



For Immediate Release  
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## **Botanical Garden Opens New Education Center in Manhattan**

### **Midtown Location to Offer Adult Education Courses in Floral and Landscape Design, Botanical Illustration, and Gardening**

Starting in April, The New York Botanical Garden will open the doors of its new education center in Midtown Manhattan to students for daytime, evening, and weekend classes. The site will offer Adult Education courses in popular areas of study such as gardening, floral and landscape design, and botanical illustration. The New York Botanical Garden Midtown Education Center is located two blocks from Grand Central Terminal at 20 West 44th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues) on the third floor of the historic building that is home to The General Society of Mechanics and Tradesmen of the City of New York, founded in 1785.

“People who live and work in Manhattan now have an even easier way to access the Botanical Garden’s wealth of programming,” said Jeff Downing, Vice President for Education at the Garden. “Our new Midtown Education Center will help busy professionals explore courses in rewarding green careers and pursue personal interests such as floral and landscape design, botanical illustration, and gardening.”

### **Inaugural Semester Kicks Off with Free Open House, Three Lecture and Author Series, and Exclusive Flower Arranging Workshops with Top NYC Designers**

To launch the spring and summer semesters, the Midtown Education Center is hosting a free Open House on Saturday, April 10, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Prospective students talk to instructors and take mini-classes, where they watch demonstrations in Floral Design and Botanical Illustration, learn what skills the foundation courses provide, and review portfolios of current students’ work in subjects such as Landscape Design.

Additional highlights for the upcoming seasons include:

- **Lynden B. Miller Lecture Series: The Challenges and Rewards of Urban Horticulture**  
Introduced by New York Botanical Garden Board Member and Director of the Conservatory Garden in Central Park Lynden B. Miller, the three-part series addresses the challenges and rewards of urban horticulture, and highlights the techniques of New York’s notable public horticulturists. On select Wednesdays, from 6 to 7 p.m., the series features:
  - **Up in the Air: Lessons in Urban Horticulture from the High Line, April 21, with Patrick Cullina**, Vice President of Horticulture and Park Operations, the High Line
  - **Our Future, Our Food: The Role of Community Gardens in Urban Agriculture, May 19, with Karen Washington**, community activist and gardener, and Member of the Botanical Garden’s Board
  - **Battery Park City: Maintaining a Public Park with Organic Methods, June 9, with Eric T. Fleisher**, Director of Horticulture at Battery Park City Parks Conservancy

- **Visionary Authors Present Newest Approaches to Landscape Design and Gardening**  
Hosted by Garden President Gregory Long, this series of three lectures features insights from gardening and landscape design experts and their latest books, on select Mondays, from 6 to 7 p.m.
  - ***Ken Smith: Landscape Architect, May 17, with Ken Smith***, landscape architect, public artist, and award-winning designer of the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Roof Garden
  - ***Power of Gardens, June 7, with Nancy Goslee Power***, master garden designer and principal of Nancy Goslee Power & Associates
  - ***The Sustainable Rose Garden: Exploring 21st Century Environmental Rose Gardening, June 21, with Peter Kukielski***, Peggy Rockefeller Rose Garden Curator at the Botanical Garden
  
- **Premier Floral Design Workshops**  
Students enroll in behind-the-scenes, hands-on flower arranging workshops. Participants learn the designs and expert techniques of New York City’s high-profile florists, most of whom are normally unavailable to the public.
  - **Modern Creative Design: Fusing Wire with Flowers, April 21, 6:15–8:15 p.m., with Claire Won Kang**, Program Coordinator for the Garden’s Floral Design Certificate program
  - **Fruit and Flower Centerpiece, May 11, 2–4 p.m., with Bill Tansey**, president of Tansey Design Associates, whose clients include American Ballet Theatre
  - **From Garden to Table: Surprising Arrangements, May 20, 2–4 p.m., with Rebecca Cole**, former host of Discovery Channel’s *Surprise By Design*
  - **Flowers on a Grand Scale, June 2, 6:15–8:15 p.m., Mark Rose**, former floral director at The Plaza Hotel and The Pierre Hotel
  - **Flowers of the Moment, June 16, 2–4 p.m., with Charles Masson**, master florist and owner of the New York restaurant *La Grenouille*
  
