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Images available upon request.

Gardens and galleries flourish with *Hello Spring* at Newfields *Explore beauty arriving in stages through May*

INDIANAPOLIS, March 13, 2018—Spring is in the air, and next month, it will be in full bloom at Newfields. Opening April 1, the campus-wide [Hello Spring](#) celebration will feature more than 250,000 blooms in The Garden, local brews on tap in the Beer Garden, wildflowers in The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres, inspiring exhibitions inside the Indianapolis Museum of Art and the Lilly House, and more time to see it all.

Beginning April 1, Newfields will be open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays through October 31.

"Hello Spring builds on recent successes, including last year's spring program and *Winterlights*," said Dr. Charles L. Venable, the Melvin & Bren Simon Director and CEO. "These campus-wide seasonal celebrations of art, nature, performance and the culinary arts invite Hoosiers of all ages to create new traditions and make connections with art, nature and each other. I am grateful to the hundreds of volunteers and donors who make these events possible and help us to engage our guests more deeply with our mission and introduce thousands of members of our community to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, The Garden, Lilly House and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art and Nature Park."

Guests to *Hello Spring* can immerse themselves in vibrant colors and enchanting aromas in The Garden as they stroll amongst countless daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, ornamental onions, Icelandic poppies and more. With more than 250,000 blooms, the display is the largest in the history of The Garden. Each garden bed was curated by Newfields horticulturists and designed to bloom in stages throughout the spring season, so there's always something new to see. The community can follow along to see what's blooming each week at DiscoverNewfields.org/hellospring and by using #HelloSpring on social media.

Families are invited to kick off the season with the International Day of Flowers celebration on April 7. Guests can travel around the world without leaving the Newfields campus, celebrating the floral traditions, food and music of different cultures. Visitors are invited to enjoy a hula performance in Tahiti, make a flower basket in Thailand, delight their palates in Mexico and try some yoga in India. The event will also include a flower market, art making activities, gallery tours and more.

Nestled amongst the Madeline F. Elder Greenhouse and a spring pop-up garden, the Beer Garden will return Thursdays through Sundays with an expanded menu. Rotating taps will feature seasonal beer and wine, including *Among the Leaves*, a custom brew from Sun King Brewery. There will also be an eclectic bottle and can list that includes additional beer, cider and canned wine. Last year's crowd favorite—a giant grilled pretzel from Pat's Philly Pretzels—is back on the menu, as well as shareable charcuterie boards. A mint iced tea and herbed goat cheese invites visitors to sample herbs grown on the Newfields campus. New this year, a weekend pop-up "Garden bar" will host special tastings, workshops and demonstrations from local chefs and brewers. The second Saturday of each month, revelers can enjoy live music and classic board games from 5:30-8 p.m. Every Sunday in April and May, food trucks will be on-site to provide some extra nourishment. Support for the Beer Garden is provided by the Bud Brehob Family.

Guests are invited to stroll through thousands of blooms at their leisure from a garden path, featuring information about the various plants and displays, or take a guided tram tour of the display. The seasonal tour highlights what's currently in bloom, the history of the Lilly House, and offers a chance to taste what's cooking in the Beer Garden. A walking tour of The Garden is offered Thursdays through Sunday, and is included with admission.

In The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres, thousands of short blooming wildflowers will create a dazzling display. Fairbanks Park is open daily and free to visit.

The spring celebration continues indoors at the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Visitors can explore how spring is captured on canvas and learn how the works of art inside connect to the blooming landscape outside with the *Hello Spring* Gallery Tour, offered Tuesday through Fridays at 2 p.m.

In the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion, guests can meet the first animal from the upcoming *Summer Wonderland: Spectacular Creatures* exhibition, opening June 1. The blue, almost 8-foot-tall snail, made of regenerated plastic, is the creation of Italian artist collective, Cracking Art. Hundreds of animals, from playful meerkats to stoic wolves, will join the snail at Newfields this summer as fantasy is brought to life across the campus. *Summer Wonderland: Spectacular Creatures* is presented by Eli Lilly and Company. Creatures inside the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion are made possible by the Efroymsen Contemporary Art Fund.

