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LAURITZEN GARDENS CANCELS 2020 LAURITZEN GARDENS ANTIQUES SHOW BUT FUNDRAISING EFFORTS CONTINUE

OMAHA, Neb. – Lauritzen Gardens announced today that the 17th annual Lauritzen Gardens Antiques Show scheduled for September 24-27, 2020 has been canceled.

“Lauritzen Gardens’ priority is the health and safety of our community and show partners, including our speakers, staff, vendors, antiques exhibitors, patrons, and volunteers” said John Newman, executive director of Lauritzen Gardens. “As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unfold, our event leadership and board of directors agreed that it would not be ethically or financially prudent for the organization to enter into binding contracts on an event we could not promise to fruition, while maintaining the show’s stellar reputation.”

The one-of-a-kind cultural event and collector’s experience typically brings more than 25 high quality antiques exhibitors to Omaha, as well as featured designers, authors, and trendsetters to celebrate art, design, and antiques, and raise funds for Lauritzen Gardens, Omaha’s public garden. Interior designers Timothy Corrigan and Cathy Kincaid, and party planner Bronson Van Wyck were slated to present at the 2020 luncheon & lecture events. The speakers have all agreed to fulfill their commitments at the 2021 show, which is scheduled for September 9-12.

The annual event is the garden’s largest fundraiser and has raised nearly \$8 million to support the garden’s mission over the past 16 years. “Despite the event cancellation, the garden still has day-to-day expenses necessary to maintain a thriving living collection for the enjoyment and education of the community” said Newman. “Our need is still ever-present, and, as we start down a path that is new to us all, the garden is fully committed to finding creative ways to help us remain financially healthy and vibrant in the future.”

The 2020 chairs, Julie Kenney, Susan McGillick, and Ann Tjaden will continue their planning, along with the resources, energy, and attention of the event’s advisory committee, show committee, and garden staff, and we look forward to seeing their vision come to life at the 2021 show.

For information about and ways to support the show, visit <http://www.OmahaAntiqueShow.org>. For questions about the Lauritzen Gardens Antiques Show, contact Cynthe Johnson at (402) 346-4002, ext. 219 or c.johnson@omahabotanicalgardens.org.

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Lauritzen Gardens is an urban oasis of beauty and tranquility. This 100-acre botanical garden, comprised of several outdoor garden areas, creates a living museum of unique four-season plant displays, maintained to the highest standards consistent with environmental stewardship. The garden strives to impact every visitor through the natural beauty of its horticultural displays, enriching educational programs, entertaining special events, or via its research to conserve the endangered plants of the Great Plains. As a proactive measure against the spread of COVID-19 in our community, the garden is currently closed through April 30.

Since 2004, the Lauritzen Gardens Antiques Show has inspired patrons with a four-day celebration of design and culture. This event has captured the imagination of more than 65,000 people and has grown to be an important and steady source of revenue for Lauritzen Gardens, allowing it to develop into the community jewel that it is.

Lauritzen Gardens is conveniently located in the beautiful riverfront hills at First and Bancroft Streets and is close to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium and the Old Market. For more information, please visit <http://www.lauritzengardens.org> or call (402) 346-4002.