

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUPPORT OF THE MOBILE BOTANICAL GARDENS

In the fall of 2019, Mobile Botanical Gardens suffered financial hardships that threatened its continued operation. From that dark chapter in the almost 50-year history of the Gardens emerged a recognition of its undeniable value. The Gardens arose amidst the challenges to chart a sustainable future course, bolstered by these truths:

- The Gardens, a city-owned asset, should receive operational support from the City of Mobile. *An operating agreement with \$150,000 annual support was finalized in March of this year.*
- The community, more aware of the beautiful acreage hidden in the heart of Springhill, rallied in support of keeping the Gardens open. *Membership in the Gardens has increased dramatically since the fall of 2019.*
- City operational support combined with increased membership signaled stability and value. *This summer the Wayne Denson McRae Foundation established an Endowment for Mobile Botanical Gardens.*

The Gardens have never been more beautiful and the future is bright for this botanical treasure. MBG is considered one of the most outstanding public gardens in the United States.

EXISTING FEATURES

FUNDS WILL BE ADDED TO THE MBG ENDOWMENT AT THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOUTH ALABAMA.

AROMI COLLECTION **\$30,000**
A unique azalea collection within the Azalea Garden.

BENCHES IN THE AZALEA GARDEN **\$1000 EA**
handsome solid slab benches located throughout.

*Vera Lynn
& Randy Sheets*

CREPE MYRTLE ALLEY **\$25,000**
A beautiful and peaceful hillside gravel road lined with Natchez Crepe Myrtles.

KOI POND **\$25,000**
The first design garden feature at MBG, created in 1974 as part of the Founders' Garden.

*Ann & Jack
DiPalma*

KOI BRIDGE **\$10,000**

*Stephen
Clements*

FRINGE TREE **\$2,500**
Located on the hillside next to our mailbox, this Chionanthus retusus is a focal specimen.

*Ricia
Hendrick*

GREAT LAWN **\$10,000**
A 3-acre rolling lawn that includes the concrete walk leading to the lower parking.

*The John W. Laidlaw
Foundation*

WALKWAY STONE BREAKS **\$1,000 EA**
Decorative flagstone breaks featuring the MBG logo along the concrete walkways.

LARKINS CLASSROOM I **\$10,000**
600sf classroom overlooking WinterGarden

LARKINS CLASSROOM II **\$10,000**
600sf classroom with screen and speaker system

LARKINS CLASSROOM III **\$10,000**
600sf classroom with rear deck access to WinterGarden

LARKINS OFFICE **\$10,000**
Visitor reception area and business offices

LARKINS CATERING **\$10,000**
Features stainless prep tables, commercial refrigerator, Garland ovens, ice machine.

*Kitty & Michael
Meshad*

LONGLEAF FOREST **\$2,000,000**
35-acre conservation forest that is free and open to the public. The largest urban fire managed forest in the US.

LONGLEAF KIOSKS (3) **\$5,000 EA**

LONGLEAF BENCHES (3) **\$1,000 EA**

Neil Kennedy

MAGNOLIA HILL **\$100,000**
A diverse 6-acre enrichment center

CHICKEN COOP AND RUN **\$20,000**

GLASS DISPLAY CONSERVATORY **\$20,000**

MIST PROPAGATION HOUSE **\$20,000**

DOUBLE POLY HOUSE **\$5,000**

4-HOOP SHADE HOUSE **\$10,000**

GROW FIELD **\$5,000**

ART STUDIO **\$20,000**

TEACHING PAVILION **\$10,000**

PUMP HOUSES (2) **\$1,500 EA**

*Greer & David
Wilhelm*

MARKETPLACE **\$75,000**
The retail venue for our plant sales & events

RETAIL PAVILION **\$35,000**

SHADE STRUCTURE **\$25,000**

LAWN AND GROW FIELD **\$15,000**

OAK ALLEY **\$25,000**
A shady procession of live oaks along Pat Ryan Drive lining the entry road to the primary parking lot.

POLLINATOR GARDEN **\$30,000**
The hillside collection surrounding Bruce Larson's interactive butterfly sculpture, 'Transformation'

PRIMARY PARKING LOT **\$45,000**
A 65-car capacity parking facility with central raised walkway.

BOLLARDS IN PARKING LOT **\$500 EA**
Hand carved wooden bollards along the central walk

REBLOOM GARDEN **\$50,000**
The feature Tricentennial entry garden with central lawn and unique pink stone walkway. This garden displays 12 months of color for the Gulf Coast.

CITRONELLE BOULDERS **\$1,500 EA**
Mined from areas of northwest Mobile County, these large rocks are featured throughout the Gardens.

*Brenda &
Harold Bolton*

PALM GROUPING AT ENTRY **\$2,500**

CEREMONIAL CIRCLE **\$25,000**
Ceremonial circle of columns with benches in the Rhododendron garden.

*Nella & David MacRae
and
van der Giessen Nursery*

ROSE GARDEN **\$30,000**
A hillside collection of antique roses as well as gifted trial roses from Amsterdam.

PRODUCTION GREENHOUSE **\$35,000**
30' x 96' primary production greenhouse, upgraded in 2021.

POTTING SHED AT GREENHOUSE **\$10,000**
Built in 2017 for the Greenhouse volunteers, there is an enclosed potting area with benches for colder months as well as covered potting area for warmer months.

