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Navy Pier 2009

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Flower & Garden Show weds cultural enclaves with top landscape designers *8 cultural institutions share spotlight on the midway*

When the **2009 Belgard Chicago Flower & Garden Show** returns Saturday, March 7, through Sunday, March 15, 2009, to Navy Pier eight of Chicago's top cultural attractions will be represented by gardens spotlighted on the show's midway. All tip their floral bonnets to this year's theme, "Our World in Bloom," which signifies Chicago's status as an international city.

Sponsored by Belgard Hardscapes, a nationwide network of paving stone and garden wall products manufacturers, this year's show pairs the eight not-for-profits with leading landscape and garden design firms. Here is a roster of those cultural institutions and a "word painting" of their gardens.

Hope for Healing the Planet

**Chicago Botanic Garden—Glencoe, Ill.
designed by Mariani Landscape—Lake Bluff, Ill.**

Combining Japanese-inspired elements, such as Shoji screens, with methods to recycle rainwater, *Hope for the Healing Planet* features three circular rooftop gardens, Zone 5 plant materials and decking made from farm-harvested hardwood. The three circular tilting rooftop gardens, representing planets, call attention to the many aesthetic and ecological benefits of rooftop gardening. They are a foretaste of the 16,000-square-foot rooftop evaluation garden opening at the Botanic Garden's Rice Plant Conservation and Science Center in September 2009. The entrance to *Hope for the Healing Planet* is graced with an airy overhead structure planted with English ivy, white bleeding heart hellebore, bugloss, hardy geranium and variegated Japanese sedge. Visitors will pass through clusters of primarily perennial floral exhibits, with more than 4,500 plants on display, which have been either sourced or grown locally. Horticulturists from the Garden will host free seminars on a wide-range of subjects, including four-season container gardening, growing cool season crops and gardening for birds. They also will review proven perennials for Midwest soils and climate, from the Chicago Botanic Garden's plant evaluation program.

Paradise in a Parking Lot

**Chicago Park District Community Gardens—Chicago
designed by Community Garden volunteers**

Addressing water and energy conservation, alternative energy sources, and recycling, *Paradise in a Parking Lot* puts a twist on the classic Joni Mitchell song, "Big Yellow Taxi" ("They paved paradise, put up a parking lot."). This installation suggests the garden that visitors see sprang up from a parking lot, a notion underscored by the presence of broken asphalt, parking meters and remnants of a parking ramp. The garden—designed by Community Garden volunteers Denise Browning, Jim Angrabright, Leslie Zimmerman, Richard Tilley, Amy Brinkman, Susan Fontana and Doug Wood—is a vivid reminder that Chicago's Community Parks enhance neighborhood life by providing an attractive amenity that can help reduce crime and provide space for public events. The garden, which features a range of plant material, is contoured with berms made from bags of peat moss. Key to the garden is a group of kites crafted from recycled paper and plant material, made by children in the Park Kids Grow Programs. These, along with all the material used to create the garden, will be recycled at community gardens throughout the city at the conclusion of the Chicago Flower & Garden Show.

Greening Up

Chicago Park District Conservatories—Chicago

The professionals of Chicago's Garfield and Lincoln Park conservatories fashion a four-season garden set around a replica of a typical Chicago garage, with an emphasis on illustrating how homeowners can use vines and various planting schemes to create green facades in their yards. The spring quadrant of the garden displays those sure signs of the approaching change of season—daffodils, tulips, hyacinths—and includes wisteria and a cold frame demonstrating how to start early lettuce cultivation. Summer sports an array of herbs—rosemary, thyme, basil and

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chive—along with honeysuckle vines and a Quaking Aspen tree. Fall features bittersweet, ferns, kale, Swiss chard and ornamental grasses such as *Carex* and *Miscanthus*. Winter is represented by a formal garden with boxwood, juniper, hemlock; dormant clematis illustrates the *Greening Up* theme. Sod, pavers, mulch and stepping stones complete the design scheme. Plants in this year-round garden are primarily from the Garfield and Lincoln Park conservatories, with additional material from commercial vendors—all of which will be re-used in city parks at the conclusion of the show.

Lincoln Park Zoo—Chicago designed by The Brickman Group—Long Grove, Ill.

This garden serves as a sneak peek at one of the major environmental efforts now underway at the Lincoln Park Zoo—the transformation of the pond adjacent to Café Brauer into the Nature Boardwalk. When completed in 2010, this revitalized landscape will provide a haven for native birds, frogs, fish, insects and mammals while serving as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages. New natural shorelines, native vegetation and a re-engineered pond will provide eight acres of prime habitat for native wildlife and an outdoor classroom for environmental education. The innovative Peoples Gas Education Pavilion will anchor a wide range of learning programs. Mobile labs will promote hands-on lessons on pond ecology, while trained pond naturalists interpret wetlands wildlife. Strolling through the garden at Navy Pier, visitors will experience some of the visual elements that will make the south pond in Lincoln Park one of the city's great natural treasures.

