with a graduate student at Minnesota State University Mankato for a study on the functional traits of *Quercus* species within the United States and how these traits relate to fire resistance and leaf litter flammability. A doctoral student at The Pennsylvania State University received five species of *Solanum* for investigating the evolutionary relationships in the genus.
 - As a result of these material transfer agreements, seven additional herbarium vouchers were collected for the Kathryn Kalmbach Herbarium.



Garden at Meow Wolf Denver

Sustainable Landscape Services

We completed 21 design projects with municipalities, nonprofit and for-profit organizations. Some highlights included: Littleton median; Aurora Municipal Court; Colorado Mills Pollinator Garden; Brighton wastewater treatment design; CommonGround Golf Course design and peer review; C-70 CDOT and Denver park project peer review; Meow Wolf Denver; Westminster Armed Forces Tribute Garden in City Park; Hearthfire HOA Northern Water.



Waterlily Registration

As the International Registrar of Nymphaeaceae through the International Waterlily and Water Gardening Society, Tamara Kilbane, senior horticulturist, aquatics, registered 82 new waterlily cultivars from 11 countries:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------|
| ◦ Argentina 4 | ◦ Russia 2 |
| ◦ Australia 1 | ◦ Spain 1 |
| ◦ Cyprus 1 | ◦ Sri Lanka 2 |
| ◦ China 56 | ◦ United States 1 |
| ◦ India 8 | ◦ Venezuela 5 |
| ◦ Malaysia 1 | |

Grants

- A \$20,000 APGA Urban Agriculture Resilience Programs Grant was awarded to educate and deliver Healthy Eating and Grow Kits to 200 people in the Sun Valley neighborhood, including students and parents at Fairview Elementary School.
- An Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) grant in the amount of \$249,648.11 was awarded for a project in partnership with Arnold Arboretum and Montgomery Botanical Center to develop digital tools for enhancing data collection during plant acquisitions and to create a conduit for moving that data into BG-BASE for accession records, decreasing lag time for data entry and improving the quality of data at time of accessioning.
- The APGA-U.S. Forest Service Tree Gene Conservation grant of \$5,970 allowed for scouting and collecting of *Quercus welshii* in Utah and Arizona.
- A cost-share grant totaling \$3,000 with the Black Hills National Forest allowed work collecting and propagating *Rhodiola integrifolia*. We collected seed, measured populations and collected leaf samples for genetic work to look at genetic diversity within the population.

Year in Review (continued)



Horticulture interns

Internship Program

A total of 167 potential interns from 92 different universities or accredited certificate programs applied to one or more internships with five positions available: Bonsai Collection Management and Curation, Kelly Taylor; Therapeutic Horticulture, Alivia Arlia; Plant Records Curation and Mapping, Leslie Hockley; Rock Alpine Garden Curation and Mapping, Harrison Smith; Seed Collections and Propagation, Kathryn Overman.

Other

- Assistant Curator Horticulture Blake Burger published "Medicinal Herbs of the Rocky Mountains."
- Horticulture staff gave 47 presentations and 23 tours to community groups, schools and industry professionals, reaching 3,069 people.
- We renovated the O'Fallon Perennial Walk to replace overgrown shrubs with native and adapted species with low water requirements, for a more sustainable and water-conscious garden.
- Mike Bone and the plant production team were successful in propagating cuttings of a surviving *Rosa* species that was found remaining at the Amache National Historic Site.



O'Fallon Perennial Walk renovation



Amache rose

Research

Urban Golf Course Restoration

Urban areas are increasingly important for biodiversity conservation. Our newest partner in this vital work is the Colorado Golf Association. A floristic survey was conducted during the summer at CommonGround golf course to prioritize areas for restoration. From the results, areas were identified for seeding native species.

Digital Field Notebooks Improved Efficiency

Our field scientists began to collect data using new digital tools and devices. Whether collecting voucher specimens, mapping alpine populations for seed conservation, measuring rare plants on the Western Slope or documenting tree health in the city, the data generated are sent directly to a geospatial database, making it more efficient than ever to start analysis.

"Flora of Colorado" Second Edition Released

The second edition of Head Curator of Natural History Collections, Associate Director of Biodiversity Dr. Jennifer Ackerfield's "Flora of Colorado" was released. This guide is the ultimate reference for all plant species present in Colorado, both native and introduced. This edition relies heavily on digitized and databased herbarium specimens for the range, locality and elevation information of each species demonstrating the value of these collections. Updates include more color photographs, dot-distribution maps, updated nomenclature and 10 newly described species.

Urban Tree Health

We launched a tree health study along the High Line Canal collecting data on more than 200 newly planted trees. Our protocols are designed to relate tree health to local planting conditions. With nine tree species ranging from water-loving to upland, we have the unique opportunity to assess a diverse palette of trees being planted at scale. Our hope is to carry out data collection over the long term and to add newly planted trees to our sampling scheme.

Grassland Restoration Study at Chatfield Farms

We are working on a Bureau of Land Management-funded project to understand how seed sourcing impacts restoration success. Should we only be using local seeds, or should we bring in seeds from areas that are similar to what our projected climate will be? In the first phase of this project, we started growing out plants from many different populations to understand how well they perform under different conditions.



CommonGround golf course

Year in Review (continued)

What Makes Mushrooms Mushroom?

This is a question in fungal biology that the National Science Foundation-funded CLIMUSH (climate + mushrooms) project is attempting to explore. Reproduction in fungi can be influenced by plant diversity, environmental disturbances such as fire and other variation between habitats. We sampled vegetation, soil samples, spores and mushrooms from Niwot Ridge in Colorado and Konza Prairie Biological station in Kansas. In collaboration with mycologists from across North America, DNA sequence data from these samples will be compared to others across multiple sites to study the environmental influences on mushroom production in fungi.

