

For Immediate Release

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Memphis Botanic Garden to Honor Jim Strickland

New Youth Education and Tropical Plant House to be Named in his Honor

Memphis, TN – The Memphis Botanic Garden (MBG) announced today that it will name its now-under-construction Youth Education and Tropical Plant House in honor of outgoing Mayor Jim Strickland to recognize, thank, and honor his commitment to the Garden and the youth of our community.

The *Jim Strickland Youth Education and Tropical Plant House* will play a critical role in increasing the Garden's impact with students by:

- Allowing MBG to host field trips, camps, and other student focused events 12 months per year (from current 8 or 9 months).
- Expand MBG's outreach from primarily elementary age school children to middle school, high school, and college students.
- To allow 'hands on' learning with plants and plant materials inside of our new plant house, neighboring prep space, and adjacent outdoor classroom.
- To expose children for likely the first, and potentially only, time in their lives to plants from almost every continent on the globe.
- Career studies for high school / college levels students.
- Studies of biomass, comparative ecosystems, and symbiotic relationships.

"For over two decades, Jim Strickland has been an advocate of the Memphis Botanic Garden, beginning with his election to our Board of Directors in the late 1990s, his tenure as our Board President in 2005-2006, then as a member of the Memphis City Council, and for the past eight years as our Mayor," said David Scully, MBG's current Board President. "Jim's support of our mission has been unceasing, leading to what is now, arguably, the best working relationship the Garden has ever had with our landlord - the City of Memphis," said Scully.

"Our new 3,400 square foot Youth Education and Tropical Plant House will house plants from virtually every continent of the world, offering our guests the opportunity to be exposed to flora that they might otherwise never see. It is scheduled for occupancy in the summer of 2024," said Michael D. Allen, Executive Director of the

Memphis Botanic Garden. “This new glasshouse, which will border Cherry Road, is the centerpiece of our now-underway Rooted at Park and Cherry capital campaign and is intended to help us increase our reach with school children by 30%, from 40,000 (today) to 52,000 students annually by 2026,” said Allen.

“I am humbled by this honor that this new glasshouse is dedicated to helping educate our children – and adults too,” said Mayor Jim Strickland. “The Memphis Botanic Garden is a Memphis treasure, and this is indeed an unexpected surprise.”

The Memphis Botanic Garden is city of Memphis owned and operated by the Memphis Botanic Garden Foundation, Inc., a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to being an exemplary center for horticulture and environmental enrichment. Serving over 40,000 school-aged children annually, and hosting 260,000 visitors each year, Memphis Botanic Garden strives to enhance lives by connecting people with nature, increasing awareness and appreciation of our environment.