

NYBG

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Plans Revealed for New *CHIHULY* Experience Opening in New York in Spring 2017

Breathtaking Works of Art by World-Renowned Artist Dale Chihuly to Be Exhibited At The New York Botanical Garden from April 22 through October 29, 2017

Tickets on Sale Now



Bronx, NY—*CHIHULY*, a major new exhibition at The New York Botanical Garden in spring 2017, presented by Bank of America, will spotlight world-renowned artist Dale Chihuly's bold innovation and experimentation in a variety of media throughout his celebrated career. At a Press Preview Luncheon at Grand Hyatt New York on January 12, 2017, Chihuly greeted guests via video from his Studio in Seattle, where he is working with his team in preparation for his first major garden exhibition in more than ten years in New York. *CHIHULY* will feature **approximately 20 installations** as well as **drawings** and **early works** revealing the evolution and development of Chihuly's artistic process. Among the singular sights, one of the new installations will draw inspiration from Chihuly's storied 1975 Artpark installation. Set within NYBG's landmark landscape and buildings, this groundbreaking exhibition will run from April 22 through October 29, 2017.

"The New York Botanical Garden is the perfect setting for Dale Chihuly's art," said Gregory Long, Chief Executive Officer and The William C. Steere Sr. President of NYBG. "Our historic landscape is an open-air museum, providing a thrilling opportunity for our visitors to see the spectacular glass sculptures, especially when they will be lit at night. The exhibition will be a more holistic look at the legacy of Chihuly the artist. We are extremely grateful to our

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sponsors and everyone whose support is making it possible for us to bring this experience to our existing and new audiences.”

“The New York Botanical Garden’s much anticipated *CHIHULY* exhibition exemplifies our support of nonprofit arts institutions that deliver both the arts and enrich societies,” said Lisa Carnoy, New York City Market President, Bank of America. “It supports our belief that the arts matter by providing inspirational and educational sustenance, anchoring communities, creating jobs, complementing school curricula, and generating substantial revenue for local businesses.”

Chihuly Installations Throughout the Botanical Garden

Dale Chihuly, who celebrated his 75th birthday in September, expressed his enthusiasm for the highly anticipated show at The New York Botanical Garden. The dramatic vistas of NYBG through changing seasons will be a showcase for Chihuly’s dynamic works of art with their organic shapes in brilliant colors.

Leslie Jackson Chihuly, President and CEO of Chihuly Studio, stated, “I am honored and pleased to be in New York with our team to talk about Dale’s return to The New York Botanical Garden in April 2017. Dale began his journey as an artist more than a half century ago, and he continues to push boundaries and innovate in a variety of media, including paint, sculpture, polyvitro, glass, and neon. He and our team have prepared for this exhibition with the goal of surprising and delighting audiences with exciting new works and installations created specifically for NYBG.”

Several new hand-blown glass sculptures, created specifically for NYBG, will complement the Garden’s landscape and architecture. The water features of the Native Plant Garden and the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory Courtyard’s Tropical Pool will be the setting for dramatic installations inspired by Chihuly’s early exploration of the contrast between glass and environment, resulting in a physical expression of light. Chihuly will be re-imagining his Artpark installation that he first created in the summer of 1975 when he was among nearly 40 artists invited to create temporary outdoor works in Lewiston, New York, near Niagara Falls. Using hand-blown sheets of stained glass, the installations were designed to provide contrast between the glass and the surrounding environment, resulting in a physical expression of light. Now at The New York Botanical Garden, Chihuly will revisit this concept, creating two new compositions drawing inspiration from the 1975 installation. The transition from day to night will provide a rare opportunity to view the effects of light as it passes through and illuminates these panels.