ENHANCEMENT TO EXISTING FEATURES

FUNDS WILL APPLY TO THE DESCRIBED IMPROVEMENTS OF EXISTING ASSET AS WELL AS TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND.

AROMI GARDEN ENTRANCES (2) \$5,000 EA
The two entrances into the Aromi collection will be enhanced with reclaimed ironwork and stone details.

BOTANICAL CENTER \$500,000
New cedar shake roof, new doors, and improvements to restrooms are needed for this 70+ year old structure.

KITCHEN \$15,000
Improved lighting, new microwave, painting

ARTFUL GARDEN GIFT SHOP \$20,000
Retail buildouts and central checkout area

OFFICE SPACE \$15,000
Upgrade computer and printer, improve storage and shelving, painting

LIBRARY/MEETING & DINING \$20,000
Buildouts for books, added skylight, freshen acid stained concrete

ART GALLERY AREA \$10,000
Portable, suspended display panels, lighting

FOUNTAIN - BOTANICAL NORTH \$2,500
An existing fountain will be enhanced

CYPRUS GROVE \$5,000
The mature cypress grove is on the hillside along the road leading to the Shop. We plan to clear the area around the grove and add benches or a picnic table.

FERN GLADE \$10,000
This beautiful woodland area needs several trees and invasives removed. The graduated steps leading from WinterGarden to the bridge will be rebuilt.

FERN GLADE BRIDGE \$7,500
The bridge was damaged by a fallen tree. We will repair/replace as needed and paint the new bridge.

FOUNDERS GARDEN \$30,000
Originally installed in 1974, burned completely in 2015. Much of the original design and Bud Horter planting schemes will be returned.

KOI POND PICNIC AREA \$5,000
Addition of a Tiny Library, and a trash receptical

JAPANESE MAPLE GARDEN \$75,000
Irrigation, concrete paths, benches, landscape lighting

LIGHT POSTS AT GREAT LAWN (3) \$1,000 EA
Repaint, and add stone detail at base

LARKIN'S PLAZA PLANTERS (3) \$1,500 EA
Refinish existing planters; refresh seasonal displays

LOOP GARDEN \$15,000
Addition of water feature and paths

MAGNOLIA COLLECTION \$30,000
Addition of companion plantings, paths, signage

PERFORMANCE PLATFORM \$10,000
This area was damaged by Hurricane Sally. Replace decking and repair electrical, add landscape lighting.

STREET ENTRANCE \$30,000
The entrance at Museum Drive will feature a new sign, lighting, irrigation, and freshened plantings.

SHOP BUILDING \$25,000
Replace fire damaged building materials; upgrade lighting and heating in shop; add safety shower; painting

TEA MAZE \$20,000
Addition of Tiny Library and benches.

WILDFLOWER FIELD \$15,000
Addition of meandering path through the wildflower area; heavy seeding for spring and fall displays

WINTERGARDEN BRIDGE AND DECK \$30,000
The current structure must be replaced due to age and rot issues.

SUGAR KETTLE AT DODD QUARIES \$5,000
Thorough cleaning and refresh of the finish; addition of seasonal water lilies.

WOODLAND TRAILS \$25,000
Addition of trail markers, informational signage, plant ID signs, and benches along trails in the 40-acres.

NEW FEATURES

FUNDS WILL APPLY TO CREATION OF ASSETS AS DESCRIBED.

BOG GARDEN \$30,000
A man-made example of a native endangered habitat.

CHILDREN'S GARDEN \$30,000
An interactive magical garden for children to explore.

CLEYERA CATHEDRAL \$25,000
A hidden natural woodland cathedral formed by 30+ year old Cleyera. This area would serve as a venue for ceremonies.

GARDEN INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE \$5,000
Longterm signage to replace temporary signs produced in-house.

*Judy & Mark
Weaver*

PRO HAULER \$12,000
This unit will be used on the roads and to pull our "people mover" (holds up to 12 people) shuttling visitors from the parking lot up to Magnolia Hill, and on excursions into the Longleaf acreage after controlled burns and during peak wildflower blooms.

*The Lily Woolford
Charitable Trust*

GOLF CART SHUTTLE \$10,000
A 6-seater unit to be used in support of events and Plant Sales

BENCHES AT GREAT LAWN (4) \$1,000 EA

*Spring Hill
Garden Club
(2)*

The Chupp Family

BLACK FORMAL METAL FENCE \$1,500/PANEL
A continuation of the current black fencing to surround the entire Great Lawn.

CLEAR 20'X30' EVENT TENT \$5,000
Placed on the Botanical Center Plaza for larger events.

*Robin & Robert
Krchak*

ENTRY GAZEBO & PROMENADE \$50,000
A 35' diameter wood gazebo with central admissions area and adjoining covered promenade beside the Bog Garden.

GATEWAY ENTRY BUILDING \$1,000,000
A welcoming structure with drive through entry to the primary parking lot. The building includes functions of giftshop, cafe, event space, and restrooms.

DOGGIE COMFORT STATIONS (3) \$2,500EA
These stations include water bowls with circulated fresh water, doggie bag dispensers and receptacles, hand wipes.

TEA MAZE TRAIL \$5,000
A connective path from the Tea Maze through the magnolia collection and up to the Art Studio. Designed for children, the path will feature imaginative and interactive details.

WOODLAND BOARDWALK \$35,000
This raised boardwalk will connect from the Larkin's Center and meander through the woods to the upper WinterGarden. Along the way there will be a woodland teaching deck with benches.

