



# FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MEIJER GARDENS CELEBRATES AUTUMN WITH CHRYSANTHEMUM EXHIBITION**

*The Chrysanthemums and More! exhibition features a celebration of all things local with vibrant chrysanthemum displays, family-friendly activities and more, September 21 to October 28.*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., – September 3, 2018** – Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is pleased to present the annual fall horticulture exhibition, *Chrysanthemums and More!* opening to the public on September 21. This exhibition, the largest of its kind in Michigan, features expansive displays of chrysanthemums, fall foliage and family-friendly activities. The exhibition will be on display through October 28.

This year's focus will be on "Growing Local", highlighting the local growers, farms, food and drink featured at Meijer Gardens. Guests will enjoy a wide variety of locally grown elements, including decorative, spoon, cushion, and quill chrysanthemums, with "pompon" blooms as small as a nickel to showy "spider" blooms measuring six inches or more in diameter. This exhibition is a feast for the eyes, displaying the versatility of the magnificent mum and much more.

"Our theme this year is 'Growing Local'," explained Steve LaWarre, Director of Horticulture. "This is a remarkable way to showcase many of the local suppliers that we work with throughout the year who provide us with thousands of colorful chrysanthemums, gourds, pumpkins and other ornamental items. With this focus on all things local, we have an chance to highlight the wide variety of chrysanthemums and other items grown locally in an exhibition that has become a wonderful fall tradition for our guests."

Visitors will be greeted with vibrant displays of chrysanthemums from the moment that they arrive and delighted by abundant floral arrangements of these bold blooms as they walk through the scenic corridor inside of the main building. Upon entering the Seasonal Display Greenhouse, a floor-to-ceiling chrysanthemum display will unfold as a focal point. Presentations of a five-sphere topiary, large disbuds and beds of colorful plantings will complement this feature in the nearby Earl and Donnalee Holton Victorian Garden Parlor. Outdoors, expansive beds of lush chrysanthemums will be arranged in large sweeps of color and will be balanced by a variety of ornamental plantings.

Activities such as the Fall Bonsai Show, Giant Pumpkins and Hallowee-Ones are full of family fun throughout the exhibition. Mum Day on October 14 will give visitors a chance to take a walking tour led by horticulture staff, enjoy informational demonstrations and learn more about the chrysanthemum.

The Balk Café will feature seasonal daily dinner specials on Tuesday evenings, with seasonal ingredients coming from Meijer Gardens' own Michigan's Farm Garden.

## Exhibition Programming

- **Fall Family Day**

*Saturday, October 6, 1–4 pm*

FEE: Included with admission

Visit the Children's Garden for lots of fall family fun. Activities include something for all your senses— Press and Pound Color Banners, Autumn-themed Stories, Tree Vest Craft and an "I-Spy" Naturalist Walk about trees.

- **Herb & Gourd Fest**

Midwest Michigan Herb Association and Michigan Gourd Society

*Saturday and Sunday, October 13–14 Saturday, 10 am–5 pm; Sunday, 11 am–5 pm*

FEE: Included with admission

Discover a variety of ways to use herbs and gourds in this annual fall event. A variety of culinary herbs will be featured including hops, the 2018 "Herb of the Year." Discover the benefits that herbs provide and experience their wonderful fragrances. Kids can participate in a fun art activity with herbs and make their own seed tape to plant in a pot or in the garden next spring. Visit the touchable gourds section and try playing a gourd instrument. Purchase decorated gourds or buy an unfinished gourd and create your own art at home.

- **Giant Pumpkins at Michigan's Farm Garden**

*Saturday and Sunday, October 13 and 14*

FEE: Included with admission

Enjoy giant pumpkins on display at Michigan's Farm Garden. Weighing in at hundreds of pounds, these pumpkins will amaze kids and adults alike. Learn all about pumpkins as you sort varieties and answer quiz questions at the Pumpkin Discovery cart. Or try your hand at a pumpkin bean bag toss and play a unique pumpkin game "Which Vine is Mine?" to learn about how pumpkins grow.

- **Mum Day**

*Sunday, October 14, 1–4 pm*

FEE: Included with admission

Enjoy tours and demonstrations led by members of the horticulture department.

- **Tuesdays at the Farm**

*Tuesday, October 16 and 23, 5–8:30 pm*

FEE: Included with admission

Eat, drink, and dance in the crisp autumn air. A food truck and the Balk Café will be serving up local fresh fare along with West Michigan beers, hot cider, and adult cocktails. Dance to a string band with accompanying square dance caller.

The *Chrysanthemums and More!* exhibition is sponsored by:  
The Meijer Foundation  
Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Foundation  
Botanic and Sculpture Societies of Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park  
Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts

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[Images available here.](#)

### **About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**

One of the world's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park served 723,000 visitors in 2017 and was recently listed in the top 30 most visited museums in the United States by *The 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, Hepworth, Serra, Bourgeois, Ai Weiwei 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, Jenny Holzer and Guiseppe Penone, among others.

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