Welcome to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden! We ask that you please read the following rules to your group before you begin your tour.

• Stay with your group during your entire visit.
• Respect our wildlife; do not touch, chase, or feed the animals.
• Walk only on designated paths or grass.
• Do not climb trees or pick flowers or fruits from plants.
• Keep your voices low to respect other guests.
• Self-guided groups are not allowed to use the Garden Cafe, Gift Shop, or Tram.

In your backpack, you will find the materials needed for this program. Before leaving the Garden, we ask you to please ensure that all the materials are back in this backpack. At the end of your visit, return this backpack to the Visitor Center. If any materials are lost or damaged, the cost will be deducted from your deposit.

**ACTIVITY SUPPLIES:**
• 30 *Art at Fairchild* booklets

**Get Started:**
1. Review the art exhibition descriptions.
2. Using the map in the *Art at Fairchild* booklet, walk through each art exhibition.
3. While at each art exhibition, you can engage your students in a discussion using the reflection questions provided in this booklet or do your own art activity.

**Before leaving the Garden, don’t forget to:**
1. Review that all materials are inside the backpack.
2. Return the backpack to the Visitor Center entrance where you picked it up.
Wishing Grove Exhibition Description

Yoko Ono’s Wishing Grove

The Wishing Grove at Fairchild is the latest in the series of Wishing Tree installations that began in 1996 and have appeared throughout the world as determined by Yoko Ono. When approached by Fairchild trustee Lin Lougheed in the summer of 2010, Ono agreed to sponsor a Wishing Grove at Fairchild. It is located on the north end of the Vine Pergola.

Visitors will be able to fill out their personalized “wish” messages and then place them in the Wishing Grove. Periodically volunteers will collect the messages for storage in a clear plastic container in the Visitor Center and eventual storage at the Imagine Peace Tower on Videy Island, Reykjavik, Iceland.

The Imagine Peace Tower was dedicated on October 9, 2007 on Videy Island, Reykjavik, Iceland. From the base structure it shines a 75KW beam of light thousands of feet into the sky. It involves 15 searchlights and prisms that act as mirrors to reflect the light skyward. Ono chose Iceland for this memorial because 100% of the electricity is provided by clean geothermal energy. The words “IMAGINE PEACE” are inscribed on the base structure in 24 languages. The words refer to Lennon’s hit song “Imagine”. The tower is lit every year on October 9th, the date of Lennon’s birth, to December 8th, the date of his death. Since its 2007 opening, over 700,000 personal messages/wishes have been gathered from her Wishing Tree exhibits around the world and they have been stored for posterity in the structure. Ono describes this tower as “the best thing she and John had ever done”.

Yoko Ono is a multi-media artist who constantly challenges the traditional boundaries of art. She is known for her groundbreaking conceptual and performance pieces, experimental films and music. In 2009, she was the recipient of the prestigious Golden Lion Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Venice Biennale. Yoko Ono is well known for her peace initiatives, first with her husband John Lennon, Bed-In for Peace and War Is Over! (If You Want It), and more recently, with her Imagine Peace Tower in Iceland and participatory Wish Trees throughout the world.

Please refer to the Art in the Garden booklet for additional information.

Reflection Questions:

• Do you see a relationship between creating a peaceful world and taking care of the environment? Please explain your answer.
• Why do you think Yoko Ono is using renewable energy sources in The Imagine Peace Tower?
• What other renewable energy resources could be used?
Dale Chihuly

The incredible art of Dale Chihuly has a strong link to Fairchild. Chihuly has twice been the featured artist for Fairchild’s art program. There are three displays of Chihuly’s blown glass that have found a permanent home at Fairchild. The End of the Day Tower, 2005 donated by the Clinton Family Fund, Copper Frog Foot Ikebana Stem and Lapis Blue Split Bud, 2008, which was purchased with funds raised by the 2006 Friends of Fairchild Volunteer Group and Cobalt Herons, 2005, donated by R. Kirk Landon.

Please refer to the Art in the Garden booklet for additional information.

Reflection Questions:
• How does light affect Chihuly’s blown glass sculptures?
• Do you think these sculptures look the same every day?
• Why do these pieces stand out so brilliantly from their backgrounds? Define and discuss complementary colors.
• Chihuly works in teams to create his sculptures. How different do you think it is to engage in a creative process as a community compared to as an individual?
Will Ryman

Will Ryman at Fairchild features rose clusters, rose petals and insects of unexpected size - a key element of Ryman’s work. Ryman hopes to confront the audience with the unexpected. In his own words, Ryman explains his view that much of life is dealing with unexplainable and unexpected circumstances, “I use found objects and construction materials to convey my message, much of which is auto-biographical, that the human condition is absurd and it references Pop, Street and Conceptual art along with Absurdist thinkers and philosophy.”

66th Street, 2011
Fiberglass, stainless steel, marine paint, brass
7’7” x 11’ 7 3/4”
Courtesy of the Paul Kasmin Gallery

Mr. Ryman first displayed this piece on 66th Street on Park Avenue, New York. Park Avenue is an area known for extravagance and commercialism, adjectives that could also be applied to the modern day rose. The artist felt by creating a massive grouping of absurd, oversized roses and displaying them on Park Avenue, he could bring the two symbols together and make them accessible to the common man.

Please refer to the Art in the Garden booklet for additional information.

Reflection Questions:
• Ryman says about his work exhibited at the Garden: “I wanted to take an organic subject and change it into something that was obviously man-made. It’s a comment on the commercialization of a natural object for consumption, which is something I want to explore with this new monochrome series.” Can you give a few examples of natural objects commercialized for consumption? What do you think about the commercialization of natural objects?
Imagine hiking through the thick forests of central Africa and suddenly coming face to face with a full-grown lowland gorilla. The largest males can get up to six feet tall and 400 pounds. A fully erect gorilla can be a very imposing sight. Daisy Youngblood’s Standing Gorilla, 2002 reminds us of the power of nature and also its fragility. Lowland gorillas are endangered and are losing habitat each day due to man’s intrusion into their forests. Youngblood’s gorilla’s powerful form and delicate features are at once a warning and a plea.

Daisy Youngblood was a 2003 recipient of the MacArthur “Genius” grant. Her ceramic and bronze sculptures of animals are in many museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art. Youngblood feels that she must capture the spirit of the animal or person she is portraying and not just the physical likeness. She is only finished with her subject when there has been some essential transference to the clay, and later bronze.

Please refer to the Art in the Garden booklet for additional information.

**Reflection Questions:**
- Youngblood feels that she must capture the spirit of the animal or person she is portraying and not just the physical likeness. Observing this sculpture, what do you think about the spirit of the gorilla that she portrayed in this sculpture?
You have now explored various art exhibitions around the Garden. Think back to the all the artists, art pieces and sculptures you observed during your visit to answer the following questions:

• Did you notice any differences between the various artists? Explain and expand your answer.

• Can you name one sculpture or piece you saw during your visit?

• Describe one sculpture or piece that stood out and you really enjoyed? What special characteristic(s) did it have?

Thank you for coming to Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden! We hope that you enjoyed your visit and that you will come back to keep exploring and learning about art and tropical plants.

Before you leave, please remember to put back all the materials inside the backpack, fill out the survey and return the backpack to the Visitor Center.