
HOSTED BY:
Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens
Smithsonian Gardens
United States Botanic Garden
U.S. National Arboretum

American Public Gardens Association
What better place to celebrate the importance of diversity than our nation’s capital? From its founding, Washington was planned to be a beautiful city that would symbolize the ideals of democracy. Those ideals are evident today in the gardens that beautify and enrich the region. Featuring the National Mall—the symbolic heart of the nation—monumental landscapes, lush institutional grounds, grand national parks, and a range of beautiful public and private gardens, Washington’s horticultural environment mirrors the exceptional diversity that characterizes this great capital city.

In 2019, twelve gardens will welcome conference attendees and celebrate not only the diversity of their living collections but also the local and international audiences that pilgrimage to the gardens each year. Come discover the garden oases and hidden gems that lie beyond the monuments.

The 2019 theme, Thrive Together, Diversity Grows Gardens is intended to show the impact our industry has in the world and push public gardens to be accessible and inclusive for all who work at and visit these spaces. From the valuable plant collections of the U.S. National Arboretum, to the “outdoor museums” of the Smithsonian, the pristine garden rooms at Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, and the United States Botanic Garden, one of the oldest botanic gardens in North America, the 2019 host gardens will inspire and spark dynamic exchanges that celebrate diversity of thought, experience, and contributions through horticultural practices and public engagement.

Your conference base, the luxurious Omni Shoreham Hotel—host to presidents, world leaders, and inaugural balls—locates you conveniently in northwest Washington, with easy access to Metro and all the host garden events and tours. As long as we’re talking diversity, explore all that D.C. has to offer as one of the most vibrant places to eat in the United States. With a wide variety of international offerings of all kinds and delectable neighborhood restaurants across the region, you can enjoy almost any cuisine you desire.

The 2019 host gardens will inspire and spark dynamic exchanges that celebrate diversity of thought, experience, and contributions through horticultural practices and public engagement.
Nestled on twenty-five acres adjacent to Rock Creek Park in northwest Washington, D.C., just up Connecticut Avenue from the conference hotel, this hidden gem is the former home of Marjorie Merriweather Post. Marjorie purchased the estate in 1955, determined that her home would be a place that would inspire and educate the public. Housing the most comprehensive collection of Russian imperial art outside of Russia and a distinguished eighteenth-century French decorative art collection, the interiors of the Georgian mansion are complemented by thirteen acres of formal “garden rooms,” including a French parterre, rose garden, Japanese-style garden, pet cemetery, and a greenhouse full of orchids.
In addition to the wealth of museums lining the National Mall, the Smithsonian Institution, many are surprised to learn, is also home to a number of outdoor museums. Designed with different goals, designs, and plant collections in mind, each garden is meant to complement the museums they border and to enhance the overall museum experience of learning, appreciation, and enjoyment. Highlights include: the Enid A. Haupt Garden, located above the National Museum of African Art, the S. Dillon Ripley Center, the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and three distinct gardens, each reflecting the cultural influences celebrated in the adjacent architecture and museums below; the Freer Gallery of Art garden, a courtyard garden designed as an outdoor space that invites relaxation and quiet contemplation; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, providing an ever-changing backdrop and contemplative haven for viewing large scale works of art; the Urban Bird Habitat, an oasis for many bird species; and several others reflecting the diversity of plant life and a healthy ecosystem.
More than 200 years ago, George Washington had a vision for the capital city of the United States that included a botanic garden to demonstrate and promote the importance of plants to the young nation. Today, the USBG is a living plant museum that informs visitors about the importance and irreplaceable value of plants to the well-being of humans and to earth’s ecosystems. From roses to orchids to cacti, the rainforest to the Mid-Atlantic, rare plants to the latest in home gardens, you will discover a world of plants and environments in the permanent displays and gardens. The Conservatory’s gardens and galleries feature a resplendent diversity of form, color, fruit, and fragrance to remind us that plants sustain and enhance our lives. Outdoors, the National Garden offers the finest of Mid-Atlantic native plants, a beautiful Rose Garden, and more. The newly renovated Bartholdi Park featuring the famous Bartholdi Fountain is a living demonstration of beautiful, sustainable, and accessible design. May through October, the USBG will showcase the diversity of public gardens from across the country in a duo of outdoor and indoor exhibits.
Established in 1927 by an Act of Congress with a mission to serve the public need for scientific research and education, the U.S. National Arboretum lies on 446 acres of urban green space in northeast Washington, D.C. The Arboretum is home to the internationally acclaimed National Bonsai & Penjing Museum, the tranquil Fern Valley Native Plant Collection, the richly textural Gotelli Conifer Collection, and the National Herb Garden, where visitors learn about all the ways we depend on plants in our daily lives. The National Boxwood Collection has more Buxus taxa than any other boxwood collection in the country, and the Asian Collections blanket the slopes of Hickey Hill with a stunning array of rare and unusual plants. The Friendship Garden and Introduction Garden feature a rich array of plants with strong multi-seasonal interest and highlight recent plant introductions. The Azalea Collection drapes the slopes of Mount Hamilton in spectacular bloom every spring, and scores of different varieties of flowering cherries create an array of red, pink, and white shades that rival the display of cherries at the Tidal Basin in late April and early May. Sprawling meadows and mature woodlands give the arboretum an open and peaceful ambience. Behind the scenes in laboratories and in research plots, scientists work to bring new technologies and improved trees and shrubs to the nursery industry and consumers.
American Horticultural Society/River Farm

