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Phipps' Teacher Advisory Committee Sparks Innovative Educational Alliance

K-12 educators meet at Phipps Conservatory to foster collaboration and learning.

Pittsburgh, Pa. — [Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens](#) is proud to announce the first annual meeting of its new Teacher Advisory Committee, a group of K-12 educators meeting quarterly during the academic year for creative collaboration. These public and private school teachers will meet in one of the greenest buildings in the world — Phipps' [Center for Sustainable Landscapes](#) — to explore new ways in which Phipps and local schools can unite to enrich education in Pittsburgh.

Committee members will participate in brainstorming sessions, sharing best practices in museum education and finding ways to integrate new material into the public and private school curricula. In addition, the teachers will lend their expertise to Phipps' educational programming by reviewing lesson plans and program ideas, piloting and evaluating new programs, and aligning Phipps' K-12 school-based educational programs and resources to city, state and national standards.

Schools represented on the Teacher Advisory Committee will see the fruits of their teachers' hard work firsthand by taking field trips to Phipps, engaging in new programs and participating in the [Fairchild Challenge](#) — a free, multidisciplinary, standards-based environmental education outreach program and competition designed to give high school and middle school students an opportunity to creatively shine.

The committee is currently comprised of the following educators, who were selected through a competitive application process based on their passion for science education, creative teaching strategies and enthusiasm for developing innovative classroom programs.

- Tracy Wazenegger, Sewickley Academy
- Dan Schuller, Woodland Hills Jr/Sr High School
- Darla Gerlach, Ph.D., Shaler Area Middle School
- Nadine Pisani, Keystone Oaks Middle School
- Cynthia Kortz, Barrett Elementary School

Meetings will be organized and hosted by School and Camp Program Manager Heather Shannon and High School Program Coordinator Emily Nye of Phipps' Science Education and Research department, and [Let's Move Pittsburgh](#) Program Director Mary Kathryn Poole. For more information about the Teacher Advisory Committee, contact Mary Kathryn Poole at mkpoole@phipps.conservatory.org or 412/622-6915, ext. 6751.

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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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