The Orchid Conservatory at Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden
Project Documentation
Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden  Core Precinct Site Plan with Orchid Conservatory
Image 1: Orchid Conservatory exterior, viewed from entrance walk. The Landscape Architect designed the exterior site work for the Conservatory as well as the interior landscape and exhibits, and coordinated the project design team.
Orchid Conservatory exterior from flanking event terrace. The event terraces are scaled for small tents or for moveable furniture and seasonal educational exhibits.
Entrance Court with view to Welcome Terrace. Bluestone seat walls for small gatherings and orientation for tours. Fun features like the Tillandsia balls enrich the green enclosure.
One of the most striking features of the Orchid Conservatory are the bromeliad arches planted with Tillandsias along the south walk. This green tunnel leads to a focal point at the eastern terminus.
Image 5: Character sketch of the Water Wall created during schematic phase.
As visitors reach the end of the arches, they can hear the splash of water. Rounding a corner, they see the sixteen-foot tall Water Wall with its colorful display of suspended orchids among trickling water channels. Massive columnar baskets hang from the rafters, guiding the eye upwards.
Image 7: Detail of the Water Wall.
Image 8: The Lantern. This soaring space allows for heat release and provides a sense of relief from the dense green ‘ceiling’ of foliage.
An event terrace and pavilion are the centerpiece of the Conservatory. The pavilion provides open shade in the warm months. It is themed to evoke the tropics but is simple enough to allow the Garden to enrich it with vernacular details for seasonal and thematic displays. The terrace is enclosed by the Tropical Canvas vertical garden wall and a reflecting pool.
Image 10: Pavilion Garden Elevation Sketch illustrates potential for thematic embellishment.
Image 11: The Tropical Canvas garden wall is the back side of the Water Wall and the focal point of the Pavilion area. Tropical vines and epiphytes including bromeliads are tucked into a growing medium held in place by wire mesh. A scattering of water lilies graces the surface of the reflecting pool.
Image 12. Bananas and bamboo create a tropical ‘green cieling’ and a shady walk through the north aspect of the Conservatory.
View 13: A case housing miniature orchids is a feature along the northwest walk of the Orchid Conservatory. It encourages visitors to linger and to study the intricate detail of these fascinating plants.