Science and research continue to be large focuses of the Gardens. For detailed information on our 2022 endeavors, [see the report](#) on our website.

Center for Global Initiatives

- In July, the Gardens hosted a two-day Global Steppe Symposium.
 - Day one targeted the scientific community with speakers from the four great steppe regions. Programs focused on conservation work in steppe regions around the world and in Colorado.
 - Day two focused on practical knowledge applicable to home gardeners. Lectures covered plant selection and designing edible landscapes in the Colorado steppe.
 - We hosted scientists and professionals from five different countries: Argentina, Lesotho, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Mongolia. They joined us on field trips to regional areas of interest as well as natural sites. These trips created lasting relationships between colleagues and fueled discussions about future projects and partnerships to further our understanding of steppe environments and their conservation.

- We partnered with local musicians and restaurants as part of the experience. A publication printed for the event included the papers presented as well as outlines of the non-scientific presentations.
- Attendance totaled 259 registrants in person and virtually.

- Also in July, the Gardens hosted the Plant Collecting Collaborative's annual meeting. Chaired by Director of Horticulture & Center for Global Initiatives Phillip Douglas, the group is a consortium of 18 international public gardens that pool resources and expertise to conduct plant exploration and collecting. The group enjoyed tours of the Gardens and surrounding natural areas and engaged in discussion of ex-situ conservation strategies with delegates from the Global Steppe Symposium.
- In November, Phillip Douglas joined staff from the San Diego Botanic Garden, the Huntington and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies on a trip to Hiroshima, Japan. Hosted by Green Legacy Hiroshima, the group was invited to visit the trees that survived the atomic blast in 1945. The group is working to provide Green Legacy Hiroshima with research proposals to determine if there are existing traits within these trees that enabled their survival.

Development

- In 2022, over \$865,000 was raised for Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms' Master Development Plan from individuals and foundations achieving a total of \$8 million. This initiative will enhance the visitor experience at Chatfield Farms.
- The State Historical Fund gave generous support for the rehabilitation of Chatfield Farms' Hildebrand Ranch, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. Eleven existing 19th century buildings received a

detailed assessment for rehabilitation. Phase One begins in the fall of 2023 and continues into 2024.

- Funding from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) enabled implementation of the Chatfield Farms composting project. This project benefits the state by diverting material from the Front Range waste stream and educates community members about the environmental benefits of composting through various outreach efforts.
- Through targeted outreach campaigns and a partnership with [FreeWill](#), identified planned gifts increased by 54%. Legacy donors are invited to become members of the Perennial Friend Society (PFS). PFS members "plant a seed" for the Gardens' future and their personal legacies through planned gifts that ensure future generations of our community get to learn, connect with the environment and experience the delight of plants.
- Corporate memberships reached an all-time high of 120 corporate members, including 30 new or increased memberships. New event sponsors include CenturyLink and electric vehicle company Polestar, which joined corporate members such as UMB Bank, Xcel Energy, RBC Wealth

Management, Bank of America and more. We continue to build relationships with companies that share our commitment to IDEA (inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility) work and environmental sustainability. Their generous support enabled us to exceed \$650,000 in corporate revenue.

- More than 25 community organizations have a membership with the Gardens, including 10 libraries, increasing access to the Gardens for all.
- Over \$1.8 million in new endowment investment was realized through gifts and bequests, including new restricted endowed funds for Mount Goliath and for the Gardens' art and exhibitions programming.
- Annual giving to the Gardens continued to be strong in a year when overall giving decreased. More than \$1,088,000 was raised from 3,852 gifts. Add-on gifts proved to be an attractive option for our donors. During online ticket purchase check-out, donors and members contributed nearly \$100,000 in addition to their purchases. The Shop at the Gardens raised \$15,765.72 from customers that agreed to "round up" their purchase amount.



Hildebrand Ranch House

Year in Review (continued)

Chatfield Farms

- The Chatfield Farms Master Development Plan was approved by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and work commenced on Phase One construction documents to prepare for construction in 2023.
- A 4.5-acre solar array to be built in cooperation with the City and County of Denver was approved for the south part of the farm. Chatfield Farms was granted 20% of total electrical output at a discount to power the campus into the future. Eventually, the CSA team will grow produce under the solar panels (known as agrivoltaics, the dual use of land for solar power generation and agriculture). Construction is scheduled to start in late 2023.
- Attendance at events and daily visitor numbers were up 8.91%, totaling 198,804.
 - Lavender Festival expanded to a two-day event, attracting 11,500 attendees and generating \$160,000 in revenue.
 - Corn Maze saw record attendance of 67,526 through September and October and revenues exceeded \$500,000.
 - Pumpkin Festival held steady with 36,238 attendees but set a record of 26,777 pumpkins purchased over the three-day event.
 - Trail of Lights had another breakout year with attendance jumping 4.5% to 42,000 attendees! A completely new amphitheater display and unique color combinations helped drive attendance.



- The horticulture team added 400 plant accessions to our growing collections at Chatfield Farms. This includes 18 varieties of lavender being grown and tested for wider distribution for Colorado's small lavender growers.
- The Veterans Farm Program trained nine veterans in a 20-week course of hands-on and classroom work. Each vet completed 300 hours of training in urban agriculture, which includes field trips to local farms, selling produce at farmers markets and visiting specialty grocery stores to learn how to handle and sell produce.

- The Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program grew more than 100 different varieties of vegetables and flowers to distribute to 300 paying shareholders.
- The CSA donated 19,000 pounds (a 10,000-pound increase from 2021) of produce to numerous nonprofits and foodbanks, serving 843 individuals and 125 families every month during the growing season.

Denver Botanic Gardens is committed to increasing access to fresh, healthy food through community-based projects. View the [2022 Urban Food Initiatives report](#) on our website.



CSA distribution

Year in Review (continued)

Exhibitions, Art & Learning Engagement

Denver Botanic Gardens was re-accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and became a Smithsonian Affiliate.

