A Letter from Susan

"Autumn, the season that teaches us that change can be beautiful."

Dear Friend,

Gardens are constantly changing! This summer we completed work on three distinct planted areas, and as fall slowly drifts in, we can enjoy the dramatic changes they bring to our beloved, World’s Fair-inspired Gardens on Parade section. The Unity Garden, which officially opened on September 19, is the result of years of planning and looks flawless in autumn. Clusters of purple fountain grass wave and welcome you into the new space, inviting you to sit on a bench and stay a while. If you position yourself just right, you’ll take in the newly renovated Perennial Garden, whose redesign includes wide, grassy paths that connect to all the spaces on its perimeter—perfect to encourage meandering. From there, you can peer into the Wedding Garden, whose newly restored water body is now a closed system that boasts blooming lotus flowers, dramatic elephant ear leaves, and naturalistic rocky edges that protect goldfish from predators.

The Garden itself is not the only place where change is afoot. Our cheerful, four-color logo has gotten a little bit of a facelift, too. (See if you can spot the difference!) Working with Big Duck, a communications firm specializing in non-profits, with funding provided by the Booth Ferris Foundation, staff developed a simplified version that is better suited to the digital needs of today. Staff approached the work carefully, knowing it would be a challenge to make a change that affects the way QBG presents itself to the world—but if there’s anything that gardens teach us, it’s that nothing stays the same. And that’s okay.

We embrace these changes and hope you’ll visit now to see the Garden in full color, and again as purple flowers fade away and green leaves turn red, yellow, and umber.

See you around the Garden!

Susan Lacerte
Executive Director
For the sixth year in a row, Taiwan: A World of Orchids infused Queens Botanical Garden (QBG) with hundreds of exquisite orchids from Taiwan. Thanks to Taipei Economic & Cultural Office (TECO-NY), event sponsors, and organizers, the weekend-long exhibit took place Friday through Sunday, August 9 through 11, and welcomed thousands of visitors to view over 450 pots of orchids in a beautiful display that also incorporated paintings and digital art by artists Reyna Clarissa, Chien Chun Feng, Ming-Hsuan Lee, Yi-An Pan, and Sandy Yeh.

On Thursday, August 8, Ambassador and Director General of TECO-NY Lily L.W. Hsu, QBG Executive Director Susan Lacerte, and QBG Board Chair Pauline Huang led a press conference to kick off this year’s show. Also present to share remarks were New York City Council Member Peter Koo, Sandra Ung, representative for U.S. Congresswoman Grace Meng, and Yen Chou, representative for New York State Assemblyman David Weprin, QBG Public Programs Manager Dylan House, and event sponsors Jimmy Tsai of Amerasia Bank and Gene Wang of Linda Fashion Company. In her remarks, Ambassador Hsu informed that Taiwan is one of the most important orchid habitats in the world and its exports make up 80 percent of the United States’ orchid imports. “We even call ourselves the ‘Kingdom of Orchids,’” she said.

On Saturday and Sunday, visitors replicated the beauty of the flowers by making themed orchid crafts. The exhibit culminated with a lively performance of traditional Chinese dance and music by Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company. The audience even learned a few orchid hand gestures and how to dance with colorful ribbons. Enthusiasts stayed for the post-exhibit orchid sale on Sunday, bringing home some of the show’s beauties!

SPECIAL THANKS TO SPONSORS
Taipei Economic & Cultural Office in New York
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Sue Ming Wu • Dr. Ber-Yuh Yang
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Top: Ambassador and Director General of TECO-NY Lily L.W. Hsu (dressed in white, at center), QBG Executive Director Susan Lacerte, and QBG Board Chair Pauline Huang led a press conference on Thursday, August 8, 2019 to announce this year’s show.
Garden Abuzz with All Things Sweet

