



# FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACT

Amy Sawade  
Public Relations Specialist  
616-975-3155  
[asawade@meijergardens.org](mailto:asawade@meijergardens.org)

## MEIJER GARDENS EARNS LEED® SILVER CERTIFICATION

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., — December 2, 2009** — Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the nation's most significant sculpture and botanic experiences, announced today it received a silver-level certification from the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program. LEED® is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings.

The certification has been awarded to Meijer Gardens' newest facility areas including expanded office spaces, café, storage and visitor areas. The 23,000 square foot additions were completed in May 2009 as part of a \$7.6 million capital campaign.

"Environmental stewardship has always been one of our guiding principles. We are proud to have incorporated this prestigious certification into our facility's newest areas," said David Hooker, President and CEO of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park. "LEED Silver standards coincide with our long-term goals, support the commitment to the natural environment and make our facility more efficient."

Cost-saving improvements highlighted in the LEED certification include innovative wastewater technologies and energy optimization, which account for 60% reduction in water consumption and 14.2% energy savings overall.

Architectural design and LEED certification was overseen by Cox, Medendorp, Olson Architects. Building construction was performed by Owen Ames Kimball Co.

### Environmental Features of Meijer Gardens' LEED Silver Certification

- A reflective roof made of a white rubber membrane to reflect heat
- Innovative irrigation systems to reduce outdoor water consumption by 60%
- Installation of waterless urinals, low-flow fixtures and dual flush valves to reduce indoor water consumption by 44.3%
- 21% of total building materials manufactured using recycled materials
- 52% of total wood materials harvested from FSC certified forests
- 29% of total building materials extracted, harvested and manufactured within 500 miles of project site
- Energy efficient industrial oven which reduces cooking time by 10-15% and reduces energy consumption by digitally controlling temperatures and hibernation between uses

**Images are available upon request.**

### About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

One of the world's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park serves more than a half-million visitors annually. Meijer Gardens was recently named one of the world's 30 "Must-See Museums" by Patricia Schultz, author of *1,000 Places to See Before you Die*. The 132-acre grounds feature Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the largest children's gardens in the country; arid and Victorian gardens with bronze sculptures by Degas and Rodin; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens; and a 1750-seat outdoor amphitheater, featuring an eclectic mix of world-renowned musicians every summer. The internationally acclaimed Sculpture Park features a permanent collection including works by Rodin, Oldenburg,

Moore, Bourgeois, and Plensa among others. Indoor galleries host changing sculpture exhibitions with recent exhibitions by Picasso, Degas, di Suvero, Borofsky and Calder. For more additional information, please visit [www.MeijerGardens.org](http://www.MeijerGardens.org).

### **U.S. Green Building Council**

The Washington, D.C.-based U.S. Green Building Council is committed to a prosperous and sustainable future for our nation through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings.

With a community comprising 80 local affiliates, more than 20,000 member companies and organizations, and more than 131,000 LEED Accredited Professionals, USGBC is the driving force of an industry that is projected to contribute \$554 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product from 2009-2013. USGBC leads a diverse constituency of builders and environmentalists, corporations and nonprofit organizations, elected officials and concerned citizens, and teachers and students.

Buildings in the United States are responsible for 39% of CO2 emissions, 40% of energy consumption, 13% water consumption and 15% of GDP per year, making green building a source of significant economic and environmental opportunity. Greater building efficiency can meet 85% of future U.S. demand for energy, and a national commitment to green building has the potential to generate 2.5 million American jobs.

### **LEED**

The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED green building certification system is the foremost program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. The U.S. Green Building Council's LEED rating system is the preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of green buildings. 35,000 projects are currently participating in the LEED system, comprising over 5.6 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 91 countries.

By using less energy, LEED-certified buildings save money for families, businesses and taxpayers; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and contribute to a healthier environment for residents, workers and the larger community.

### **Contact**

Amy Sawade | Public Relations Specialist | 616-975-3155 | [asawade@meijergardens.org](mailto:asawade@meijergardens.org)

# # #