



October 2, 2018

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Myriad Gardens Foundation receives grant for The Secret Garden

Oklahoma City, OK – The Trustees of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation announced the Myriad Gardens has been awarded a Parks and Public Spaces Initiative Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to fund the construction of The Secret Garden. The Oklahoma City Community Foundation has a strong history of support for Myriad Botanical Gardens, generously supporting a number of projects over the years including a comprehensive wellness program, walking tours, a beautiful new shade garden and now The Secret Garden. Founded in 1969, the Oklahoma City Community Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) public charity that works with donors to create charitable funds that will benefit our community both now and in the future. Grants awarded through the Parks & Public Spaces Initiative support programs that encourage the use of public parks for recreation, health and wellness activities.

The grant will help transform an underutilized 7,000 square foot section of the gardens on the busy northeastern corner between the boulder waterfall and the Seasonal Plaza. The Secret Garden will be an area where visitors can relax, picnic and enjoy the tranquility of nature. This secluded spot will be enhanced with beautiful ornamental trees, bushes and flowers to further screen and enchant the garden space.

“This grant enables us to transform an underused garden area, located behind our Boulder Fountain near the corner of Sheridan and Ron Norick. Using these grant funds, we will enhance the compact site into an oasis within an oasis— a secret garden of sorts. The name is taken from the beloved classic book, *The Secret Garden*, and the space will feel like a private haven of beauty and charm, in the middle of downtown for visitors to discover and enjoy,” said Maureen Heffernan, Executive Director of the Myriad Botanical Gardens “We are so appreciative of the generous funding from this grant to help us continually improve Myriad Botanical Gardens,” she continued.

Construction is scheduled to begin later this year and the staff of the Myriad Gardens plan to open The Secret Garden to visitors in the summer of 2019.

For more information about the Oklahoma City Community Foundation, visit www.occf.org

Myriad Botanical Gardens is one of Oklahoma City’s most beautiful and vibrant garden and park spaces offering visitors a 15-acre natural escape in the heart of downtown. Free and open to the public, the outdoor spaces include: ornamental gardens, a children’s garden and playground, Great Lawn, lake, an off-leash dog park, water features including splash fountains for children and walking and jogging paths. The centerpiece of the 15-acre Myriad Botanical Gardens is the Crystal Bridge Conservatory, home to thousands of beautifully displayed tropical and desert plantings.