GeoGarden Museum of Contemporary Art—Chicago designed by Hoerr Schaudt Landscape Architects—Chicago

This garden was inspired by an upcoming exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art: *Buckminster Fuller: Starting with the Universe* (opens March 15). One of the greatest American visionaries of the 20th century—best known as the inventor of the Geodesic Dome—Fuller's work continues to influence today's artists, designers, architects, engineers, environmentalists and mathematicians. He was concerned with meeting the needs of a growing global civilization while reducing the use of natural resources; his inventions were meant to achieve those goals by simplifying and improving human housing and the objects of daily life. Inspired by Fuller's sustainable responses to architecture and landscape, this playful, sculptural interpretation of his Dymaxion Projection Map (a world map projected onto the surface of a polyhedron shape, which can then be unfolded in many different ways and flattened to form a two-dimensional map which retains most of the relative proportional integrity of the globe map), celebrates the link between the practice of landscape architecture and Fuller's fascination with "how nature builds." Constructed of plant-covered facets in the form of squares and equilateral triangles set within a circular space, *GeoGarden* suggests a globe rising from a two-dimensional image.

Science in Bloom Museum of Science and Industry—Chicago designed by Jacobs/Ryan Associates and Christy Webber Landscapes—Chicago

The Museum of Science and Industry blooms into spring with a spectacular display reminiscent of a child's pop-up book. The Museum's Beaux-Arts building, dating back to 1893, rises 22 feet within a whimsical garden that represents four of its iconic exhibits—the *U-505 Submarine*, the only captured WWII German submarine in the United States; the *Pioneer Zephyr*, a sleek shiny train that made a record-breaking run from Denver to Chicago in 1934; the *Chick Hatchery* where museum-goers watch as chicks peck out of their shells and take their first steps; and *Smart Home: Green + Wired*, with a built-in digital nerve center that works constantly and automatically to save homeowner's time, reduce energy consumption and make life more fun and entertaining—using a dazzling array of flowers and foliage. Playful graphic interpretations of these exhibits are married with fragrant and colorful spring blossoms, including hyacinth, daffodils and stock, creating a fun and whimsical garden. This project is a collaboration between the Museum, Jacobs/Ryan Associates and Christy Webber Landscapes. Visit www.msichicago.org for information on these exhibits—and more!

Del Agua Viene La Vida (From Water Comes Life) National Museum of Mexican Art—Chicago designed by Kane Brothers Water Features—Burr Ridge, Ill.

Inspired by an ancient Mayan Galactic butterfly symbol representing all consciousness—past, present and future—this garden is a circular pattern divided into quadrants. One half of the garden heralds the Mayan devotion to the sun god, Kinich Ahau; the other pays homage to the rain god Chac. In this garden, each half is composed of two distinct gardening schemes, one formal and one more natural and organic in appearance. Eye-appealing features include an aqueduct suggesting a Mayan ruin and a formal reflecting pool. Among the plantings are a mix of leaf textures, colors and shapes: forsythia against deep glossy leaves of holly; the red leaf of the Eastern redbud forest pansy echoing the cinnamon colored bark of the river birch. "Our influences came from Mayan/Mexican culture," explains Frank Kane,

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co-owner of Kane Brothers Water Features, “but the plant material is hearty enough for our Chicago environment. What Garden Show visitors see is meant to inspire them. We want people to be able to implement these ideas at home.” To be inspired before the show, visit www.fromwatercomeslife.com.

WaterShedd

John G. Shedd Aquarium—Chicago

Northwind Perennial Farm—Burlington, Wisc.

Designed by Shedd Aquarium horticultural manager Christine Nye, in collaboration with Roy Diblik, co-owner of Northwest Perennial Farm, *WaterShedd* illustrates effective and pleasing ways to compose a xeriscape garden (an environment that requires no or minimal irrigation) using native and non-native plant species. Gathered around the façade of a house, this garden features an array of shrubs, trees, grasses and perennials, including Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia* ‘Brilliantissima’), American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*), Meadow Sage (*Salvia nemorosa* ‘Bluehill’), and Blue Sedge (*Carex flacca*). As Diblik notes, cutting back on water usage and providing habitat for wildlife does not mean forfeiting the aesthetic pleasures of traditional gardening. “This is about combining textures and shapes with moments of color to compose a kind of stylish theme. It’s about what I call, ‘know maintenance gardening’ -- choosing plants that relate to your lifestyle and the amount of time you want to devote to gardening. If you understand plants and what it takes to take care of them, you can create and maintain a garden and have fun doing it.”

The 2009 Chicago Flower & Garden Show is sponsored by Belgard Hardscapes, a nationwide network of paving stone and garden wall products manufacturers. Show hours are 10 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Saturday, and until 6 p.m. on Sundays. Adult admission is \$14 weekends, \$12 weekdays. Tickets for children 12 and under are \$5 every day. You can order tickets online now by visiting chicagoflower.com, where no service fee is charged, or buy them at the door.

Discounted all-day Navy Pier parking is \$14. For details about CTA bus service, call 836-7000 (any local area code) or visit the CTA Web site at transitchicago.com. For Metra travel information, go to metrarail.com for train schedules and phone numbers of the various rail lines serving downtown Chicago.

Tickets for groups of 15 or more are \$2 less and include a free ticket for every 15 purchased. They can be ordered by calling 773-435-1250, or by downloading a group reservation form at chicagoflower.com, which also has information on special hotel packages.

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FYI Color photos of garden displays, interactive programs, individual plants and flowers are available in JPG format from Sheila King Public Relations at chicagoflower@skpr.net or by visiting chicagoflower.com and clicking on Press Room.