

## **Beal Botanical Garden's new collection policy strengthens our legacy and activates our collections**

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In 2023, Beal Botanical Garden celebrated our 150-year milestone as a living laboratory. From its inception, the garden encourages learning and exploration of the natural world. The anniversary was a moment to celebrate past and present accomplishments and envision our future. To facilitate our thinking of what could be, the garden conducted a strategic plan, developed a new mission, and identified core values. The three components guide how the garden reimagines its space and connects with the community. We recognized that at the heart of the garden, we illuminate the interconnectedness of people, plants, and place. To strengthen our position of legacy and navigate the future of Beal Botanical Garden, we need an approach that activates collections. A new collections policy was developed to relate collections to our mission of connectivity with people and plants. Outward thinking is instrumental in supporting relevant storytelling true to our mission. We provide examples of how the garden moved from defining collections on a granular and surface level to broader concepts that spark meaningful connections. Our guiding documents ensure changes to collections still maintain the garden's legacy. We advocate for all gardens to self-examine and do the right thing for your garden.