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For Immediate Release:

Trio of luminaries set to judge spectacular show gardens at the 2019 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival

SEATTLE—The [Northwest Flower & Garden Festival](http://www.gardenshow.com), has announced the visiting luminaries judging over 20 spectacular display gardens at the 2019 event, February 20-24 at the Washington State Convention Center.

The world-class panel includes Susan Arca, founder and principal, Arca Design Group, Charles A. Birnbaum, president/CEO, The Cultural Landscape Foundation; and William A. McNamara, president and executive director, the Quarryhill Botanical Garden.

The trio of experts will review and judge inspirational gardens created by leading regional designers influenced by the show's theme for 2019, "Gardens of the World." As a bonus for festival-goers, each of the judges will also present seminars Wednesday and Thursday (February 20 and 21).

The second-largest flower and garden event in the United States also features more than 100 informative "how-to" seminars, entertaining and educational interactive events, high-quality shopping opportunities in the Marketplace and much more.

Background on the 2019 judges and their seminar presentations:

Charles A. Birnbaum: FASLA, FAAR; president, CEO and founder of The Cultural Landscape Foundation (New York)

Prior to creating The Cultural Landscape Foundation, Birnbaum was coordinator of the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative and focused on landscape preservation and urban

design through his private practice. One of his major projects is the Web-based initiative *What's Out There* (a searchable database of the nation's designed landscape heritage). He has authored and edited numerous publications, including the *Modern Landscapes: Transition and Transformation* series (Princeton Architectural Press) *Shaping the American Landscape* (UVA Press), *Design with Culture: Claiming America's Landscape Heritage* (UVA Press) and *Preserving Modern Landscape Architecture*.

His awards and honors include several from the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA): the ASLA Medal, the Society's highest award; the President's Medal, the Alfred B. LaGasse Medal and induction as a Fellow of the Society. He has served as a Loeb Fellow at Harvard's Graduate School of Design and is currently a Visiting Professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture Planning + Preservation.

Seminar presentations:

“Modern Landscape Architecture: Transition and Transformation”

Wednesday, February 20 at 10:30 am / Rainier Room / Book signing to follow

“Public Visibility, Value and Engagement in our Shared Landscape Heritage”

Thursday, February 21 at 11:45 am / Rainier Room / Book signing to follow

Suzanne Arca: ASLA, APLD, CLCA; founder and principal of Suzanne Arca Design (San Francisco Bay Area)

Suzanne Arca boasts nearly 40 years of expertise in designing, building and maintaining landscapes and providing vision to residential and commercial property owners. With a degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley, Arca is a Green-certified Licensed Design and Build Landscape Contractor serving residential, business and municipal customers. Arca has taught for over 20 years as an Instructor in the Department of Landscape Architecture, University of California Extension, and in the Landscape Horticulture Department at Merritt College. She is a popular guest lecturer for garden clubs, nurseries, and horticultural events, and is a mentor for up-and-coming designers.

Arca has been recognized with awards from the Association of Professional Landscape Designers, International Landscape Designer of the Year, and the Gold Medal for Residential Design and “Best in Show” from the California Landscape Contractors Association

Seminar presentations:

“The Garden as a Tapestry”

Wednesday, February 20 at 11:45 AM / Rainier Room

“The Evolution of a Garden”

Thursday, February 21 at 10:30 AM / Rainier Room

William A. McNamara: President and Executive Director, Quarryhill Botanical Garden (Northern California)

Bill McNamara has devoted his career to discovering, researching, protecting, and promoting plants in North America and abroad. A graduate of the University of California at Berkeley, he

spent a year visiting gardens and botanizing around the globe in and was inspired by the flora of Asia. He established Con Mara Gardens, a successful residential landscape contracting business and later became an assistant director at Quarryhill Botanical Gardens in Glen Ellen, California. He now leads this private research garden specializing in displaying plants from temperate East Asia.

In 2017 he was honored with two of the top three awards in the field of horticulture— the Veitch Memorial Medal from England's Royal Horticultural Society and the Liberty Hyde Bailey Award from the American Horticulture Society. He previously received the National Garden Clubs' Award of Excellence, the California Horticultural Society Annual Award, the Scott Medal and Award from the Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College and the Garden Club of America's Eloise Payne Luquer Medal.

Seminar presentations:

“How the Modern Rose Came to Be: The Unique Influence of China’s Wild Roses”

Wednesday, February 20 at 1:00 pm / Rainier Room

“The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: The Trials and Tribulations of Plant Hunting”

Thursday, February 21 at 1:00 pm / Rainier Room

Festival hours, ticket info, sponsors and more

Dates and hours for the 2019 Northwest Flower & Garden Festival are Wednesday through Saturday (Feb. 20-23), 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday (Feb. 24), 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Buy Online & Save!

Early Bird tickets are \$19 (a savings of \$5) and can be purchased through Feb. 19. For added value, skip the lines once the doors open and purchase Adult admission tickets online for \$22 (a savings of \$2). Regular Adult admission at the door - \$24; Student (13 to 23 years) - \$10; and Children (12 and under) are FREE. To purchase tickets online visit www.gardenshow.com.

The Northwest Flower & Garden Festival is made possible through the support of sponsors and partners including Western Washington Toyota Dealers, Corona Tools, Fine Gardening Magazine, Marenakos Rock Center, Mutual Materials, Osmocote, Sawdust Supply, Sunnyside Nursery, KING5 and The Seattle Times.

About the Producer

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