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SUPER. NATURAL. Smell to Cause a Big Stink in Pittsburgh
Rare “little sister” of famed Phipps corpse flower prepares to bloom

Pittsburgh, Pa. — As [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) staff work with master glass artist Jason Gamrath to install the supersized glass flowers of their latest exhibit, [SUPER. NATURAL.](#), another otherworldly event is about to occur in the glasshouse: Barbara, a rare *Amorphophallus titanum* (corpse flower) from Phipps’ collection, is preparing a surprise bloom late this week.

Barbara follows in the footsteps of her older brother, Romero, Phipps’ first blooming corpse flower, which is named for the celebrated Pittsburgh filmmaker, George A. Romero. His 1968 cult classic *Night of the Living Dead*, was filmed in Pittsburgh, and features the famous line, “They’re coming to get you, Barbara.” Beginning today, guests can come to get a glimpse of Barbara as the plant prepares for its first bloom at Phipps. Barbara is not expected to grow as large or emit as strong a scent as Romero, but the bloom, which will be announced on Phipps’ social media and email newsletter and last for only 12 to 48 hours, will still present a sight — and smell — to behold.

In the jungles of Sumatra where the plant grows wild, the revolting stench of the corpse flower attracts the beetles and flies that pollinate it. This master of mimicry resembles rotting meat in more ways than smell: The insides of the bloom are blood red, and as it opens, it heats up to about 100 degrees in order to increase the reach of its scent. This allows pollinators up to an acre away to detect the scent!

Guests can see Barbara the corpse flower on display in the Serpentine Room this week from 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily and from 9:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. on Friday night, and can also enjoy our Butterfly Forest and take a sneak peek of [SUPER. NATURAL. Glass Art by Jason Gamrath](#) before the official opening of the exhibit on Sat., May 6. Conservatory admission is \$17.95 for adults, \$16.95 for seniors and students, and \$11.95 for children (2 – 18). Members and kids under 2 enter free. For more information, please visit phipps.conservatory.org

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About Phipps: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: phipps.conservatory.org.

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