COLLABORATIVE APPROACHES TO “ONE SMITHSONIAN”
Smithsonian Institution

- A museum and research complex of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, as well as research facilities and libraries and a GREAT public garden.
- 640 buildings
- Facilities in 7 states, DC, Belize, Republic of Panama
- 138 million objects and specimens
- 2 million library volumes
- 30 million visitors each year
- 6,000 full-time employees 6,000 interns/volunteers
Smithsonian Gardens

Mission is to Engage, Inform and Inspire
Established in 1972
Received AAM Accreditation in 2013
Staff of 64
Over 180 acres of gardens, landscapes and grounds
64,000 square foot greenhouse facility
Gardens that complement the museums they border
Exhibits and public programming
Living plant, artifact and archival collections
Competing Attractions
No Interior Exhibition Space
Construction
Turning Challenges into Opportunities

- Don’t fight them join them
- Build relationships and trust
- Communicate on a continuous basis
- Try to say yes
- Be flexible and open to new opportunities
Building Future Collaborations
SMITHSONIAN GARDENS
HABITAT

OVERVIEW
The 2019–2020 Smithsonian Gardens Exhibition Series theme will be Habitat. Habitat was selected for its mission relevance, particularly as it relates to the Smithsonian Institution’s Grand Challenge of “understanding and sustaining a biodiverse planet” and Smithsonian Gardens’ Mission to “inform on the roles people and plants play in our cultural and natural worlds.”

CONTENT HIERARCHY
BIG IDEA
The “big idea” is the overarching message that visitors will understand upon leaving the exhibition. It is the basis for all the content that is presented and unifies each section of the exhibition. For Habitat, the big idea is:

PROTECTING HABITATS PROTECTS LIFE.
Exhibit Concepts
The following exhibits are proposed as part of Habitat:

Homes
Mary Livingston Ripley Garden
The exhibit Homes will feature different types of structures that animals call home, from birdhouses to beehives and insect habitats. Whimsical sculptures of human homes will draw visitors into the garden. Once in, they will discover fun forms to create for their own gardens.

Habitat of Flight
Northeast side of the National Air and Space Museum
The Habitat of Flight exhibit will explore the importance of wildlife in the science of flight. Signage and plantings around the National Air and Space Museum north terrace will highlight habitat features that ensure the survival of birds, insects, and other wild creatures and how critters influenced inventions of flight.

Native American Landscape
National Museum of the American Indian
The Habitat exhibit at the National Museum of the American Indian is a collection of indigenous trees, shrubs, and perennials grown in a piedmont landscape. The plants support wildlife found in the community and have ethnobotanical use for Native American peoples. The pond is lush with aquatic plants and provides a habitat for amphibians, birds, small mammals, and insects. This exhibit replicates habitat pockets still found in the mid-Atlantic area and is an example of how modern landscapes can provide habitats.

“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.”
— William Shakespeare
Smithsonian Gardens