River Farm, the headquarters of the American Horticultural Society, is a historic, twenty-five acre site that was once part of George Washington’s original five farms. A short drive along the scenic George Washington Parkway from Alexandria, Virginia, it is acclaimed for its spell-binding vistas stretching down to the Potomac River, along with its creative children’s gardens, beautiful four-acre meadow, and colorful flower displays.

American University

The Arboretum and Gardens at American University are some of the most notable features on this beautiful 90-acre campus in a residential district of Washington, D.C. The campus tree collection includes species from around the globe and a variety of shrubs, perennials, and ornamental grasses thrive across campus.

Brookside Gardens

With its colorful plantings, shimmering ponds, and breathtaking landscapes, Brookside Gardens is often described as the jewel of Montgomery County Parks. The fifty-acre park features intricately designed gardens with exquisite combinations of color, texture, scent, and scale, all easily enjoyed from tranquil walking trails, comfortable benches, and shady gazebos.

Dumbarton Oaks

Sited at the highest point in Georgetown in Washington, D.C., Dumbarton Oaks is the former home of Mildred and Robert Woods Bliss, who worked with landscape designer Beatrix Jones Farrand, beginning in 1921, to achieve their vision of terraced gardens and vistas, orchards and kitchen gardens, and a vast wilderness of meadows and wooded pathways. In 1941, the upper sixteen acres were transferred to Harvard University to establish a research institute for Byzantine and Pre-Columbian studies, and studies in the history of gardens and landscape architecture.
George Washington’s Mount Vernon

Once a vibrant plantation in the eighteenth century, George Washington’s Mount Vernon is now one of the nation’s most visited historic sites. Combining an authentically interpreted eighteenth-century home, lush gardens and grounds, museum galleries, immersive programs, and dining and shopping, Mount Vernon is an incomparable national treasure.

Glenstone

Situated on 100 acres in Potomac, Maryland, fifteen miles from the Omni Shoreham, Glenstone seamlessly integrates art, architecture, and landscape into a serene and contemplative environment. Guided by the personal vision of its founders, Glenstone assembles post-World War II artworks that trace the greatest historical shifts in the way we understand art of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. These works are presented in a series of refined indoor and outdoor spaces designed to facilitate meaningful encounters.

Green Spring Gardens

Located in Fairfax County, Green Spring Gardens is a public park offering information and inspiration year-round. A national historic site, outdoor classroom, and museum, the park has a woodsy stream valley with ponds, a naturalistic native plant garden, more than twenty thematic demonstration gardens, a greenhouse, plant shop, historic house, and a horticultural reference library.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

Located in Richmond, Virginia, about two hours south of Washington, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden offers year-round beauty on an historic property with more than fifty acres of spectacular gardens, dining, and shopping. A classical domed conservatory is the only one of its kind in the Mid-Atlantic. More than a dozen themed gardens include the Children’s Garden, Rose Garden, Asian Valley, and Cherry Tree Walk.
Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement

The American Public Gardens Association is committed to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusive culture where the contributions of all community members are valued, respected and appreciated. The Association also seeks to encourage and support its members in creating this same culture within their own institutions.

Just as the gardens and landscapes we present are biologically diverse and engaging, we seek to consistently re-examine our professional values, modify our existing practices and remove barriers to being diverse and inclusive.

For definitions and to learn more, visit the Employee Development, Diversity, & Inclusion Attribute of the Public Gardens Sustainability Index on our website here.

With broad themes that represent overlap and collaboration between disciplines, five tracks reflect the work of our Professional Communities and offer all participants the opportunity to share their diverse perspectives.