Exhibitions

- Nine exhibitions were presented in the Freyer – Newman Center galleries, offering a mix of international and Colorado-based artists. Exhibits included: *Ursula Von Rydingsvard: The Contour of Feeling*, featuring large-scale cedar sculptures; an immersive installation by artist Hillary Lorenz; and *Abundant Future*, organized by the American Society of Botanical Artists.
- An augmented reality exhibition, *Seeing the Invisible*, was presented simultaneously at the Gardens and 11 other botanical gardens across the globe. The exhibition showcased contemporary artworks accessible through a mobile app.
- Two exhibitions organized by the Gardens traveled to other institutions: *La Calavera Catrina* (Naples Botanical Garden, FL) and *Dreams in Bloom: Photos by Fares Micue* (Clark Gardens, Weatherford, TX).

Art Collections

- Sixteen new works were accessioned, including *Chauncey*, a five-foot-tall bronze bunny by Jim Budish installed in Mordecai Children's Garden. Thirteen of the accessioned artworks were by [2021 Land Line artists in residence](#).
- There were 1,705 searches on the collections' online portal.
- One third of the accessioned art collection was photographed for archival and portal use.
- Conserv, a cloud-based environmental monitoring system, was implemented in the galleries.

Land Line Artist Residencies

- The Land Line Artist Residency Program hosted six resident artists: T Edward Bak, Daniela Maria Ferreira Cabeza-Vanegas, Jessi Harvey, Jasmine Holmes, Irina Neacsu and Amy K. Wendland. They created works in a variety of media including ceramics, illustration, music, painting and mixed media.

School of Botanical Art & Illustration classroom



School of Botanical Art & Illustration

- Online and in-person classes engaged new audiences and provided variety to existing students.
- Collaboration with the Clinton Family Fund Go2Gardens Free Shuttle Program and Downtown Arvada Visual Arts Center provided two botanical illustration workshops to 22 teen artists focused on cultural traditions and portraiture. Artworks were exhibited during the Gardens' Día de los Muertos celebration.
- Seven students received the certificate in botanical illustration. New York-based botanical artist Carol Woodin spoke at the graduation ceremony. Graduates exhibited artworks in the Helen Fowler Library.

- The scholarship application was converted into an online form and translated into Spanish, which resulted in increased accessibility, and 19 students received scholarships for botanical illustration classes.

Learning Engagement

- Docents reached 2,774 visitors through 289 tours at York Street, Chatfield Farms and Mount Goliath. Gardens staff led 4 tours at York Street.
- Recruited 17 new docents with diverse backgrounds and interests; trainings were recorded to facilitate future docent training in more inclusive and accessible ways.
- Docents and learning engagement facilitator volunteers interacted with visitors via Science Chats and Learning Carts. A new learning cart highlighting human uses for plants called "There's a Plant for That!" debuted in October.

- The Nerdy Naturalist Instagram campaign, produced with the Marketing and Social Responsibility Department, published 27 videos with over 700,000 views. External collaborators Let's Botanize and Land Line Artist in Residence Amy Wendland were featured. Three of the Gardens' active research projects were highlighted.

Spanish Initiatives

- Seven Nerdy Naturalist Instagram reels were published in Spanish, with high engagement and enthusiastic reception.
- Launched free introductory tours of York Street in Spanish.
- Welcomed 11 adults and nine youth from community partner Grupo Vida for a tour of Sensory Garden and activity in Spanish.



Ursula Von Rydingsvard: *The Contour of Feeling*

Year in Review (continued)

Interpretation

- At York Street, updated wayfinding signs and maps increased visibility of the Freyer – Newman Center throughout the Gardens; a new interpretive trail encourages families to learn about biodiversity as they explore the Gardens, including prompts to engage children. Remaining English-only information signs were updated to include Spanish.
- At Chatfield Farms, new interpretive signs were installed in the Hildebrand house and remaining English-only outdoor interpretive signs were updated with Spanish.

Evaluation

- Participated in the AAM Annual Survey of Museum-goers with over 3,900 responses from visitors, including a new suite of questions to understand visitors' feelings about climate change efforts and education.
- Visitor studies helped measure impacts for the Día de los Muertos celebration, yielding 109 responses.
- Additional surveys measured demographics, motivations and environmental attitudes of visitors to the Gardens, classes, programs and to members and corporate members, which helped us better understand and serve various audiences.



Additional Programming

- More than 900 visitors came to the Freyer – Newman Center for free access to exhibitions, live music, cooking demonstrations and art activities during Night at the Museums.
- The exhibits team hosted December's Creative Mornings event, welcoming 117 creative professionals to the Freyer – Newman Center for a presentation in the Sturm Family Auditorium by Gardens' Film Director and Producer Billy Kanaly.
- Artist talks, lectures, workshops, receptions and other programs were held, including an infrared photography workshop led by Land Line artist Eloisa Guanlao; artist talks by Tya Alisa Anthony, Hilary Lornez and several Land Line artists; multiple screenings of "Into Her Own," a film highlighting Ursula von Rydingsvard, and the Mo'Print Print Sale and Open Portfolio event.



York Street Events

- Spring Plant Sale returned in person after two years of online sales with curbside pickup due to the pandemic. Shoppers were elated to be back in the Gardens picking out plants to take to their home gardens. The event generated \$484,351 in revenue with a total of 54,486 items sold.
- The Summer Concert Series also made a triumphant return, with eight shows in the UMB Bank Amphitheater. Additionally, we hosted Evenings al Fresco, a small acoustic music series that ran concurrently through the summer.
- Fall Plant & Bulb Sale had a particularly shining moment as sales broke through the \$100,000 revenue mark and we sold over 13,000 items. Given this success, all public events held at our York Street location now gross more than \$100,000.