The exhibition will feature several dramatic neon sculptures. As a graduate student in the late 1960s and then as a professor at Rhode Island School of Design, Chihuly pioneered innovative applications of neon in his early work. This innovation continued into the ’80s and

'90s, leading to the *Tumbleweed*, a major element in his exhibitions. During Chihuly's blockbuster show at NYBG in 2006, the first time he presented a major garden exhibition in New York City, an epicenter of the art world, he further explored his work in neon with the development of the first *Neon Tower*. Chihuly will revisit these concepts with a new multicolor neon sculpture in the Conservatory Courtyard to take advantage of the location's reflective qualities.

In an homage to the 2006 exhibition, Chihuly's *Blue Herons*, originally in the Tropical Pool, will be showcased in a new display within the Haupt Conservatory, itself considered a work of glass art. These graceful forms will be one of many examples of Chihuly sculptures seen in within the grand architecture of the landmark Victorian-style glasshouse.

Other sites for the artist's creations throughout NYBG's 250-acre National Historic Landmark landscape include the Lillian Goldman Fountain of Life, Leon Levy Visitor Center, and Arthur and Janet Ross Conifer Arboretum. These one-of-a-kind installations will highlight the connections of artwork to the natural world.

Chihuly Works on Paper and Early Works in the LuEsther T. Mertz Library Building

In the LuEsther T. Mertz Library's Art Gallery, visitors will see an exhibition of works on paper by Dale Chihuly alongside his early works. Drawing and painting on paper has been a consistent form of expression for the artist throughout his career. Beginning as a means of communication with his team and creative outlet, his drawings developed into a unique series.

Elsewhere in the Mertz Library Building, Chihuly will present a grouping of *Fire Orange Baskets*, graceful forms first developed in 1977, evoking Northwest Coast Indian baskets. Chihuly sought to replicate the effects of gravity, as it shapes and distorts the medium, creating uniquely asymmetrical artworks. These seemingly effortless sculptures first began in muted colors, typical to the Native American baskets after which they were named, gradually evolving in color and size. Chihuly continues to revisit this series and experiment with scale, color, and composition.

NYBG CHIHULY Interactive Guide, Made Possible by Bloomberg Philanthropies

The NYBG *CHIHULY* Interactive Guide, made possible by Bloomberg Philanthropies, will deliver content to handheld devices that is dynamically customized to the user's location, transforming how visitors are guided through the installations. Each installation will appear as an icon on a virtual map. As visitors approach the installations, the Interactive Guide will trigger additional rich contextual information about the artist, artwork, or the process of its creation. Another feature of the Interactive Guide will allow visitors to share their own photographed images of the sculptures. Mobile media is generously supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies through its Bloomberg Connects program, a global initiative that helps cultural institutions innovate and engage audiences through digital platforms.

“Through our Bloomberg Connects initiative, we are committed to increasing access to the arts and helping cultural institutions engage audiences,” said Patricia E. Harris, CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies. “We are thrilled to be a part of The New York Botanical Garden’s evolving strategy of digital interpretation and excited to help launch the NYBG *CHIHULY* Interactive Guide as the next iteration in a string of groundbreaking mobile exhibition guides.”

***CHIHULY* Nights and Programming for All Ages**

Viewing the *CHIHULY* sculptures at night is thrilling, as each one takes on a magical energy. See their colors and forms in a whole new light as the Garden’s vistas and the Conservatory become living canvases for these works of art. A rotating lineup of performing artists and musicians sets the stage for an entirely different *CHIHULY* experience. Enjoy shopping as well as food and themed cocktails available for purchase.

In the Everett Children’s Adventure Garden, young visitors will explore the connections among art, science, and nature through guided activities facilitated by trained Teen Explainers. Using Chihuly’s sculptures as references, children will learn about form, color, and light as seen through the prism of nature in the garden. Daily programs will provide opportunities to observe the relationship between science and nature-based artwork and to create nature-inspired art.

Published by DelMonico Books (Prestel Publishing), a book highlighting Chihuly at NYBG is currently in development.

About Dale Chihuly

Dale Chihuly, an American artist, has mastered the translucent and transparent qualities of ice, water, glass and neon, to create works of art that transform the everyday experience. He is globally renowned for his ambitious site-specific installations in public spaces as well as exhibitions presented in museums and gardens worldwide.

