



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

The Board of Directors of the Chicago Botanic Garden named Fred Spicer as executive vice president and director of the Garden in February 2017.

Spicer's role embraces the development, management and stewardship of the Garden's living collections, buildings, and other structures, within the context of its designed landscape and its 28 display gardens. Spicer oversees all facets of living collections development, management, and documentation; plant production and horticulture; grounds management and plant health care; facilities planning and maintenance; and capital projects. All landscapes evolve and Spicer's focus is to seamlessly integrate new elements with the Garden's established design style and vocabulary.

Before coming to the Garden, Spicer served 15 years as the director and then CEO of the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG) in Alabama. As chief executive, Spicer led the transition of a largely city-directed public garden to a highly regarded public-private partnership with the Friends of Birmingham Botanical Gardens. During his tenure, the garden's reputation grew significantly as an important urban green space, event venue, free science education provider, and popular regional destination known for horticultural beauty.

Prior to his service at BBG, Spicer was manager of horticulture for the Morris County Park Commission in Morristown, New Jersey, where he oversaw the Frelinghuysen and Willowood Arboreta. He is a 1983 graduate of Rutgers University with a Bachelor of Science in environmental planning, design, and landscape architecture.

Spicer is a Honorary Member of the Garden Club of America and serves on the board of directors of the American Boxwood Society. He and his wife, Kim, live and garden on Chicago's north shore. They are working to assemble an interesting collection of hardy native and non-native plants representing 100 unique plant families and 500 unique taxa. They are currently at 466 and 93, respectively...depending on what lives through the winter.