



**Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance ~ Leadership Bio**  
**Eunita Rushing**  
*President*

Eunita Rushing has provided executive leadership to Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance as president for eight of its 10 years. The Alliance, a nonprofit organization, strengthens community through the unique combination of the Garfield Park Conservatory, other botanical resources and the engagement of community members. With its innovative programs, the Alliance enhances the environmental, social and economic vitality of Chicago's West Side and encourages the larger community to explore the fundamental connection between plants and human life.

Under Ms. Rushing's leadership – and in partnership with the Chicago Park District, which owns and operates the largest public “glass house” in the nation – visitor attendance at Garfield Park Conservatory has grown from less than 10,000 annually to nearly 200,000 in 2006. For her contributions to the Conservatory's revitalization, Ms. Rushing was named one of Chicago Magazine's “Chicagoans of the Year” in 2002.

With extensive experience in nonprofit management and program development, she leads the Alliance's 19-member staff and serves on the boards of the City Parks Alliance National, which evolved from the Wallace-Reader's Digest Fund's Urban Parks Initiative, and the Old Town School of Folk Music. Ms. Rushing came to the Alliance following 15 years with Chicago's Urban Gateways: The Center for Arts in Education. She holds her master's degree in education from Loyola University.

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*Garfield Park Conservatory turns 100 years old in 2008, celebrating its heritage as one of the world's largest botanical gardens under glass. Owned by the Chicago Park District and operated in partnership with the Garfield Park Conservatory Alliance, the innovative horticultural masterpiece was designed by renowned landscape architect Jens Jensen. Many activities and programs are planned to commemorate this Centennial. For the latest information, call the Alliance at 773-638-1766 ext. 13 or visit [www.garfieldconservatory.org](http://www.garfieldconservatory.org).*