Blossoms of Light



- Glow at the Gardens™ continued to be one of the largest events the team works on year-round. With another full sell-out, we grossed over \$500,000, reaching 108% of the revenue goal.
- Annual holiday lighting event Blossoms of Light® continued to break records and receive accolades far and wide. Marking a new revenue milestone, Blossoms of Light reached \$3,670,800 in revenue, which was 22.5% higher than the previous record set in 2021. Forty-five out of the 49 days sold out.

Year in Review (continued)

Marketing & Social Responsibility

Community Engagement

The Clinton Family Fund Go2Gardens Free Shuttle Program continued to be instrumental in the Gardens' effort to be a more equitable and inclusive institution. Free program offerings expanded to pique interests of diverse audiences, such as floral design workshops, Ghosts in the Gardens tours, family piñata workshops and more. Additionally, a quarterly e-newsletter, Community Connections, was established to streamline communication with community partners about free and accessible programs hosted by the Gardens.

Social Media

- We launched a Facebook page for Chatfield Farms in June and a TikTok channel in July.
- Annual reach across all social media channels exceeded 30 million.

Press Coverage

- We garnered more than 7,000 media stories from print, TV, radio and online publications.
- Science, art, education and Chatfield Farms coverage greatly increased, including topics on plant and water conservation, the Amache rose, art exhibitions, sustainable agriculture and food access outreach.

Advertising

- We continued to expand our reach through digital advertising, including pre-roll videos that ran on streaming TV services like Hulu, video on YouTube, audio on Spotify and sponsored ads on Pinterest and LinkedIn (in addition to ads already running on Instagram and Facebook).
- Spanish-language digital ads and two billboards supported our message that we are an inclusive public space.



One World One Water Center (OWOW)

- A joint venture with Metropolitan State University of Denver, OWOW organized the Watershed Summit at the Gardens to discuss a range of local and global water challenges.

York Street Operations

- Sustainability and water savings remained a top priority. A major water-savings project was completed on the stream that flows from Monet Pool into the Japanese Garden. The goal was to ensure the original design of the stream remained, even while essentially tearing out the entire stream to replace the liner. The result has been over one million gallons of water saved in the year since.
- Two new water bottle-filling stations were installed, bringing our new total to nine stations. Over the last three years since initial installation, we have saved an estimated 1.2 million plastic water bottles.
- An HVAC controls upgrade was completed, tying all our buildings into one system. This offers greater controls for efficiency as well as for climate comfort within the buildings. Three aging roof-top units were replaced with higher efficiency units.
- A new surround on the stage in Mitchell Hall was installed. The design is a nod to the historical wood doors throughout Boettcher Memorial Center. This major improvement seamlessly blends to look like it has always been there.
- Safety and security protocols continued to adjust with the times. Two additional security officers were hired to provide consistent staffing during hours of operation. The north drive fire lane was re-stripped to provide more catering sites while preserving the drive for access to fire and other emergency vehicles.



Year in Review (continued)

Education



Sensory backpacks

Programming, Registration and Participation

- Adult education programming grew to 15,405 registrants, a new annual record.
- Family and children's programming crested above 11,425 children and family members.
- School programs more than doubled their audience to 19,766 students served.
- The family and children's programs team offered a record 508 programs.
- Families made 122 wreaths in the popular winter Family Make and Take programs.
- Our new Silent Disco Yoga attracted more than 300 summer participants, mostly non-members.
- The first Chatfield Farms educator night drew 193 educators.
- Pumpkin Discovery Days at Chatfield Farms brought just over 1,400 students and 400 adult/teacher chaperones to the farm over the course of three weeks in September, resulting in higher attendance for Chatfield Farms' school programs than York Street's programs that month.

- This was the third year of Herbalism Certificate program, and nine participants earned full certificates, while 273 other registrants joined us for select classes.
- The Plains Conservation Center garden donated 509 pounds of produce to local food banks.

Activities

- Summer camps filled to capacity with waitlists. The return to full size camps was a programmatic success with high satisfaction among participating families, with 100% of responding families saying they would recommend our camp programs to others.
- In March we ran a successful spring break camp that helped fine tune new safety procedures and marked the first use of the renovated Kid's Zone facilities for camp.
- In celebration of National Pollinator Week, we offered a Pollination Station Make and Take program. In total, families created 52 pollination stations to support pollinators in their neighborhoods.
- Through our Project Budburst grant from Chicago Botanic Gardens, we planned phenology workshops for teachers, volunteers and community groups, and even connected our Gardens Teen Leader volunteer group with teens doing similar citizen science at the Almaty Botanical Gardens in Kazakhstan.
- The family programs team welcomed teen volunteers back to Mordecai Children's Garden from June through August. Teen volunteers offered drop-in activities for visiting families, including bug hunting, painting by the pond and imaginative play at Sagebrush Stage.
- Adult education created the first-of-its-kind educational Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) share. This share offered the opportunity for CSA members to add on

teaching videos featuring a professional chef utilizing the exact vegetables included in each week of pickup. Participants tried new recipes and minimized food waste through cooking with seasonal, local vegetables.

- The Cultivation Cruiser returned to schools, serving 374 schoolchildren.
- New on-site school programs were well received. We ran the week-long Día de los Muertos Discovery Day program at York Street and several schools booked our new Sustainability 101 program at Chatfield Farms.
- Through our Urban Advantage partnership, we connected with over 1,800 Denver Public Schools middle school students. Students learned about different roles Gardens staff members hold and participated in STEM activities through a virtual resource.

Helen Fowler Library

- Gardening Help returned to the Gardens in person on April 1 after two years of remote support. Their new location in the Freyer – Newman Center places the Master Gardener volunteers alongside librarians.

