



# FREDERIK MEIJER Gardens & Sculpture Park

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

*Part art and part science, Chrysanthemums & More! celebrates its 23rd year with a curious look into how the interplay of light and shadow transform the Autumn Glow theme at Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, September 17 to October 31.*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., – September 3, 2021** – Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is pleased to present its annual fall horticulture exhibition, *Chrysanthemums & More!* opening to the public September 17. The largest of its kind in Michigan, the exhibition features expansive displays of chrysanthemums, fall foliage and family-friendly activities. *Chrysanthemums & More!* will be on display through October 31.

A perennial favorite and the largest of its kind in Michigan, this exhibition spans thousands of blossoms across 158 sprawling acres. Peruse pathways aglow with vibrant fall plantings, paying attention to how their look and mood change as you move from the intensity of sun-filled spaces to the understated low light of autumn afternoons. Watch textures soften and shadows elongate as the light of day takes hues from warm to cool. Each display is a visual spectacle of flowers and foliage, appearing to glow from within.

Plentiful plantings in the Grand Entry, Welcome Center, and Gunberg and BISSELL Corridors showcase the chrysanthemum through the artistry of many designers, among them Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park horticulture staff. In the BISSELL Corridor, a different local floral designer each week will create a singular arrangement highlighting the chrysanthemum as its primary element. Local florists include Ball Park Floral & Gifts, Fleurology Designs, Gumina's Flowers, Horrocks Market and Kennedy's Flowers and Gifts.

Of equal note are stunning displays in the Grace Jarecki Seasonal Display Greenhouse, Earl and Donnalee Holton Victorian Garden Parlor, and Lena Meijer Tropical Conservatory, each lush and lovely.

Outdoors, treat your senses with a trek into the crisp fall air. Venture onto the Stuart and Barbara Padnos Rooftop Sculpture Garden, with its seasonal wetland views, then make your way to the Lena Meijer Children's Garden and its cornucopia of chrysanthemums, intermingled with nontraditional autumn plantings to form a quilt-like tapestry. Continue to Michigan's Farm Garden, where the abundant autumn harvest boasts heirloom vegetables, herbs, gourds and larger-than-life pumpkins. This example of a working family farm occasionally provides some of its more than 40 varieties of produce for our James & Shirley Balk Café.

This exhibition is truly a feast for the eyes, displaying the versatility of the magnificent mum and much more.

"This year's theme for *Chrysanthemums & More!* is Autumn Glow," explained Steve LaWarre, Vice President of Horticulture. "We hope that guests will notice how the low light of autumn softens textures and cast long shadows and see how some leaves and plants appear as if they are glowing from within, illuminating fall's beauty."

Activities throughout the exhibition, including the Fall Bonsai Show, Autumn Glow Garden and Halloween-Ones, are full of family fun. Visit [MeijerGardens.org](http://MeijerGardens.org) for a full listing of events.

[Images available here.](#)

### Exhibition Programming

- **Herb & Gourd Fest**

Midwest Michigan Herb Association and Michigan Gourd Society

*September 18-19, Saturday, 10 am-5 pm; Sunday, 11 am-5 pm*

FEE: Included with admission

Discover many ways to use herbs and gourds at this fall event. Learn how to grow and use herbs and dig deeper into their healthful properties. Michigan Gourd Society members will demonstrate how to create gourd art using locally available supplies. Decorated gourds will be available for purchase—from bowls and vases to jewelry.

- **Fall Family Day**

*Saturday, September 18, 1-4 pm*

FEE: Included with admission

Visit the Lena Meijer Children's Garden for fall family fun. Activities include something for all your senses! Listen to fall-inspired tunes and autumn-themed stories, view a fiber arts demonstration, and take a naturalists walk that includes highlights of this amazing season.

- **Tuesdays at the Farm**

*September 28 and October 5, 5-8:30 pm*

FEE: Included with admission

Eat, drink and dance in the crisp autumn air! The James & Shirley Balk Café pop-up will serve fresh local fare along with West Michigan beer and an adult cocktail. Dance to local music in the barn. It's a great time for everyone wanting to enjoy fall at Meijer Gardens.

- **Autumn Glow Garden**

*September 28 and October 5, 5-8:30 pm*

FEE: Included with admission

The Gwen Frostic Woodland Shade Garden transforms into the Autumn Glow Garden, its natural beauty enhanced through the power of light. Enjoy artfully carved pumpkin displays by Grand Rapids printmaker Alynn Guerra, decorative lanterns, log lights, and glowing trees. For another Autumn Glow Garden inspired display, visit Michigan's Farm Garden during Tuesdays at the Farm.

- **Fall Bonsai Show**

West Michigan Bonsai Club

*October 2–3, Saturday, 10 am–5 pm; Sunday, 11 am–5 pm*

FEE: Included with admission

See a variety of bonsai on display, from trees in early stages of training to lovely older trees. Watch bonsai artists at work and shop for bonsai trees, bonsai tools and supplies.

- **Halloween-ones**

*Friday, October 22, 10 am–12 pm (parade begins at 10:15 am)*

FEE: Included with admission

Get creative at this special event, designed for our youngest visitors! Dress your child as a sculpture, fish or flower, or in any other way that highlights the Children's Garden! Participate in a costume parade, then celebrate with your wee ones as you listen to Halloween-themed stories and go on a Halloween Hunt. No tricks. No treats. Just fun!

The *Chrysanthemums & 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

Townsquare Media

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

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, one of the world's most significant botanic and sculpture experiences, was recently listed in the top 100 most visited museums in the world and the 30 most visited museums in the United States by *The Art Newspaper*, the leading global art news publication. Education programs welcome 80,000 students and guests each year. Culinary Arts & Events offerings include weddings, corporate meetings and award-winning catering. The 158-acre main campus features Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the country's largest interactive children's gardens; arid and Victorian gardens with bronze sculptures by Edgar Degas and Auguste Rodin; a carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens, including a replica 1930s-era farm garden; an eight-acre Japanese garden featuring contemporary sculpture; and a 1,900-seat outdoor amphitheater garden, showcasing an eclectic mix of world-renowned touring musicians each summer. The permanent collection highlights hundreds of sculptures from internationally acclaimed artists Magdalena Abakanowicz, El Anatsui, Louise Bourgeois, Alexander Calder, Mark di Suvero, Marshall Fredericks, Henry Moore, Michele Oka Donor, Beverly Pepper, Jaume Plensa, Auguste Rodin, Richard Serra, Yinka Shonibare CBE and Ai Weiwei, among others.

Indoor galleries with changing sculpture exhibitions have hosted shows by Jonathan Borofsky, Edgar Degas, Jim Dine, Laura Ford, Richard Hunt, Rebecca Louise Law, Pablo Picasso, George Segal and others.

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park promotes the enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of gardens, sculpture, the natural environment, and the arts.

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