



**Greater Des Moines  
Botanical Garden**

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**Flora Opens Up at Botanical Garden**

(Des Moines, Iowa) October 10, 2024 — Fans of [HoQ](#), the sustainable farm-to-table restaurant in Des Moines' East Village, can soon enjoy the savory goodness from owners Chef Suman and Dr. Cynthia Hoque in a new setting: Flora is expected to open in the former Trellis Café space in the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden in December 2024.

“When we heard about the opportunity to go into the Botanical Garden space and open up an additional restaurant, it seemed like the perfect opportunity to expand,” said Suman Hoque. “We chose the name Flora as an homage to the beautiful surroundings of the garden and nod to the strong relationship we have with plant-based food sources and local farmers.”

The Flora menu will feature a similar farm-to-table concept as HoQ, which has been in operation since 2012. Hours of service will be Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Hoques are familiar with the inspiration the Botanical Garden brings; Cynthia, Suman and their son, Evan, have been proud members of the Botanical Garden for many years and look forward to providing delicious food and beverage options through Flora and catering events.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Cynthia, Suman and the rest of the Flora crew to the Botanical Garden,” said Kim Perez, President and CEO of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. “This truly makes for an all-around sensory experience for guests as they take in the beauty of the gardens and enjoy culinary excellence at Flora. It’s an exciting time for all of us!”

Trellis Café will cease operation at the end of October with the retirement of Chef Lisa LaValle, who has owned and operated the restaurant for more than 10 years.

**About the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden**

The Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden is more than a dome, it’s *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*. This urban oasis, located in downtown Des Moines, is a nonprofit that keeps growing because of the support of its members and volunteers. Located amidst a vibrant cityscape and lovely river views, the 12-acres of gardens are teeming with thousands of native plants and exotic greenery from across the world. Its verdant offerings include a soothing waterfall and pond, one of the country’s most extensive bonsai collections, and brilliant seasonal

blooms galore. No matter the season, the Botanical Garden provides a range of fun, signature events and classes in an always friendly climate. In operation since 1979, it features an 80 feet tall geodesic-domed conservatory that includes a living wall and 18 outdoor gardens interspersed with sculptures, a serene water garden, regal rows of shade trees, walking paths, a stunning orchid collection, vibrant rose garden, unique Asian-style garden and much more.

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