- A University of Denver library graduate student intern began a project to unpack the serials collection, the last part of the collections to move from Boettcher Memorial Center to the Freyer – Newman Center.
- The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries annual meeting was hosted by the Helen Fowler Library for 17 virtual participants and 28 in-person participants, the first in-person meeting since 2019. Highlights included a daytime ghost tour; guest speakers Dr. Bonnie Clark, Dr. Julie Morris and the Gardens' Dr. Jennifer Ackerfield; tours of the library and natural history Collections, and of University of Denver's special collections and archives.
- The new Turning Leaves Used Book Sale sold almost 800 books.
- We introduced a new program, Meet a Rare Book, which highlights the Gardens' rare book collections.
- As part of Denver Arts week, 116 visitors came through the library during Night at the Museums.



Story Time at the Helen Fowler Library



Corpse Flower

By the Numbers January through December 2022

Visitors

Total annual attendance: **1,334,904**

Membership

Total member households: **53,672**

Staff

Full-time, part-time and seasonal staff: **341**

Communications

Total online pageviews: **13 million**

Visits via mobile device: **69%**

Botanic Buzz monthly e-news subscribers: **126,000**

Total email subscribers: **165,000**

Annual Facebook impressions: **12.3 million**

Annual Instagram impressions: **9.6 million**

Living Plant Collection

Families: **245**

Genera: **2,260**

Species: **10,991**

Taxa: **19,580**

Accessions: **36,805**

Index Seminum Seed Program

Seed lots from cultivation offered: **80**

Seed lots of indirect wild origin: **19**

Wild seed lots offered: **2**

Plant families represented: **25**

Institutions that ordered seeds: **26**

Countries seeds were shipped to: **13**

Seed packets distributed: **246**

Taxa shared: **71**

Therapeutic Horticulture Program

Total participants served: **347**

Rocky Mountain Cancer Center walks participants: **40**

Rocky Mountain Cancer Center bonsai program participants: **12**

Shuttle program, Cutting Garden participants: **36**

SPARK! Alzheimer's Association: **12 programs, 60 participants**

Open Arms Assisted Living: **4 visits offsite, 20 participants**

Kavod Senior Living: **3 visits offsite, 15 participants**

Craig Interns in Sensory Garden: **3 participants, 20 visits each**

CU Anschutz Medical Students Service Learning: **2 students, 100 hours each**

International Rescue Committee: **2 programs, 10 participants**

Sensory Adventures: **5 programs, 60 participants**

Sensory Adventures on the Road participants: **72**

Joshua School vocational training participants: **2**

Urban Food Programs

Community Garden

Plots: **124**
Individual gardeners: **130**
Waiting list: **49**
Volunteer hours: **743**

Mariposa Urban Farm at Denver Housing Authority (DHA)

Pounds of produce harvested and distributed to the Mariposa community: **1,677**
Varieties of crops grown: **30+**

Sun Valley Urban Farm at DHA

Pounds of produce harvested and distributed to the Sun Valley community: **3,544**
Varieties of crops grown: **30+**

Research & Conservation

Maps made on ArcGIS: **58**

High Line Canal trees surveyed: **219**

Sclerocactus glaucus flowers counted: **122**
Ave. height of *Sclerocactus glaucus*: **2.75 cm**

Plants in Chatfield Farms-BLM experiment: **5,548**

Observations/measurements taken in Chatfield Farms-BLM experiment: **101,796**

iNaturalist observations added to Denver EcoFlora Project: **69,430**
Species observed on iNaturalist for Denver EcoFlora Project: **2,691**

Seeds collected for conservation and restoration: **5 species; 5 collections; 15,153 seeds**

Number of collections:
KHD – **620**
DBG – **385**
DBGA – **36**
Tissue collections – **602**

Specimens imaged for database:
KHD – **2,366**
DBG – **1,028**

Interpretation and Visitor Engagement

Tours: **289 total with 2,774 attendees**
Roving docents: **227 shifts with 7,198 visitor interactions**

Learning Station engagements: **14,731**

Translation: **38,786** words translated for signage, interpretation, exhibitions, marketing, events

School of Botanical Art & Illustration: **198 programs with 2,191 students**

Rentals and Private Events

York Street
Events: **544**
Guests: **66,148**
Revenue: **\$1,741,465 (a record)**