THE LIVING LANDSCAPE

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Our gardens are defined by many diverse factors, which include history, art, architecture, exhibitions, garden design, plant selection, horticultural practices, sustainable landscapes, food gardens, pollinator habitat and other ecosystem services, accessibility, and sustainable operations and facilities.

What makes your gardens and landscapes come alive for visitors? What sets them apart? The garden, in all its essence, is the foundation of this track.

Targeted Communities

Historic Landscapes
Horticulture, Greenhouses, and Facilities
Food & Agriculture
Arts & Exhibitions
Sustainability
Native Plants
Design & Planning
Plant Collections
COLLECTING AND CONSERVING
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Public gardens bring science to life for so many audiences, with interpretation, education, and communication programs that impact communities in and outside of the garden gates. How are you communicating your conservation, collections, research, and other priorities? How are you using technology and innovation to become action-oriented toward conservation and stewardship in the face of climate change? How do you measure your impact on your diverse and expanding audiences through all communication channels?

Targeted Communities
- College & University Gardens
- Design & Planning
- Emerging Professionals
- Education
- Field & Agriculture
- International Gardens
- Marketing & Communications
- Plant Conservation
- Sustainability
- Technology & Innovation Professionals (TIPS)

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People are at the heart of every fiscally sustainable public garden. Good partnerships, whether with the public, your member base, volunteers, sponsors or other institutions, bring more opportunities for outreach and funding. What outcomes are you applying towards recruiting for and strengthening workplace diversity? How have your institutional friendships and collaborations enriched your garden’s long-term well-being and the economic health and resilience of the greater community?

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Envisioning the next generation garden through successful leadership, at all levels, will take an institution and its staff to new heights and foster organizational excellence. How do you cultivate new talent, apply cutting edge ideas to economic, environmental, and social sectors, and identify successful strategies? How do you determine strategic imperatives and ensure the success of new initiatives while increasing relevancy and viability of your garden?

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- Volunteer Engagement

Marketing & Communications
- Native Plants
- Plant Collections
- Plant Conservation
- Plant Nomenclature & Taxonomy
- Small Gardens
- Sustainability
- Technology & Innovation Professionals (TIPS)
- Volunteer Engagement

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CALL FOR SESSIONS

Program Selection Committee
Whether you are new to the submission process or a veteran presenter, consider reaching out to a Program Selection Committee member before you submit. Are you wondering if any other gardens have a program or idea like yours? Are you looking for the right panelist to provide needed perspective for your great session idea? Committee members are experienced in a variety of public garden disciplines and are available to help members in designing and creating sessions and workshops for any track. These experienced professionals are available to help you, so do not hesitate to contact them to make your conference program a huge success!

Call for Sessions Proposal Submission
The online submission process is easy and allows you to compose abstracts securely and collaboratively with colleagues throughout the world, thus simplifying the authoring and submission process. Click on http://apga2019.abstractcentral.com to submit proposals online.

Submission Opening July 2, 2018, 3:00 p.m. ET
Submission Deadline October 31, 2018, 3:00 p.m. ET

Who Should Submit?
Moderators are required to be non-corporate members of the American Public Gardens Association. Anyone with an interest in public horticulture from disciplines or organizations outside public horticulture are strongly encouraged to participate as presenters. There are no minimum educational requirements.

Moderator/Workshop Leader Information
Moderators must be public horticulture professional, volunteers, or trustees and non-corporate members of the Association. Individuals who provide commercial services and goods to gardens may not serve as moderators, but they are encouraged to collaboratively work with others to submit session ideas and may participate as presenters.

Corporate/Sponsor Presentation Opportunities
The 2019 Annual Conference will feature a variety of sponsorship and promotional opportunities to choose from. Corporate members interested in sponsored workshop opportunities should not submit abstracts, but should contact Jen Moszczynski jmos@publicgardens.org.

Moderator Expectations
• Coordinate session logistical details
• Organize session focus, format, and presenters
• Develop session content
• Specify session room/site setup and audiovisual needs
• Budget for costs (food, audiovisual, etc.) and make these needs known to the Association
• Notify presenters when a proposal is accepted

• Ensure all presenters register for the conference
• Introduce session, presenters, and provide summary remarks
• Ensure the electronic capture of session and workshop information

Submissions
Abstract submissions will address the following questions in a total of approximately 350 words:
• Describe the key concepts and your presentation
• Describe how the session will be structured
• Identify the action you want your participants to take as a result of your session
• Explain why these presenters were chosen to represent this topic

Budget
The American Public Gardens Association has a very limited budget for speakers and workshop presenters. Presenters from within public horticulture do not receive honoraria or travel reimbursements. Financial support for presentations is awarded only under exceptional circumstances.