- **Lectures with Acclaimed Authors of Gardening and Floral Design Books**  
Three lectures offer insights into gardening and floral design from award-winning authors, addressing various topics on flowers—from designing bouquets and gardens to the business of finding the perfect flower.
  - ***Garden Bouquets and Beyond, April 15, 6–7 p.m., with Suzy Bales***, gardener and author of *Garden Bouquets and Beyond: Creating Wreaths, Garlands, and More in Every Garden Season*
  - ***Down to Earth Gardening, May 13, 6–7 p.m., with Helen Dillon***, award-winning garden consultant, owner of the Dillon Garden in Dublin, and Distinguished Counsellor to the Garden’s Board
  - ***Flower Confidential: The Good, the Bad, and the Beautiful in the Business of Flowers, June 2, 6–7 p.m., with Amy Stewart***, award-winning author covering the perils and pleasures of the natural world, whose commentaries have been featured in *The New York Times*

A complete list of Manhattan classes and featured lectures can be found online at: [nybg.org/AdultEd](http://nybg.org/AdultEd).

The Midtown Education Center will offer the same high-caliber Adult Education courses that students have come to expect from the Botanical Garden at its main campus in the Bronx and in its satellite locations. Courses will be taught by instructors who are experienced professionals in their fields, in disciplines that include: Botanical Art & Illustration, Floral Design, Gardening, Landscape Design, and Horticultural Therapy. Course offerings will cater to both beginners taking Adult Education classes just for fun and professionals seeking to hone their existing skills.

## Botanical Garden's Adult Education Program Cultivates Success Stories

The New York Botanical Garden's Adult Education program has helped people achieve their horticultural education goals since 1917. Whether motivated by the social and economic influences of green living or a desire to engage in more rewarding work or hobbies, students have turned to the Garden for training and encouragement. Here are examples of recent graduates:

As a new homeowner in Hoboken, New Jersey, Valerie D'Antonio was facing several home gardening issues and had no formal training in gardening. Recommended to the Garden's Adult Education program by a friend, she enrolled in several one-day classes on window-box gardening. "The classes gave me the confidence to plant and install boxes on the five front windows of my three-story house. Soon after, my neighbors began asking me to plant their window boxes." D'Antonio's newfound confidence and continued study eventually led to a Certificate in Landscape Design and a new career, when she launched D'Antonio Landscape Design, Inc. in 2005.

Sarah Lusardi first sought supplemental training in floral design when her wedding planning company NY Engagements, LLC, started expanding after 2003. "I discovered [the Garden], and I knew that its reputation would give my business the needed backbone to support my endeavor," said Lusardi. After earning a Floral Design Certificate, she opened a sister business, Engaging Floral Designs, which now includes clients as far away as Las Vegas. "I give much thanks to The New York Botanical Garden and its Floral Design courses. Potential clients and other employers want assurance that I'll be around for a while. When they see the time I've invested in my career, they know how serious I am about my life's passion."

Located in the Bronx, The New York Botanical Garden offers over 500 different courses, including seven Certificate programs in Botanical Art and Illustration, Botany, Floral Design, Gardening, Horticulture, Landscape Design, and Horticultural Therapy. Just 20 minutes from Grand Central Terminal on Metro-North Railroad, classes at the Garden's 250-acre landmark site are held during the day, evenings, and weekends to fit any busy schedule. In addition to Manhattan, the Garden operates at satellite education centers in Amagansett, Annandale-on-Hudson, Pocantico Hills, and Valhalla, New York; and Greenwich and New Canaan, Connecticut.

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To register for Adult Education courses or for more information, visit [nybg.org/AdultEd](http://nybg.org/AdultEd) or call 800.322.NYBG (6924).

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 or subway. For more information, please call 718.817.8700 or visit our Web site at [nybg.org](http://nybg.org)

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.

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