Chatfield Farms
Events: **130+**
Guests: **17,136**
Revenue: **\$581,617**

Helen Fowler Library

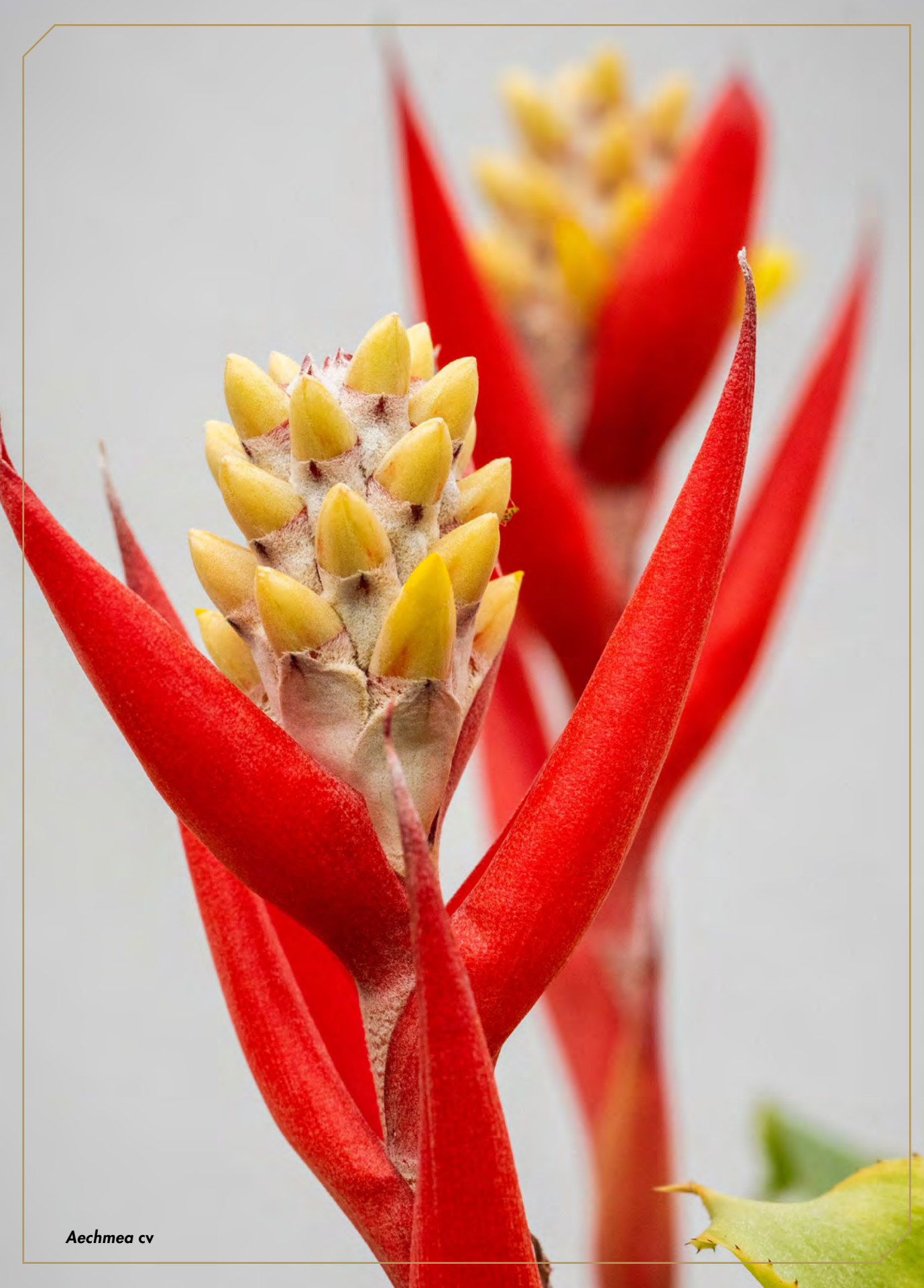
Circulation:
Items checked out: **2,589**
Items used in house: **2,207**
Periodicals used in house: **176**
JSTOR periodicals used: **891**

Patrons:
New patrons added: **342**
New eBooks registrations: **123**
Study room bookings: **282**
Visitors: **7,399**

Catalog:
New items/records added to the library collection: **989**
Library records edited/corrected: **2,491**

InterLibrary Loan:
Items lent to other libraries: **72**
Items borrowed for staff and members: **72**

Customer Service:
Reference & Archives questions answered: **343 (includes archives)**
Total DART questions logged: **1,081**
Gardening Help (questions and interactions): **1,330**



Aechmea cv

Treasurer's Report

The accompanying financial statements include the accounts of Denver Botanic Gardens Endowment Inc. ("DBGE") a separate nonprofit organization established in 1991 that holds a majority of the Gardens' endowment funds and also includes the accounts of Denver Botanic Gardens Guild, an affiliated volunteer organization that works for the betterment of the Gardens by providing volunteer assistance and financial aid.

In 2022, the Gardens continued its mission of connecting people with plants with an operating budget of \$33 million, a 24% increase from 2021, exemplifying the Gardens' robust rebound from pandemic restrictions.

Non-operating activity included: endowment and capital gifts of \$4.2 million; investment losses on the endowment (net of distribution) of \$6.5 million; and capital expenditures of \$1.6 million. Under the operating agreement with the City and County of Denver all capital improvements become assets of the City and as such are not reflected as the Gardens' assets in the accompanying financial statements. These capital improvements, however, are central to our mission and the experience of visiting the Gardens.

Total program services expenditures (representing core programs in the areas of horticulture, research, education and Chatfield Farms) totaled \$28.9 million.

Endowment net assets increased from \$41.8 million in 2021 to \$42.4 million in 2022 after contributions, realized and unrealized losses, and a \$1.3 million distribution to the Gardens' operating budget. Endowment investments are stated at fair market value each year and for 2022 the change in fair value resulted in a loss of 12%. In accordance with the endowment's investment policy, determined by the DBGE Board of Directors, the portfolio is diversified to limit risk. Since its inception in July 1992, the portfolio has earned a compound annual growth rate of 7.5%.

During 2022 the finance committee of the board of trustees, the chair of the board, the CEO and the CFO met regularly to review financial statements and results. This committee also approved the annual operating budget, the Internal Revenue Service Form 990 and made recommendations on various policy decisions to the Board of Trustees and the CEO.

On behalf of the Gardens, I would like to thank the members, donors, the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) the City and County of Denver, and the staff and volunteers for their foundation of support as we endeavor to ensure that the Gardens will forever flourish.

Abe Rodriguez
Treasurer, Board of Trustees



Financial Report December 31, 2022

Assets	2022	2021
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$9,688,948	\$18,131,090
Short-term Investments	7,862,086	—
Supplemental Lease Payment Fund	964,539	963,227
Accounts Receivable	2,542,784	1,930,477
Employee Retention Credit Receivable	3,081,876	4,671,745
Contributions Receivable	1,438,772	1,013,301
Prepaid Expenses	341,087	248,424
Inventory	411,988	332,040
Long-term Investments	42,435,741	41,751,635
Property, Plant and Equipment – Net	868,944	886,261
Total Assets	\$69,636,765	\$69,928,200

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$2,700,084	\$1,871,246
Deferred Revenue	5,537,038	3,494,462
Total Liabilities	8,237,122	5,365,708
Net Assets		
Without Donor Restrictions	31,834,275	32,596,049
With Donor Restrictions	29,565,368	31,966,443
Total Net Assets	61,399,643	64,562,492
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$69,636,765	\$69,928,200