Smiles were sweet as honey at Apples & Honey Day on Sunday, September 22! To celebrate the harvest season, visitors created themed crafts, tasted fresh apples and local honey, sipped on local beer and cider, met our beekeepers, and got up-close with, and learned about, nature’s winged aviators—the industrious honeybee—by our Bee Garden! Our pollinator appreciators donned their fun, just-made beehive hats in a pollinator parade down our Oak Allée. And finally, we concluded our day with the rockabilly sounds of Lara Hope and the Ark-Tones, who performed new takes on old songs, belting out early rock and roots music for all to enjoy. Below are some of our favorite moments!
PHOTO HIGHLIGHT
Where People, Plants, and Cultures Meet

As part of this year’s Thursday Summer Nights series of extended garden hours, monthly themed Flower Power Parties invigorated the space with musical and dance performances from cultures around the world. Flower Power Party: Dahlia on July 18 featured a performance by Calpulli Mexican Dance Company, who presented the rich diversity of Mexican and Mexican-American cultural heritage through dance and live music. In this photo (right), Calpulli performs la Danza de las Cintas, which traditionally takes place to celebrate a recently married couple. The bright ribbons of the maypole symbolize the interweaving of their lives and the home they will build together.
“The Wood Whisperers,” “Children of Artemis,” and “The Flower Benders” were just some of the fun team names created by over 50 Summer Youth Employment Program interns at Queens Botanical Garden. In the six weeks at the Garden, they gained work experience and helped to keep the Garden green and beautiful. They worked tirelessly with the Garden’s Horticulture and Maintenance staffs to prune, weed, plant, repair pathways, mulch, deadhead, and maintain tree beds. They also swept and removed debris from the biotope by the Visitor & Administration Building and painted the exterior of the Education Building. Reaching all corners of the Garden, other interns assisted the Compost, Human Resources, and Special Events departments, as well as the Forest Explorers, Children’s Garden, and Garden Greeters programs.

Learning Opportunities
Interns also had the opportunity to attend informative workshops to learn about heat exposure from the Citywide Office of Occupational Safety and Health, tool safety and training by QBG Staff, financial literacy by HSBC Bank, tree pruning and care by arborist and QBG Advisory Council and Horticulture Committee Member Frank Buddingh’, and landscape architecture by consultant Pamela Lester.

Not All Work & No Play
With hard work comes some great perks! Interns got to root for the home team with complimentary tickets through the New York Mets Community Ticket Program. Other perks included a bagel breakfast every Tuesday, ice cream every Thursday, a hot lunch every Friday, and many other breakfast items, snacks, and treats throughout the program.

Thank You
We are so grateful for the interns’ hard work and dedication, and for their decision to gain their first work experience and earn their first paycheck by helping keep QBG an urban oasis. We also would like to express gratitude to the organizations that helped bring these individuals through the garden gates, namely Chinese-American Planning Council, Central Queens Y (CommonPoint), Flushing High School, Greater Ridgewood Youth Counsel, John Bowne High School, Ladders for Leaders, Learning to Work (LTW), Lexington School for the Deaf, P993 at Frank Sinatra High School, Futures and Options, Helen Keller Services for the Blind, KCS-College, KCS-HS, and East-West School of International Studies.

THANK YOU!
A special thank you to QBG Board Member Debra Lodge and HSBC Bank, whose generous support ensured that our interns were well fed and provided with a tote of essential programmatic supplies, including t-shirts, safety glasses, gloves, visors, waterbottles, dust masks, sunscreen, bug spray, and various first-aid supplies. HSBC’s generous support allowed the interns to truly focus on the work at hand and set them up for a successful summer at QBG!

If you would like to support or contribute to QBG’s internship or volunteer program, please contact QBG Director of Development Stephanie Ehrlich at sehrlie@queensbotanical.org or 718.886.3800, ext 330.
We are pleased to thank the following corporations and foundations for their support of QBG's botanical displays, programs, and operations:

- HSBC Bank USA, N.A.
- NewYork-Presbyterian Queens
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We extend our gratitude to the following elected officials and government bodies:

- New York City Council
- New York City Department of Cultural Affairs
- New York City Department of Sanitation
- New York State Assembly
- New York State Senate
- New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Queens Borough President Melinda Katz
- Queens Delegation of the New York City Council
- Queens Delegation of the New York State Assembly

Thank you to our members, sponsors, and friends!