

Big Blooms

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by Tony Abruscato



Everything is coming up roses, azaleas, perennials, annuals and more when the annual [Chicago Flower & Garden Show](#) presented by 811 Chicago and Peoples Gas, ushers in spring from March 18 through 22 at [Navy Pier](#). This year's theme, "20/20 Focus on Flowers," promises a fresh experience, with several new exhibits and activities staying true to a celebration of flowers.

Begin your garden walk with a 16-foot walled, spectacular, multi-sensory display of floral imagery, flowers and planters: an entrance fit for a new focus and a new decade, not to mention a great photo opportunity created by [Kehoe Designs](#).

Continue your walk by taking in the majestic display of more than 20 unique garden exhibits featuring more than 700 plant varieties. Some that are certain to make you stop and smell the hyacinths are the "Focus on Spring" garden showcasing an all-new take on our annual tulip garden; the Spring Garden, featuring Flowers for Dreams Floral market offering a wonderful variety of fresh-cut floral stems and their talented designers on-site to help create Make-N-Take arrangements; and the "Pathways: Dreams, Explore, Discover" garden, featuring local female artists who are challenged each year to create a new fiber art project that shares their personal journey set in a new garden designed by In & Out Design.

And you won't want to, or be able to miss the display of 39 floral-themed quilts created by members of the American Quilter's Society. Suspended 30 feet above a 40-foot-by-40-foot quilt-patterned garden, this is a rare opportunity to see floral art in this form, and the first time the [American Quilter's Society](#) has displayed its members' creations of this magnitude outside its own events.

Flower power comes in all forms and continues with competitions, stunning floral fashions, photography, Tablescares, window boxes and more. Being inspired will not be difficult at this year's show!

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