



Media Contacts:

Cynthia Greenwood
GreenMark Public Relations
847-404-8404
cgreenwood@greenmarkpublicrelations.com

For Immediate Release

“Sugar from the Sun” Exhibit

Opens March 1 at Garfield Park Conservatory

Facts and Figures

Its Creation

6,240 square feet: size of 100-year-old Sweet House, dramatically renovated for new exhibit
\$2.2 million: cost of rehabilitation project
\$2.7 million: cost of exhibit
\$1.65 million: grant from National Science Foundation, which made exhibit possible
4.5 years: how long exhibit has been in the making
Dozens: of Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance staff, Chicago Park District staff, horticulturists, museum educators, architects and exhibit designers involved with the project

Physical Features

200 tons: weight of hand-picked stones placed throughout the exhibit
3,900 linear feet: length of bent steel which interacts with and supports lush green foliage
1,850 plants: including mature cinnamon, macadamia nut, chewing gum and black sapote trees transplanted from the former Sweet House
1 mile: length of cable that moves interpretive sound along pathways
65: hidden speakers provide seamless movement of sound
4: main sections, including sugar or energy (the product of photosynthesis), and air, water and sunlight (the building blocks of photosynthesis)
300 feet: length of pathways

Air Section

8 and 14 feet: number and height of steel trees which support an elevated garden of epiphytes
160: number of bromeliads on steel trees
80: number of orchids on steel trees
500: approximate number of additional plants

Water Section

38 feet and 10 feet: length and height of the water feature which has waterfalls, pools and interpretive messages etched in stone

13 feet and 4: height and number of root pillars that support philodendron plants and atmospheric misters

400: approximate number of plants

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“Sugar from the Sun” Facts and Figures//Add One

Sunlight Section

25 feet and 15 feet: length and width of fabricated “light dome,” which supports trailing vines and 6 overhead planters in sunlight section

420: approximate number of plants

Sugar Section

48: banana plants in grove

40: gateway plantings of fruiting citrus and papaya plants

112: additional fruiting plants, including pineapple, mango and coffee

60: age of cinnamon tree, which has lived through the exhibit room’s four incarnations – from Stove House to Warm Room to Sweet House and now to “Sugar from the Sun”

Visitor Information

\$0: cost of admission and parking to Garfield Park Conservatory and “Sugar from the Sun”

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: hours exhibit is open daily; until 8 p.m. on Thursdays

“Sugar from the Sun” is a highlight of “Chicagoasis: The Greenest Show on Earth” – a year-long celebration of the Conservatory’s 100th birthday in 2008. A series of centennial events and programs are planned to honor the world’s largest botanical collection under glass, designed on Chicago’s West Side by renowned landscape architect Jens Jensen.

“Sugar from the Sun” is made possible in part by a \$1.65 million grant from the National Science Foundation. Support also has been received from the “Public Museum Capital Grants Program” of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois State Museum.

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Garfield Park Conservatory turns 100 years old in 2008, celebrating its heritage as one of the world’s largest botanical gardens under glass. Owned by the Chicago Park District and operated in partnership with the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, the innovative horticultural masterpiece was designed by renowned landscape architect Jens Jensen. Many activities and programs are planned to commemorate this Centennial. For the latest information, call the Alliance at 773-638-1766 ext. 13 or visit www.garfieldconservatory.org.

