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Green Bay Botanical Garden Appoints Four New Board Members

(GREEN BAY, WI) (December 3, 2024) – Green Bay Botanical Garden recently appointed four community leaders to its Board of Directors.

New President & CEO, Dr. Laura Nelson, is “delighted to announce” the new additions to the Garden’s board remarking that, “Their passion for our mission and diverse expertise will help us as we continue to innovate and serve our community.”

Here are the new members joining the Garden’s Board:



Brad Charapata is currently the VP of Commercial Banking at BMO Bank. Charapata brings financial expertise to the Garden, having served as a commercial relationship manager for more than 22 years. A “green thumb rookie” with some landscaping knowhow, Charapata hopes to bring a wealth of experience to help the Garden build on its successes in finance and other areas.

Lynn Green works at Nature's Way as a Nurse Practitioner, Herbalist, and Forager. A gardening, foraging, and HAM radio enthusiast, Green also tends a personal urban garden complete with a mushroom garden. She looks forward to "helping people make connections between plants and health."



Tatum Quackenboss currently serves as the Executive Director at Prevea Health and has been with the company since 2008. Quackenboss loves to travel, go for walks, and spend time on her boat with family. Sharing a passion for the outdoors, she wants to "work collaboratively to lead with others who wish to make a difference" at the Garden.



Jeremiah School, President of DOT Security, has more than 20 years of experience in IT and cybersecurity. He hopes to "provide value and build relationships with others who share in his passions." Plus, he loves his bonsai tree and works to improve plant and wildlife habitat on his personal property near a waterfowl preserve.

2025 will see additional changes as Tom Arndt, former Vice Chair, has been appointed as the new Chair of the Garden's Board. Arndt, a longtime board member, succeeds Terri Trantow. Trantow has served as Board Chair since 2023, and under her leadership, the Garden officially opened the Carol & Bruce Bell Children's Garden, had its best year ever in admissions with more than 209,000 visiting from May 2023-April 2024, and helped transition the Garden from former

President & CEO, Susan Garot, to Dr. Laura Nelson, M.D. The Garden is grateful for Trantow's leadership over the past two years and looks forward to seeing Arndt's impact on the Garden as his term begins.

Diane Conway, Kathy Hartman, Mai Lo Lee, and Kim Schanock are stepping down from the Board after completing their terms.

Conway was a Board member for three terms and Board Chair from 2020-2022. Leading the Garden through the 2020 pandemic, she offered support and wisdom to overcome challenges at that time. She also helped raise \$13 million and oversaw the Garden's largest project – the construction of Bell Children's Garden.

Hartman is a foundational leader who has a long history with the Garden, leading many key campaigns and committees. She served two 9-year commitments on the Board, served on the Executive Committee, and was the Board Chair from 2010-2012. She has been the Chair of the fund development committee since 2013. She was also a co-chair with her husband, Doug, on both the Perennial Performance Capital Campaign to build the Schneider Family Grand Garden and the Nature Nurtures Capital Campaign to build the Bell Children's Garden.

As a Board member for three years, Lee led and helped shape the Garden's inclusivity and diversity projects. An expert in this field, she currently works in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Division of Public Health.

Schanock has been a Board member for two years and will return to her passion for improving literacy in the Green Bay community. She was an active part of our Education Task Force responsible for creating children's programming, especially in the Bell Children's Garden.

Returning Board members are Susan Baranczyk, who will transition from Secretary to Vice Chair, and Justyna Cermeli. Nicole Polarek will now be Secretary of the Board.

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About Green Bay Botanical Garden

Green Bay Botanical Garden connects people with plants by providing year-round educational and recreational experiences for everyone in an environment that engages, inspires, and refreshes. First opened in 1996 and now featuring 47-acres of display gardens and natural areas, the Garden touches the lives of more than 200,000 visitors annually on average from northeast Wisconsin and beyond. For more information about other happenings, visit GBBG.org or call 920.490.9457.

Editors, please note: Interviews, virtual interviews (i.e. Zoom, FaceTime, etc.), pre-recorded videos, story leads and additional high-resolution digital images are available by contacting the media representative at the top of this release.