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Photo of Carl Shortt Jr. Attached.

## **Carl Shortt Jr. to be honored at Orchids in October with James R. Tolbert III Crystal Bridge Orchid Award**

Thursday, October 25, Presentation on Water Stage followed by Luncheon at Park House Event Center

Oklahoma City, OK -- The Board of Directors of the Myriad Gardens Foundation is proud to announce that Carl Shortt Jr. is the 2018 recipient of the James R. Tolbert III Crystal Orchid Award. This award is an annual tribute to those who significantly impact the beauty and success of the Myriad Botanical Gardens and Oklahoma City. This celebration will be held on Thursday, October 25 at the Myriad Gardens with the ceremony on the Water Stage and the luncheon in the Park House Events Center.

Orchids in October is the annual fall fundraiser that benefits the Myriad Gardens Foundation. Tickets are \$85 per person and can be purchased online at [myriadgardens.org](http://myriadgardens.org) or by phone at (405) 445-7084, [dmorey@myriadgardens.org](mailto:dmorey@myriadgardens.org).

After graduating from the University of Oklahoma Carl began his banking career at First National Bank and Trust Company. In 1981, he and Randy Everest started The Trust Company of Oklahoma which was eventually sold to the Bank of Oklahoma where he was the Trust and Private Banking manager for central Oklahoma until his retirement.

A lifetime amateur photographer he began a second career as a professional photographer studying under several internationally known photographers. He is a partner in the In Your Eye Gallery in the Paseo Arts District and has exhibited his work in many juried shows. Carl is also an award-winning woodcrafter creating beautiful pieces of art and dozens of pieces of furniture for his Oklahoma City home.

Carl has served on various community boards including Allied Arts and received the Zach D. Taylor Jr. Volunteer Award; Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition; Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma; Science Museum Oklahoma; Arts Council of Oklahoma City; Rotary Club of Oklahoma City and the Metro Camera Club. He actively volunteers for not-for-profit organizations helping them with photos for friend and fund raising purposes.

Carl says his biggest volunteer effort is for the Myriad Botanical Gardens. He is a long time community board member and has always given generously of his personal time and financial support. With over 10,000 beautiful photos of the Gardens he has helped us maintain our history and our memories which is invaluable.

Sponsorships are available. Contact: Debora Morey, Deputy Director, Myriad Gardens Foundation, [dmorey@myriadgardens.org](mailto:dmorey@myriadgardens.org) or call (405) 445-7084.

The Myriad Botanical Gardens is one of Oklahoma City's most beloved public spaces, offering its visitors a 15 acre natural escape in the very heart of downtown. A half-acre children's garden, an off-leash dog park, restaurant space, splash fountains, and paths for walking and jogging provide guests young and old with a place to seek solitude with nature, or seek community and the company of others. Additionally, the Myriad Gardens offers a variety of horticultural education programs for adults and children.

The Crystal Bridge Tropical Conservatory's unique design has earned attention and praise in the architectural community. It is 224 feet long, 70 feet in diameter, and is covered by 3,028 sections of translucent, double-layered acrylic panels. The Conservatory includes 13,000 square feet of plant display area in two distinct climates: the Tropical Wet Zone, which is at the south end and is watered daily; and the Tropical Dry Zone at the north end which receives water from April through September, followed by drought from November through March. Some 2,000 varieties of plants and a 35-foot waterfall round out the spectacular features of the Conservatory.

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