



Museum of Discovery and Science Partners with the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society to Grow Native Orchids

Collaboration will Result in Planting More than 100 Native Orchids in the MODS' Science Park on Tuesday, July 19

Fort Lauderdale, Fla. (July 6, 2022) - A beautiful partnership is in bloom! The [Museum of Discovery and Science \(MODS\)](#) has teamed with the [Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society](#) to install more than 100 native orchids into MODS' Science Park on Tuesday, July 19.

"This organic partnership ensures the Museum is doing our part in preserving native and tropical flora and seeding conservation actions among guests," said **Joseph P. Cox, president and CEO of MODS**. "Conservation extends to all of nature. It is about people and ecosystems, habitats and plants. As part of the Hub for Resilience Education at MODS, we ensure that our conservation efforts are well rounded to assist the environment as much as we possibly can."

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society, a partner of [Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's Million Orchid Project](#) (MOP), has successfully planted thousands of native orchids in South Florida in coordination with the MOP program, which is the nation's largest educational outreach program dedicated to orchid conservation. This summer, the society will be installing about 5,000 orchids into the South Florida landscape. Fairchild has propagated hundreds of thousands of native orchids and distributed and planted them in urban landscapes with the ultimate goal of re-establishing one million native orchids in the region. The project is unique in its scale, experimental nature, its focus on public spaces, and its involvement of the local community from its inception.

"This partnership will create a truly unique educational exhibit that will help MODS' visitors learn more about Florida native orchids," said **Gerritt Stryker, a conservation team and board member of the Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society**. "At its core, conservation starts with education and awareness."

South Florida was once an orchid paradise, with a rich variety of tropical orchids growing naturally on the branches of trees. Of Florida's 106 native orchid species, 58 are listed as endangered by the Atlas of Florida Plants and another 18 species are threatened. The removal of native flowers stems all the way back to the development of Florida railroads from the 1880s

through the roaring 1920s. The new infrastructure made it possible to transport many of Florida's natural wonders out of the state destined to be sold as disposable potted plants in northern flower shops.

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society embarked on the MOP conservation project in 2019 and has installed thousands of native orchids into South Florida parks, neighborhoods, schools, and other localities.

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ABOUT THE FORT LAUDERDALE ORCHID SOCIETY:

The Fort Lauderdale Orchid Society is 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The society, founded in 1951, is one of the largest in the nation. Its mission is to stimulate interest, provide education, and enable the exchange of information among those interested in all aspects of orchid culture. For more information, please visit flos.org. Follow along on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

ABOUT FAIRCHILD TROPICAL BOTANIC GARDEN:

Fairchild Garden is currently celebrating its 82nd anniversary in the community. Established in 1938 and comprising 83 acres, Fairchild is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to exploring, explaining and conserving the world of tropical plants. Fairchild has the largest education program of any metropolitan area, reaching more than 300,000 schoolchildren each year with programs like [The Fairchild Challenge](#), [The Million Orchid Project](#), [Growing Beyond Earth](#), and its BioTECH High School. For additional information, please visit fairchildgarden.org. Follow along on social media at [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

ABOUT THE MUSEUM OF DISCOVERY AND SCIENCE (MODS):

Founded in 1976 as the Discovery Center, today the Museum of Discovery and Science (MODS) is at the forefront of science education, innovation, and exploration. MODS connects people to inspiring science. The Museum encompasses more than 150,000 square feet of interactive exhibits. This includes all of our permanent and traveling exhibits, as well as our outdoor Science Park. Families can enjoy super science shows and demonstrations, wild Creature Feature animal encounters, private experiences, mind-blowing Makerspace labs, cool camps, unforgettable birthday parties, engaging field trips and STEM curricula, professional development workshops for educators, distinguished speakers, and more. In addition to daily hours, MODS' STEMobile delivers STEM education on location across South Florida! A STEMobile experience ranges from one-hour to full-day with programming for pre-kindergarten through adult and is available for schools, community centers, corporate team building and special events! All programs can be customized for time, group size and age group. Book a STEMobile visit today. Free programs and scholarships are available!

The Museum celebrates diversity and welcomes visitors from all walks of life. The Museum hours are Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. MODS is located downtown at 401 SW Second Street, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33312. For more information about the Museum, please visit mods.org or call 954.467.MODS (6637).

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