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**For Immediate Release**

**“Sugar from the Sun” Exhibit**

*Opens March 1 at Garfield Park Conservatory*

**Exhibit Timeline and History**

**July 2001:** Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance education and development staff and Chicago Park District representatives decide unanimously to create a proposal to the National Science Foundation (NSF) for educational programming in the Children’s Garden.

**September 2001:** Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance staff, board member Jackie McKay and colleagues from the Chicago Park District review NSF guidelines for proceeding.

**October 2001:** Proposal development begins.

**November 2001:** Topic of separate exhibit in Sweet House presented. Concept developed through several meetings and discussions.

**March 2002:** Advisory panel formed. Preliminary proposal submitted to NSF.

**April 2002:** NSF responds favorably and encourages submittal of full proposal.

**May 2002:** “Sugar from the Sun” advisory panel meets for the first time. Full project proposal submitted to NSF.

**September 2002:** NSF responds, with positive review by Informal Education Panel. More information on dissemination package, staff responsibilities and evaluation components requested.

**July 2003:** Notification of award letter from NSF Program Officer Orrin Shane.

**August 2003:** Chicago Park District announces award. Project begins.

**September 2003:** Review process of front-end research begins. Project work plan created.

**October 2003:** Project team formed and meetings begin. Initial exhibit floor plan concepts completed.

**November 2003:** Initial planting concepts completed.

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**“Sugar from the Sun” Timeline//Add One**

**December 2003:** Advisory panel meets.

**January 2004:** \$10,000 start-up grant received from Dreihaus Foundation.

**June 2004:** Principal investigators travel to El Yunque Rainforest in Puerto Rico to conduct research.

**September 2004:** Front-end evaluation completed. Four-year documentary of project begins.

**January 2005:** Fabrication of prototype exhibit for formative evaluation phase begins.

**March 2005:** Architectural contract awarded. Planning begins for architectural restoration of former Sweet House.

**June 2005:** “Sugar from the Sun” prototype exhibit installed in Sweet House and formative evaluation begins.

**July 2005:** Sweet House restoration design phase completed.

**August 2005:** Advisory panel convenes for prototyping review and evaluation.

**November 2005:** Formative evaluation and prototyping completed.

**March 2006:** Prototype dissemination workshop for 23 participants from 10 Midwest conservatories conducted. Formative evaluation of dissemination workshop completed. Plants removed from Sweet House.

**May 2006:** Final exhibit designs completed.

**August 2006:** General contractor bidding for Sweet House restoration begins.

**December 2006:** General contractor contract finalized. Chicago Park District issues notice to proceed for Sweet House restoration.

**January 2007:** Site preparation - scaffolding erected; display lighting removed; temporary barriers and emergency exit constructed; exterior fencing installed; exterior trees protected; utilities isolated; site trailers, storage trailers and temporary restrooms delivered and connected.

**February 2007:** Greenhouse rehabilitation construction (demolition, abatement) begins. Final interpretation designs (signage, interpretive floor) completed.

**March 2007:** Offsite fabrication of exhibit elements (steel epiphyte trees, overhead planters, interpretive floor, signage) begins.

**April 2007:** Structural steel rehabilitation (deteriorated support columns replaced; foundation reinforced; overhead spanning trusses realigned) begins.

**September 2007:** Installation of updated electrical and irrigation systems to support exhibit's living and fabricated elements begins.

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#### **“Sugar from the Sun” Timeline//Add Two**

**August 2007:** Structural steel rehabilitation completed. Installation of greenhouse framing and glazing begins.

**September 2007:** Exhibit installation (sunlight dome fabricated; steel trees and planters installed; pathways defined and curbing stones placed; concrete pathways poured; water features installed) begins.

**December 2007:** Framing and glazing completed. Large trees removed from original Sweet House reinstalled. Pathway excavation and grading completed. Major exhibit installation completed.

**January 2008:** Exhibit plantings and decorative floor installed.

**February 2008:** Interpretive signage, exhibit lighting and sound installed.

**Feb. 28, 2008:** Exhibit preview for Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance members, donors and media.

**March 1 and 2, 2008:** Exhibit opens to public.

**April 2008:** Garfield Park Conservatory turns 100 years old.

“Sugar from the Sun” is a highlight of “Chicagoasis: The Greenest Show on Earth” – a year-long celebration of the Conservatory’s 100<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.garfieldconservatory.org).

