



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS

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The Gardens Welcome Richard Arrington and William Bell
Former and Current Mayor to break ground on Plant Adventure Zone

BIRMINGHAM, AL – Birmingham Botanical Gardens welcomes former mayor Richard Arrington and current mayor William Bell to the Arrington Plant Adventure Zone's official groundbreaking ceremony on Friday, September 9 at 1 p.m. The Gardens will welcome the Board of Directors, The Gardens' staff, community partners and volunteers to this exclusive event.

With targeted completion set for the Spring of 2012, the Arrington Plant Adventure Zone will serve the Birmingham community as a garden for therapeutic horticulture and wellness – a broad concept The Gardens hopes to redefine through its Horticultural Therapy Program.

The Gardens' Horticultural Therapy program was the first of its kind in the state of Alabama. As this program continues to grow, it strives to move from a medical model and toward a holistic and inclusive view of human participation in the horticulture world. Medical research continues to point to the benefits of people-plant interactions. One of The Gardens' roles is to facilitate such interaction in this unique, urban plant space and in outreach to the community.

About Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is Alabama's largest living museum with more than 10,000 different plants in its living collections. The Gardens' 67.5 acres contains more than 25 unique gardens, 30+ works of original outdoor sculpture and miles of serene paths. The Gardens features the largest public horticulture library in the U.S., conservatories, a wildflower garden, two rose gardens, the Southern Living garden, and Japanese Gardens with a traditionally crafted tea house. Education programs run year round and more than 10,000 school children enjoy free science-curriculum based field trips annually. The Gardens is open daily, offering free admission to more than 350,000 yearly visitors.