



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*Navy Pier 2009*

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## Chicago Flower & Garden Show returns to Navy Pier

***Popular show breaks new ground March 7-15 with a Midway of 8 Special Gardens, Children's Activity Garden and Preview Fund-Raiser***

The **2009 Belgard Chicago Flower & Garden Show** returns Saturday, March 7, through Sunday, March 15, 2009, to Festival Hall A and B near the east end of Navy Pier on Chicago's lakefront. This year's theme, "Our World in Bloom," 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 spotlights some of Chicago's top cultural attractions whose gardens will be displayed on the show's midway. They are paired with leading landscape and garden design firms and include Chicago Park District Conservatories and CPD Community Parks, Lincoln Park Zoo, Museum of Contemporary Art, Museum of Science and Industry, National Museum of Mexican Art and John G. Shedd Aquarium.

The 2009 show, produced by Special Events Management and backed by the Mayor's Office of Special Events and Navy Pier, has been designed to inspire, motivate and educate visitors. It includes newly added features such as a Children's Activity Garden, green industry initiatives and a preview fund-raiser on Friday evening, March 6.

The fun starts with a festive evening of food, cocktails and an exclusive opportunity to experience the 2009 Chicago Flower & Garden Show before it officially opens. "An Evening in Bloom"—a preview fundraising benefit on behalf of eight Chicago not-for-profits—will be held from 6-9:30 p.m. on Friday evening, March 6, at Navy Pier. Tickets are \$100 per-person and include global cuisine and cocktails and live entertainment. Ticket buyers will be asked to choose which charity they wish to benefit. For information and tickets, go to [chicagoflower.com](http://chicagoflower.com).

The Children's Activity Garden will feature interactive programming geared for ages 14 and under presented by Illinois Master Gardeners, the Make a Wish Foundation and others. It includes building a terrarium, warming up to insects and bugs, worm composting, container gardening, building birdhouses, feeders and much more.

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Show highlights also include more than 20 lush, colorful gardens that promote environmental consciousness by featuring rain gardens, xeriscaping, habitat gardens, roof gardens, non-invasive plants, composting and recycled materials, and the latest developments in green industry initiatives. Each day, there also are dozens of educational seminars and hands-on, do-it-yourself sessions, including the popular container gardening series.

Popular highlights that will be back this year include

Three-time daily **Potting Parties** where show-goers plant and take home their own container gardens by donating \$20 to charity

A non-stop daily schedule of **Gardening Seminars** where professionals offer insights on growing techniques, landscaping options and the latest innovations to give gardens a fresh new look

**Garden Gourmet** culinary demonstrations three times daily by top Chicagoland chefs end with free samplings and recipes

**Garden Marketplace** of 100-plus exhibitors showcases and sells garden-related products and services

**Tablescapes** illuminates innovative and fantasy table settings, inspired by floral creations for home, parties and weddings

**Photography Garden** focuses on flower/landscape photographs taken by local amateur photographers

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](http://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](http://transitchicago.com). For Metra travel information, go to [metrarail.com](http://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](http://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](mailto:chicagoflower@skpr.net) or by visiting [chicagoflower.com](http://chicagoflower.com) and clicking on Press Room.