

# NYBG/125

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 14, 2016

## **NYBG Features New Replicas for the 25th Annual *Holiday Train Show*<sup>®</sup>: Coney Island's Cyclone and Wonder Wheel, and the Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge**

November 19, 2016–January 16, 2017



Children enjoy the expanded *Holiday Train Show*.  
Photo: © Robert Benson Photography

**Bronx, NY**—The New York Botanical Garden's *Holiday Train Show*<sup>®</sup>, a beloved New York City tradition, enters its 25th year with the exhibition's first roller coaster. The Coney Island Cyclone will join NYBG's collection of more than 150 replicas of New York buildings that are all made out of plant parts and enlivened by large-scale model trains. The *Holiday Train Show* opens to the public on Saturday, November 19, 2016 and runs through Monday, January 16, 2017.

In addition to the famous Cyclone, new this year are Coney Island's Wonder Wheel (complete with LED sign) and the Elephantine Colossus, a gigantic elephant-shaped hotel from the 1890s. The *Holiday Train Show* already features several Coney Island structures, including the Galveston Flood Building, the Luna Park Arch, the Luna Park Central Tower, and the Luna Park Ticket Booth. All of the collection's Coney Island models will be displayed in the Reflecting Pool of the *Palms of the World Gallery* in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory. This year the 30-foot-long Brooklyn Bridge will be relocated to the *Palms Gallery*, completing the Brooklyn scene. The Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge will also make its exhibition debut.

The *Holiday Train Show* rolled out an expansion last year of more than 3,000 square feet and the addition of an introductory short film about the exhibition's behind-the-scenes magic. The response from visitors was overwhelmingly positive, and the expansion remains in place this year. In celebration of the 25th Annual showcase, a new book entitled *The Holiday Train Show: A City within a City* will be published. Dazzling full-page views of the entire spectacle make the experience come alive for readers, while essays explore the engineering of the tracks and bridges as well as notable featured trains.

An illustrated checklist of every building in the Garden's collection is included. The book is the perfect gift that commemorates a visit to the *Holiday Train Show* and its 25 memorable years.

In the *Holiday Train Show*, more than 25 G-scale model trains and trolleys will hum along nearly a half-mile of track past re-creations of iconic sites such as the Statue of Liberty, Rockefeller Center, Grand Central Terminal, The New York Public Library, and Radio City Music Hall. Artistically crafted by Paul Busse's team at Applied Imagination, all of the New York landmarks—which include Hudson River Valley houses and other buildings from New York State as well—are made of natural materials such as bark, twigs, stems, fruits, seeds, and pine cones. American steam engines, streetcars from the late 1800s, and modern freight and passenger trains ride underneath overhead trestles, through tunnels, and across rustic bridges and past waterfalls that cascade into flowing creeks. *Thomas the Tank Engine™* and other beloved trains disguised as large colorful insects delight children as they zoom by.

Seasonal events and programming accompanying the *Holiday Train Show* include Bar Car Nights, Evergreen Express for children, Holiday Tree Lighting, annual poetry reading with NYBG poet laureate Billy Collins, Winter Harmonies Concerts, All Aboard with Thomas and Friends™ mini-performances, Holiday A Cappella, and Holiday Film Screenings. Visitors can also explore 250 acres of crisp winter landscapes during tours of the Garden's many collections and purchase gifts for everyone on their lists at NYBG Shop. Dining venues include the Gingerbread Café, a family dining option with kid-approved menu choices; the Pine Tree Café with panini, Neapolitan-style pizza, and signature snacks; and Hudson Garden Grill, a full-service dining destination featuring the innovative flavors of American cuisine.

The year 2016 marks the 125th Anniversary of the founding of The New York Botanical Garden. Since 1891 NYBG has been a museum of plants dedicated to achieving excellence in horticulture, education, and plant research and conservation. Today it is one of the great cultural institutions in the world, a preeminent center for botanical research, a natural treasure for visitors of all ages, and a leader and national model for plant-based education.

###

*Founding Sponsors:*

Victoria and Robert Zoellner

*Sponsors:*

Alpine Associates Management Inc.

PepsiCo

Mastercard® Preferred Card of NYBG

LuEsther T. Mertz Charitable Trust

Macy's

Brooks Brothers

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.

**HOLIDAY TRAIN SHOW HOURS:**

During the *Holiday Train Show*, November 19, 2016–January 16, 2017, The New York Botanical Garden is open Tuesday–Sunday, and Monday, December 19 and January 2 & 16, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Extended hours, 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Saturdays, November 19–January 14; Friday, November 25 (day after Thanksgiving); and December 26–December 31 The Garden is closed all day on November 24 (Thanksgiving) and December 25 (Christmas); it closes at 3 p.m. on December 9 and 24 (Christmas Eve).

**PRICING:**

*All-Garden Pass* tickets start at \$20 for adults and \$10 for children (ages 2–12) and differ during certain peak times and weekends. Members and children under 2 are free. Advance timed tickets are strongly recommended and are available at [nybg.org](http://nybg.org). Discounts available for groups of 15 or more; contact Group Tours at 718.817.8687. For more information, please visit our Web site at [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

**Contact:** Gayle Snible, 718.817.8637, [gsnible@nybg.org](mailto:gsnible@nybg.org);  
Nick Leshi, 718.817.8658, [nleshi@nybg.org](mailto:nleshi@nybg.org)

Images and b-roll available.