



**Greater Des Moines
Botanical Garden**

909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines, IA 50309 | 515.323.6290 | dmbotanicalgarden.com

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Contact: Delaney Lynch, Director of Marketing,
dlynch@dmbotanicalgarden.com
515.402.4274

Trellis Café Chef Lisa LaValle Announces Retirement
Search begins for her successor

DES MOINES, Iowa (June 18, 2024) – After more than 10 years of successful collaboration, Chef Lisa LaValle has announced her retirement from Trellis Café at the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, effective at the end of October.

Chef Lisa has been a true pioneer of fresh, delicious and seasonal cuisine in Des Moines. She spent her childhood in Pella, Iowa, the daughter of two college professors. Throughout college, Lisa worked in restaurants, and it was that experience which paved the way to her career as a chef. Lisa has followed in the footsteps of her parents, dedicating her time and expertise to teach and nurture future chefs and members of the community.

In addition to her leadership at Trellis, LaValle previously operated the Café at the Des Moines Art Center, and considers herself a “chef diplomat” through her participation in culinary events in France, Spain and China. Throughout her involvement in all of these, Chef Lisa is a champion for locally sourced ingredients and leverages her stunning culinary creations as an artistic outlet.

LaValle shared, “Over the ten years of opening and operating Trellis at the Botanical Garden I’ve connected to so many people through our food and the beauty of the garden. I’ve had the freedom to prepare what I love and design a space that feels like an extension of my own imagination. I am grateful for the trust given to myself and our team to express our creativity through food and hospitality. It has been an honor to cook for you, cheers to your health.”

As the Chef/Owner of Trellis, LaValle’s retirement creates the opportunity for the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden to establish a new relationship for operation of the Café.

“We’re beyond grateful to Lisa for her delicious menus and her kind leadership style,” said Kim Perez, President and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. “It’s hard to imagine the Café at the Botanical Garden without Lisa, and yet, we’re all so happy for her, and we’re thrilled that we’ll be able to enjoy Trellis’ delicious menu through the end of October. We’re also excited about the future and what the next Chef/Botanical Garden relationship will bring to our community.”

Efforts are underway to secure a successor for Café operations.

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About [Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden](#)

*The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden is a vibrant, 12-acre public garden in the heart of downtown Des Moines. Guided by a mission of exploring, explaining, and celebrating the world of plants, the Botanical Garden The Botanical Garden is more than a dome, is **the connection point** between plants, people and the natural world. It’s a place where you can **be who you are, do the things you love and spend time** with the people who matter most. A place where anyone can explore, create, connect and **find their true nature**. The Botanical Garden is a 501(c)(3) privately governed, not-for-profit institution.*

About [Trellis](#) Café

Trellis Café is the perfect place for lunch in the East Village. They serve a locally sourced menu Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.