

CHIHULY

IN THE
BOTANIC GARDEN

Facts and Stats

For immediate release – August 2024

Firsts

- First major outdoor Chihuly garden exhibition in the Southern Hemisphere
- First-ever major outdoor exhibition of Chihuly's works in Australia
- Garden exhibition is exclusive to Adelaide
- Adelaide will be the 3rd city outside of the USA, to host a Chihuly Garden Cycle exhibition; previous exhibitions in London's Kew Gardens (2005 and 2019) and Singapore's Gardens by the Bay (2021)

Location

Adelaide Botanic Garden, North Terrace, Adelaide, South Australia 5000

- **Opened in 1857, Adelaide Botanic Garden** sees over **1.3 million visitors per year** to its prime CBD location on the corner of the city's vibrant **East End** and the **Adelaide Park Lands**
- 10-minute walk to Rundle Mall (Adelaide's premier shopping, dining and entertainment precinct), with an array of other restaurants and bars within easy walking distance (along Currie, Peel, Leigh, Pirie and Hutt Streets)
- The Garden is at the East end of the North Terrace Cultural Boulevard, where an easy walk takes you from the Garden to Adelaide University, the Art Gallery of SA, the SA Museum, the State Library, Government House, Parliament House and the Convention Centre and Festival Theatre.
- **100m** to the Botanic Garden **tram stop** for **free inner-city travel along North Terrace**
- **Less than a 2km walk/15-minute free tram ride** from **JamFactory**, so visitors can attend a glass- blowing class or demonstration before/after making their way down vibrant North Terrace to the Garden exhibition
- **400m** to **Rundle Street**, a bustling boulevard connecting Pulteney Street to East Terrace, with lively laneways either side, brimming with boutique shops, restaurants and bars.



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Adelaide Exhibition:

- The free outdoor exhibition will be called *Chihuly in the Botanic Garden* and will run from **27 September 2024 – 29 April 2025** (a 7-month run across **spring, summer and autumn**)
- The exhibition has been **specifically curated** for its Adelaide Botanic Garden site
- **15 large scale glass artworks** (including a **brand-new work created specifically for Adelaide**) will be presented across a **2-kilometre trail** within Adelaide Botanic Garden and **free to view by daytime visitors**
- An **accompanying ticketed exhibition** – ***In Full Colour: Dale Chihuly*** – will explore Chihuly's life and work in detail. It will be presented in the iconic **Bicentennial Conservatory** among the conservatory's living collection and will feature a specially curated collection of Chihuly's additional works (including **another brand-new work specifically created for Adelaide**), along with interpretive materials such as photographs and videos of Chihuly's life and work
- ***Chihuly Nights*** will offer an opportunity to explore the garden after dark and see Chihuly's works lit up in a dramatic night-time display. Tickets to *Chihuly Nights* includes entry to the *In Full Colour Bicentennial Conservatory* exhibition. Visitors will have access to food, beverages and live music each evening
- **Smaller displays** of Chihuly's work will be shown around central **Adelaide hubs and Adelaide Airport; a sponsor** of the Garden exhibition
- **A program of workshops and exhibitions** showcasing the incredible works of prominent **Australian glass artists** will be delivered by **JamFactory**, **South Australia's centre for glass art**, to complement the Garden exhibition and **support local glass artists**.
- Adelaide Botanic Garden is a widely accessible site
- The **last Chihuly exhibition** held in South Australia was at the **JamFactory** in **2000**, a smaller- scale curation of his works; no Chihuly exhibition has been held in Australia since

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Dale Chihuly

- Dale Chihuly (b.1941) is an American artist who transforms spaces with experiments in colour, light, transparency, and form
- He is known for his exhibitions and large-scale architectural installations around the world and for revolutionizing the studio glass movement
- Described by the Smithsonian Museum as “**one of the most important artists of the 21st century**,” (Stephanie Stebich, Smithsonian American Art Museum 2023), Chihuly works with a variety of media including glass, paint, charcoal, neon, ice and Polyvitro. His work is included in more than **200 collections worldwide**
- Many South Australian artists have trained under Chihuly both in the past and present.

Artworks

- “For me, [glass is] the most mysterious and magical of all the inventions or materials that mankind has invented or discovered.” – Chihuly, 2000
- Each individual piece within an installation is hand blown and attached to a custom armature for a dramatic final composition that pushes the limits of scale, color, and form.
- Artworks are **being shipped from Tacoma, Washington, U.S.**
- The Chihuly team visited Adelaide in 2023 to understand the site and to plan the exhibition in partnership with the Adelaide Botanic Garden’s Team. The final collection and siting of the works will be revealed as the collection is installed through the month of September
- **The size** of Chihuly’s outdoor glass artworks **spans from 5 metres**, with his **biggest work spanning from nearly 5 metres tall to almost 8 metres wide**
- **The spontaneous, organic forms** within Chihuly’s artworks come together in massive architectural installations that defy tradition
- With a vibrant array of plant life, Adelaide Botanic Garden creates a complementary backdrop for these specially curated Chihuly artworks

Economic/Tourism Benefits

- **Chihuly’s outdoor exhibitions have a track record of attracting substantial audiences and driving interstate tourism**



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- In a Case Study of the Phoenix Desert Botanic Garden (2021) the exhibition *Chihuly in the Desert* led to a **100%** increase in visitation from the previous year, with **508,000 visitors** to the exhibition
- Phoenix also saw an **increase in audience diversity**, and over **31% of visitors** were from outside the Phoenix area and **11% were international visitors**
- **22% said Chihuly** was the primary reason for their visit and **over 32%** visited with children.

Contacts

Adelaide Botanic Garden

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