Born in 1941 in Tacoma, Washington, Chihuly was introduced to glass while studying interior design at the University of Washington. After graduating in 1965, Chihuly enrolled in the first glass program in the country, at the University of Wisconsin. He continued his studies at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD), where he later established the glass program and taught for more than a decade. In 1968, after receiving a Fulbright Fellowship, he went to work at the Venini glass factory in Venice. There he observed the team approach to blowing glass, which is critical to the way he works today. In 1971, Chihuly cofounded Pilchuck Glass School in Washington State. With this international glass center, Chihuly has led the avant-garde in the development of glass as a fine art. Major exhibitions include *Chihuly Over Venice* (1995-96); *Chihuly in the Light of Jerusalem* (1999); *Garden Cycle* (2001-present); *Chihuly at The New York Botanical Garden* (2006); de Young Museum in San Francisco (2008); the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (2011); Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond (2012);

Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal, Canada (2013); and the Royal Ontario Museum, Ontario, Canada (2016). *Chihuly Garden and Glass* opened at Seattle Center in 2012. Chihuly's lifelong fascination with glasshouses has grown into a series of exhibitions within botanical settings. For more information about Dale Chihuly and his art, please visit www.chihuly.com.

About Bank of America Support of the Arts

Bank of America's support of the arts reflects our belief that the arts matter. They're a powerful tool to help economies thrive, to help individuals connect with each other and across cultures, and to educate and enrich societies. Our Arts and Culture Program is diverse and global, supporting nonprofit arts institutions that deliver the visual and performing arts, provide inspirational and educational sustenance, anchor communities, create jobs and complement existing school offerings, and generate substantial revenue for local businesses. On a global scale, the arts speak to us in a universal language that provides pathways to greater cultural understanding.

About The New York Botanical Garden

The New York Botanical Garden is an iconic living museum and, since its founding in 1891, has served as an oasis in this busy metropolis. A National Historic Landmark, this 250-acre site's verdant landscape supports over one million living plants in extensive collections. Each year more than one million visitors enjoy the Garden not only for its remarkable diversity of tropical, temperate, and desert flora, but also for programming that ranges from renowned exhibitions in the Haupt Conservatory to festivals on Daffodil Hill. The Garden is also a major educational institution, teaching more than 300,000 people annually—among them schoolchildren, teachers, and Bronx families—about plant science, ecology, and healthful eating through its hands-on, curriculum-based programming. Nearly 90,000 of those served by the Garden's education programs are children from underserved neighboring communities, while more than 3,000 are teachers from New York City's public school system participating in professional development programs that train them to teach science courses at all grade levels. NYBG operates one of the world's largest plant research and conservation programs, with nearly 200 staff members—including 80 Ph.D. scientists—working in the Garden's state-of-the-art molecular labs as well as in the field, where they lead programs in 49 countries.

Visit the Garden's Web site, nybg.org, for more information and to purchase tickets.

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The New York Botanical Garden is a museum of plants located at Bronx River Parkway (Exit 7W) and Fordham Road. It is easy to reach by Metro-North Railroad, bus, or subway. The Garden is open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday and Monday federal holidays, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The best way to enjoy the Garden is with the *All-Garden Pass*, which includes admission to the grounds as well as to seasonal gardens, exhibitions, and attractions such as the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, Everett Children's Adventure Garden, and Tram Tour. For ticket pricing, please check our Web site. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit nybg.org

The New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Boulevard, Bronx, New York 10458

The New York Botanical Garden is located on property owned in full by the City of New York, and its operation is made possible in part by public funds provided through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. A portion of the Garden's general operating funds is provided by The New York City Council and The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation. The Bronx Borough President and Bronx elected representatives in the City Council and State Legislature provide leadership funding.

Contact: Nick Leshi 718.817.8658/8616; nleshi@nybg.org
Gayle Snible 718.817.8637/8616; gsnible@nybg.org