If your session or workshop has any associated costs or requires financial support, you must complete the budget form as part of your submission. Additional requests for funds beyond the submitted budget will not be considered if a proposal has been accepted.

Requests for funding will be strengthened by cost-covering efforts, such as asking outside presenters to waive fees or partially cover expenses and encouraging your institution or presenters to sponsor your session or workshop in exchange for recognition as a session sponsor.

Presentation Formats
Rapid Fire Presentation (15 slides in 5 minutes)
This year you are invited to submit a proposal for a rapid fire presentation utilizing the theme, “Fostering Diversity Grows Gardens.” You’ll need to think outside of the box to fit your ideas into this large presentation package! The Association reserves the right to compile all accepted proposals into special session format of 15 slides timed at 20 seconds per slide.

20-Minute Individual/Presentation
Structured discussions or presentations based on a single, focused topic are welcome. Only one author (or multi-author paper) will present at the meeting.

60- or 90-Minute Presentation
A variety of formats may be used to build 60- or 90-minute sessions. You are encouraged to consult with your Program Selection Committee to discuss whether interactive formats such as breakouts, debates, engaging narratives or more formal multi-speaker panel style presentations are the right fit for your topic.

Workshop (Full-, Half-, or Half-day)
This is the perfect venue for experienced workshop leaders to pass on their knowledge in a targeted learning opportunity. Typically workshops have an interactive, hands-on component. Please note that proposals for workshops must include a complete budget. Workshops are expected to cover all costs through registration fees unless subsidized through a sponsorship. Typical workshop attendance is 10-20 participants.

Poster Presentation
Displayed throughout the conference, posters showcase a single program or research project in a graphic format using photographs, diagrams, plans, or charts with limited text printed on high-quality paper, fabric, or vinyl. Poster presenters have a specific time to discuss their projects and answer questions. Posters are an excellent way to present new ideas, concepts, and programs.

Student Oral Presentation
This year you are invited to submit a proposal for a rapidfire presentation utilizing the theme, “Fostering Diversity Grows Gardens.” You’ll need to think outside of the box to fit your ideas into this small presentation package! The Association reserves the right to compile all accepted proposals into special session format of 15 slides timed at 20 seconds per slide.

Abstract Central Reopens for Student Oral Presentations, Posters and Rapid-fire Presentations: January 3, 2019, 3:00 p.m. ET
Submission Deadline: March 20, 2019, 3:00 p.m. ET
Proposal Evaluation and Notification
The American Public Gardens Association conferences are recognized for leading the field of public horticulture. We are looking for the best and most motivating, inspiring, and innovative educational content. Thus these tips will help you:

Developing a Strong Proposal
• Conference attendees are diverse. Your audience potentially includes people who are employed in a wide variety of capacities at botanical gardens, arboretums, cemeteries, zoos and university campuses—as well as volunteers, graduate students, and corporate members from a variety of industries.
• The American Public Gardens Association is committed to creating an equitable, diverse, and inclusive culture where the contributions of all community members are valued, respected, and appreciated.

When recruiting presenters for your session, please keep in mind that member gardens vary in terms of size of budget, staff, location, and acreage. If applicable, please ensure that your presenters are representative of the membership and/or provide multiple perspectives on the topic so that all gardens can take advantage of the valuable information you are presenting.

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How are proposals evaluated?

| The Program Selection Committee awards top scores to abstracts meeting the following criteria: |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Purpose**                     | Topic, intent, and learning outcomes are focused, well presented, and thoughtfully articulated |
| **Presenter Rationale**         | Rationale for choosing presenters is focused, well presented, and thoughtfully articulated     |
| **Relevance**                   | Topic and presenters (when applicable) represent a wide range of perspectives, regions, and garden sizes/budgets/missions |
| **Audience Engagement**         | The most appropriate audience engagement format is identified to allow full exploration of the topic |
| **Impact**                      | Topic is trending, important and timely, highly relevant to the intended audience, and has strong potential to catalyze audience |

**Notification**

By early January 2019, you will receive notification of the status of your proposal. If acceptance is contingent on changes, you will have two weeks to make those changes and return the amended proposal to the Program Selection Committee. Punctuality and cooperation are appreciated.

The American Public Gardens Association will determine the specific days and timeslots for sessions. Your submitted proposal automatically confirms your availability for any session block during June 17-21, 2019, the dates of the Annual Conference. If you already have a known time conflict, please note it in your submission.

**Speaker Discounts**

All presenters are eligible for the member discount, whether registering before or after the early-bird deadline.

**For More Information**

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