Combined Statement of Activities

Operating Revenues, Gains and Support

	2022	2021
SCFD	\$6,544,008	\$5,880,302
Membership Dues	3,968,200	3,311,583
Admissions	3,802,288	4,523,924
Special Events and Facility Rentals	7,472,178	6,077,864
Contributions & Grants	4,082,095	3,379,853
Chatfield Farms	2,693,477	2,646,439
City and County of Denver	1,122,625	1,122,625
Educational/Public Programs	1,061,798	837,398
The Shop at the Gardens	1,049,482	817,335
Endowment Distribution	1,314,563	1,213,564
Other	525,386	387,246

Total Operating Revenues, Gains and Support

Operating Expenditures

Program Services	\$28,948,402	\$23,532,534
Supporting Services	4,044,910	3,156,410

Total Operating Expenditures

Change in Net Assets from Operating Activities	642,788	3,509,189
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Non-Operating Activities

Federal Covid Relief Funds	—	15,167,487
Endowment and Capital Campaign Contributions	4,206,638	1,181,633
Capital Improvements	(1,608,954)	(884,700)
Bond Proceeds Received for Capital Projects	57,667	—
Investment Return on Endowments, After Distribution	(6,460,988)	4,394,926

Change in Net Assets from Non-operating Activities	(3,805,637)	19,859,346
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Net Assets at Beginning of Year	64,562,492	41,193,957
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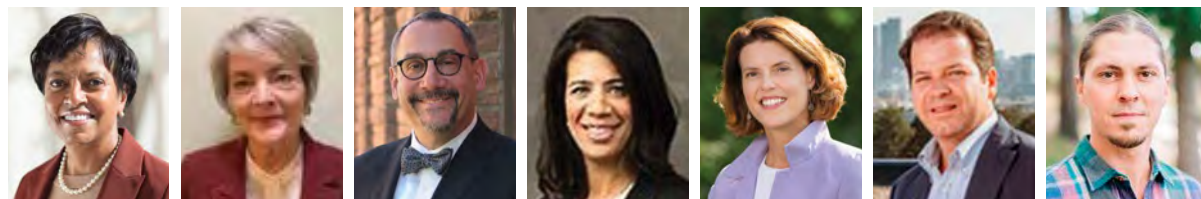
Net Assets at End of Year

	\$61,399,643	\$64,562,492
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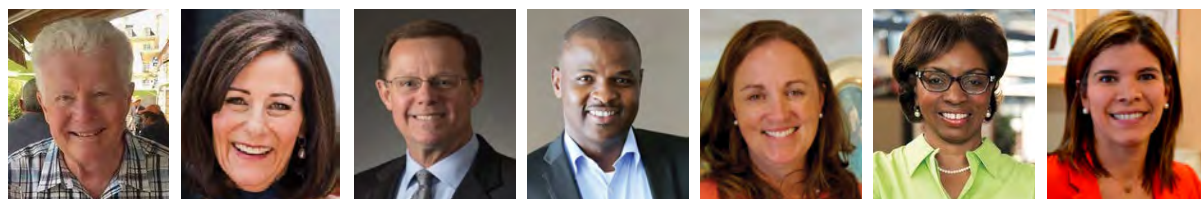




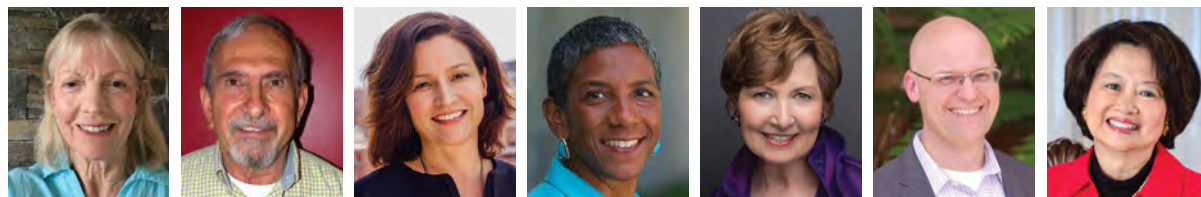
Mike Imhoff Board Chair, Mary Lee Chin Vice Chair, Dawn Bookhardt Secretary, Abe Rodriguez Treasurer, Kathy Hodgson Immediate Past Chair



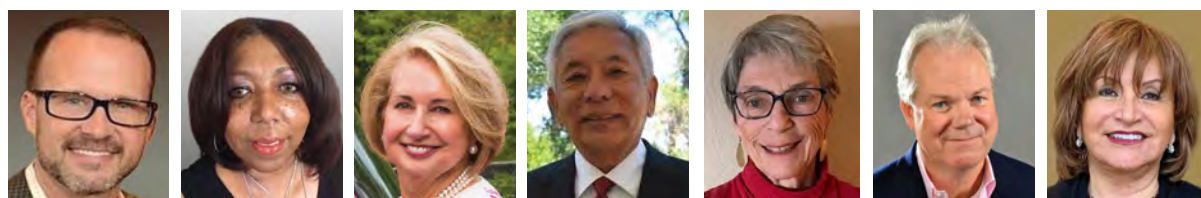
Dr. Jandel Allen-Davis, Diane Barrett, Rabbi Joe Black, Dr. Nina Casanova, Christina Caulkins, Jose Carredano, Dr. Clint Carroll



Richard Clark, Suzanne Coxhead, Andrew Cullen, Papa Dia, Melissa Eliot, Senator Rhonda Fields, Veronica Figoli



Cory Freyer, Al Gerace, Catherine Hance, Happy Haynes, Dr. Dorothy Horrell, Eliot Hoyt, Ding Wen Hsu



Christopher Leach, Wy Livingston, Judi Newman, Ronald Otsuka, Kitty Rapalyea, Scott Richards, Yrma Rico



Cynthia Scott, Caroline Schomp, Harold Smethills, Dr. Brad Stevinson, Marianne Sulser, Bea Taplin

Message from the 2022 Board Chair

As we report on another successful year at Denver Botanic Gardens, I am pleased to share our 2022 achievements and our vision for the future.

