

## **Blooming connections: pollinating people with plants**

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The Botanic Gardens of Sydney's three botanic gardens and the Domain, provide captivating venues for connecting the public with the fascinating world of plants to more than 11.8 million visitors per year. Through our living collections, displays and exhibitions we deploy innovative strategies to engage diverse audiences through immersive plant experiences. Leveraging the inherent allure of botanical specimens, we have developed interactive programs and exhibitions aimed at fostering curiosity and appreciation for plant life. Through a blend of horticultural and scientific expertise, educational outreach, engaging interpretation and creative programming, the Garden has cultivated a dynamic platform for public engagement. Central to our approach is the recognition of plants as powerful tools for storytelling and environmental advocacy. Showcasing the beauty, diversity, and ecological significance of plant species, we aim to inspire stewardship and promote conservation efforts. Staff develop impactful seasonal displays, topiary critters and curated living collections but our stunning floral extravaganzas, held at our signature and award-winning horticultural exhibition venue – the Calyx – has particularly drawn admiration from visitors across the globe. Anchored by one of the largest green walls in the southern hemisphere, our floral exhibitions have celebrated plant diversity through a fusion of nature, art, and culture, to ensure our visitors understand the vital role of plants in our lives. This is highlighted by examples including Inside the Tide exhibition, which won the prestigious Interpretations Australia Award for Excellence in 2023. The incredibly successful partnerships with Fleurs de Villes floral mannequin's, celebrating significant women throughout the ages, and Love Your Nature exhibition, designed to coincide with World Pride 2023, the global celebration of LGBTQ+ culture and human rights that took place in Sydney for the first time. We persist in refining our strategies to foster impactful connections between people and plants, serving as catalysts for change.