On April 20, [*Bes-Ben: The Mad Hatter of Chicago*](#) will debut inside the Gerald and Dort Paul Galleries on Floor 3 of the IMA. Known for his elaborate, humorous, and flamboyant creations, Benjamin B. Green-Field (1898-1988), the creative genius behind the Bes-Ben label, designed hats using a variety of everyday objects and a wide array of unusual trimmings. The hats were adorned with bizarre items such as fake cigarettes, little stuffed animals, plastic fruits and vegetables, and a range of bejeweled and decorative objects. Many of the wealthy women of Chicago and the Midwest were among Green-Field's clients, and his hats were popular with celebrities like Elizabeth Taylor and Judy Garland. More than 60 of these hats, many of them never before exhibited, will be on view as part of the exhibition.

Opening May 4, [*Collecting Contemporaries: Recent Acquisitions from the Koch and Wolf Collections*](#) highlights some of the most significant gifts of contemporary art made to the Indianapolis Museum of Art over its 135-year history, which were donated by longtime supporters Kay Koch, and Joan and Walter Wolf. The exhibition features works by artists such as Andy Warhol, Alex Katz, Judy Pfaff, John Cage, Sol LeWitt, Ed Ruscha, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Longo and James Rosenquist. This exhibition is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by The Alliance of Newfields.

On the second floor of the historic Lilly House, *Inspired By Spring* showcases photos of The Garden taken by the Newfields photography team; longtime supporter, Tom Mueller; and members of the local photography community. Guests can [submit their own photos](#) from this year's display, and an image will be selected each week to be added to the exhibition.

Hello Spring is open during all spring holidays, including Easter. On Mother's Day, families can give Mom more flowers than anywhere else in Indiana with a stroll through The Garden and a glass of champagne in the Beer Garden.

Do you have a green thumb? Newfields needs your help during *Hello Spring*. If you love plants or just being one with nature, these opportunities are perfect for you. Join the volunteer team at [DiscoverNewfields.org/give-and-join/volunteer](https://www.discovernewfields.org/give-and-join/volunteer).

Support for *Hello Spring* provided by Charles L. Venable and Martin K. Webb, Total Lawn Care, the Bud Brehob Family and Cathy and Bob Turner.

The Efroymsen Contemporary Art Fund

The Efroymsen Contemporary Art Fund is an endowed fund that was established in 2006 by the Efroymsen Family Fund to support work by emerging and established local, national, and international contemporary visual artists through a rotating installation program in the Efroymsen Family Entrance Pavilion. Past artists and collectives whose work has been supported by the Fund include Allora & Calzadilla, Ball-Nogues Studio, Tony Feher, Spencer Finch, Friends with You, Orly Genger, William Lamson, Judith G. Levy, Mary Miss, Julian Opie, Heather Rowe, Alyson Shotz, Julianne Swartz, Sopheap Pich, Erwin Wurm, Richard Wentworth, and Monika Sosnowska.

About Newfields

Newfields offers dynamic experiences with art and nature for guests of all ages. The 152-acre cultural campus features art galleries, lush gardens, a historic mansion, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the Indianapolis Museum of Art Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of cheer, guests are invited to interact with art and nature in exciting new ways. Newfields is home to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, among the ten largest and oldest general art museums in the nation; the Lilly House, a National Historic Landmark; The Garden, featuring 40 acres of contemporary and historic gardens, a working greenhouse and an orchard; and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres, one of the largest art and nature parks in the country. The Newfields campus extends outside of Indianapolis with Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Ind.—one of the nation's most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist architecture. For more information visit www.discovernewfields.org.

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Media Contacts:

Mattie Lindner
Communications Coordinator
317-923-1331 ext. 265
mlindner@DiscoverNewfields.org

Stephanie Perry
Director of Communications
317-923-1331 ext. 231
sperry@DiscoverNewfields.org