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NEWLY OPENED JAPANESE GARDEN HELPS FREDERIK MEIJER GARDENS & SCULPTURE PARK SHATTER ATTENDANCE RECORDS

Opening weeks indicate widespread popularity for the permanent attraction.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., – July 1, 2015—Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the nation's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, broke attendance records for the month of June. Crediting the opening of the new eight-acre Japanese Garden, over 80 thousand guests visited Meijer Gardens in June, 25 percent higher than any other June on record, including 2010 figures during the blockbuster Dale Chihuly exhibition and the 2004 opening of the popular Lena Meijer Children's Garden.

"Since the Japanese Garden is as a permanent addition to Meijer Gardens, we're very much looking forward to seeing more visitors throughout all of the seasons" said Director of Horticulture, Steve LaWarre. "This garden's appearance will really change with the fall colors, blanketed in snow, and with fresh, new growth in the spring. Guests can expect to see something new every time they visit!"

The Richard & Helen DeVos Japanese Garden opened to the public on June 13th and features traditional components such as waterfalls, elevation changes, extensive boulder placement, authentic Japanese structures and a functioning teahouse as well as a Zen-style garden, sights of the entire garden from the Viewing Hill and Contemporary sculpture. Major works by Anish Kapoor, Jenny Holzer and Zhang Huan, among others, are now on view.

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About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park

One of the world's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park serves over 600,000 visitors annually. Meijer Gardens was recently ranked in the top 100 most-visited art museums worldwide by *Art Newspaper*, the leading publication in global art news. The 158-acre main campus features 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 1900-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 Oldenburg, Moore, Serra, Bourgeois and Plensa, among others. Indoor galleries host changing sculpture exhibitions with recent exhibitions by Picasso, Degas, di Suvero, Borofsky, Calder and Dine. In June 2015, the eight-acre Richard & Helen DeVos Japanese Garden at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park opened. Created by renowned designer Hoichi Kurisu, the garden features sculpture by Anish Kapoor, Zhang Huan and Guiseppe Penone, among others.