

**PRESS
RELEASE**

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'MARIPOSA PALOOZA'S' artful butterfly exhibit opens Mother's Day Weekend, May 10/11; *Moms get free admission both days!*

CORPUS CHRISTI--**MARIPOSA PALOOZA**, around 60 large and larger metal butterflies artistically designed by local professional and amateur artists, goes on display at the South Texas Botanical Gardens & Nature Center, Mother's Day weekend, May 10-11, continuing through November 2, including the *Dia de Los Muertos* holiday. *Mariposa* is Spanish for butterfly!

An ideal gift for any mom is a trip to the Botanical Gardens where she gets in FREE that weekend with password "**Butterfly**" at check-in! The rest of her party pays regular admission to see gardens, conservatories, trails, parrots and reptiles, and beautiful display of "artful" butterflies!

Funded in part by a \$14,000 grant from City of Corpus Christi Arts & Cultural Commission, MARIPOSA PALOOZA offers local artists an opportunity to express their talents on a non-traditional medium in a non-traditional "gallery," outdoors in a high-traffic public venue. Each butterfly is covered with weather-proof coatings on both sides, with other deco-materials added if desired, followed by a clear-coat sealer. Cash prizes will be awarded the top three entries for adults and youth under 18 after judging.

Meaning behind the exhibit

Mariposas, a symbol of renewal and new life in many cultures, have fascinated people for centuries. The exhibit includes pollinator gardens, *una ofrenda* (an altar) during *Dia de los Muertos*, and screened Butterfly House joining natural science of butterflies to Mexican culture. Butterfly migration, life cycles, and future *Dia de los Muertos* festival signage will encourage summer visitors to return to Corpus Christi for the street festival!

"Living museum"

Mariposa Palooza is the fourth citizen participation exhibit funded by Arts & Culture Commission-- "*Art is for the Birds*," a large 2023 collection of creative bird houses, some still on display; 2016 *Nature's Brushstrokes* artwork on the Nature Trail; and 2007-09 *Flamingo Fandango*. South Texas Botanical Gardens not only has significant floral collections and exhibits—orchids, bromeliads, plumeria, roses, arid plants--it also displays several pieces of original art, including two large bronze wildlife sculptures by renowned sculptor Kent Ullberg; souvenirs from its 2013 "Scrapdaddy" exhibit from Houston; "Fuente de las Mariposas," a metal sculpture fountain by Chris Maxa; Christy Matthews' "Bromeliamaia" fiberglass dolphin; the late Danny O'Dowdy's Sensory Garden "Artscape"; and recent "Sand Hill Cranes," by H.W. Buddy Tatum, Jr.



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