Challenges from the pandemic continued for all of us in different ways but also allowed us to shine as a place of respite and beauty during difficult times. TravelAwaits recognized Denver as one of the top 10 botanical gardens in the United States. Our four amazing sites continue to provide for our vision of creating gardens and experiences for all. Over 1.3 million visitors spent time with us. Household membership remained above 50,000 post-pandemic, a testament to our outreach efforts and development of new experiences, like the Freyer – Newman Center, providing a meaningful benefit to the community. The Summer Concert Series returned with sold-out crowds, and we continued to partner with fellow cultural groups to host Evenings al Fresco.

As we continued to grow in 2022, we updated our strategic plan. Looking through the lens of our core values (sustainability, diversity, relevance and transformation), we are focused on an exciting expansion and development of Chatfield Farms. This development will support Chatfield Farms as a leader in regenerative farming and ecological restoration at the center of the food-water nexus and it will deliver increased opportunities for us to involve, and provide for, our community. We also look forward to expanding our community engagement and strengthening our institutional position at the intersection of art and science.

The long-standing and steadfast leadership at the Gardens by CEO Brian Vogt brings a sense of calm and genuine joy. He is the guiding beacon for the amazing leadership team and staff at the Gardens as they explore new areas to enlighten and involve our communities.

Our Board of Directors is meaningfully engaged in our mission of guiding the Gardens toward a truly bright future. It is through this engagement and their extensive diversity that every meeting is interesting and makes us more valuable as an organization.

None of our achievements or opportunities ahead of us would be possible without the incredible support of our members, donors, staff and volunteers. Thank you!

Let's continue to grow together!

Mike Imhoff
Chair, Board of Trustees



2022 Gifts & Donations

\$25,000 and Above

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The Denver Foundation
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The LARRK Foundation
The Minneapolis Foundation
Terriquez Family Fund
UMB Bank
United Airlines
University of Colorado Medicine
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\$10,000-\$24,999

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Alison and Thomas Betts
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Lauren Crist-Fulk
Jennifer Crossett
Dianne and Dale Dawson
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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Carole and William Buyers
Eileen Byrne and Monica Rosenbluth

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Canvasback Construction
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Melinda and John Couzens
John and Kay Cowling
Polly Cox
Thomas and Suzanne Coxhead
Faye and Fred Crowe
CU Denver Department of
Landscape Architecture
DALYTE
Jane and Tim Davis
Martha Davis
Patricia Delano
Dr. Robert Dellavalle and
Dr. Lisa Schilling
Mari and Hannah Deminski
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Victoria and Stephen Eppler
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Lindmark Charitable Account
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Barbara Garcia
Ben Garnett
Monica Geocariss
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Mr. Dennis Hamann
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Aimee Henry
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Marcee and Kohl Kinning
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The Gardens is grateful for dedicated volunteers who offer their passions and skills to ensure we fulfill our mission and create important connections between plants, conservation, art and our community.

TOTAL ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS: 1,847

TOTAL VOLUNTEER VISITS: 18,897

TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS: 58,259

Hours by Department and Affiliate Volunteer Groups

Horticulture:	12,464
Public/Special Events:	14,161*
Research and Conservation:	2,501
Chatfield Farms (CSA, Horticulture, Greenhouse and Occasional Programs):	4,431
Chatfield Farms (Visitor Experience):	494
Children's Education and School Groups:	1,397*
Adult Education:	581
Learning Engagement:	1,554
Summer Teen Program:	1,534*
Gardens Teen Leaders:	362
York Street Ambassador and Visitor Experience Programs:	4,841
Docent Program:	3,252*
Library:	1,554
Development:	150
Marketing:	870
Volunteer Engagement:	2,052*
Plains Conservation Center:	472

*Includes hours from York Street and Chatfield Farms



Hours by Affiliate Volunteer Groups

Denver Botanic Gardens Guild:	3,202
Garden Club of Denver:	147
Rocky Mountain Weavers Guild:	1,114
Master Gardeners Garden Help:	528



Lavender Festival



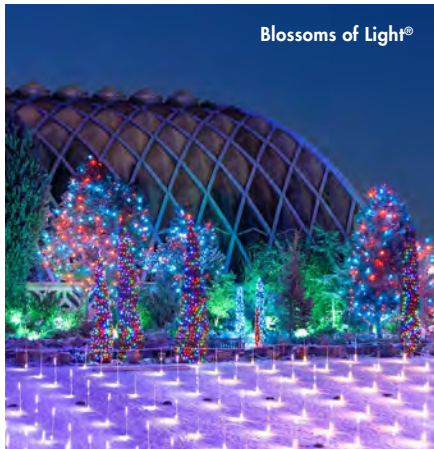
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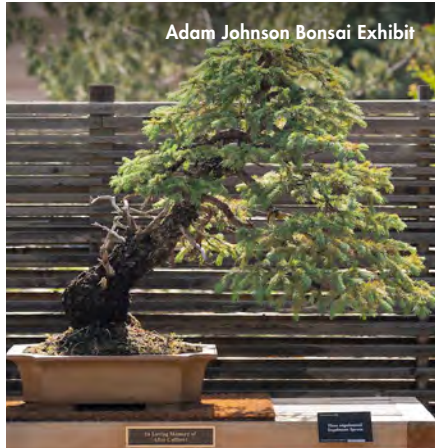
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Spring Plant Sale



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Niki Goulandr, *Paeonia from Leukas*, lithograph, 1983. Gift of A.G. Andrikopoulos. Photo: Scott Dressel-Martin.

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