

# PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

## At Phipps, nostalgia arrives in shades of autumn

By Kellie B. Gormly  
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Autumn flowers, colors and decorations will blend with nostalgia and Pittsburgh history at the annual Fall Flower Show, which opened on Thursday at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens.

Mum's the word at the flower show, which will fill the Oakland conservatory with more than 5,000 chrysanthemums bursting with shades of red, orange, yellow, pink and more. This year's show has a historical theme to commemorate Phipps' 118 years of existence. Photos depicting Phipps from years ago will be displayed in each room containing elements of the fall show. Visitors can look at the flowers around them, and compare the current scenery to the pictures, which display past fall shows and architectural additions and renovations.

"We wanted to just give them a little nostalgic view of Phipps," says Laura Schoch, the Phipps horticulturist who designed the fall show. "I want people to remember ... a time they came and visited, and what they liked the most. People love fall colors."

Shades of red — in mums, coleus and other plants and flowers — bathe the now-50-year-old Sunken Garden, which includes the fountain falls. Pumpkins and orange mums fill the whimsical East Room, where two homemade scarecrows in flannel shirts smile at visitors. The Broderie Room, with teardrop-shaped mini-gardens, features dark and light pink giant mums. In the Serpentine Room, a rainbow of autumn colors winds through the space's curves.

The mum collection includes disbud mums, which gardeners have pinched to remove the smaller, lower buds. As a result, the plants grow to several feet tall, and produce one giant, dahlia-like bloom at the top. Visitors also will see many hanging baskets flowing with cascading mums.

In the South Conservatory, visitors can see this year's version of the popular Garden Railroad, which will be at Phipps throughout the fall, winter and early spring. The theme of the railroad — featuring model G toy trains and a miniature village — is "Get Moving," and goes along with Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign, in which Phipps is participating. The railroad display shows miniature people doing physically active things, such as working in their gardens and skiing on snow-capped mountains. All the plants in Phipps' railroad display are live plants, says spokeswoman Liz Fetchin.

Phipps' show has a nostalgic and playful feel to it, and gives people of all ages

beautiful scenery, she says.

"I think there's a lot of things to see for kids," Fetchin says. "I think it's a great show for families. We want (visitors) to come here and linger."

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