


African American Attendance at the Missouri Botanical Garden

Hunter Cummins, Shelby Terrell



Why we are interested in topic

- Involvement in other types of similar experiments in the research team.
 - African American attendance at botanical gardens are typically the lowest. We wanted to research how other botanical gardens face this issue and how they can have a more diverse group of patrons at MOBOT.
 - Exploring how the botanical garden can make a more inclusive space for the diverse community.
 - Advocates for the education on the contributions African Americans to botany.
- 



Research Question

- ▶ How does the inclusion of diverse exhibits at the Missouri Botanical Garden influence attendance rates among African Americans?



Summary of Evidence - Review

- “In Full Bloom: African American Involvement in Botany Deeply Rooted, Beginning to Get Deserved Recognition”
- Highlights contributions of African Americans in the field of botany
- Article addresses how there have been recent efforts of bringing African American knowledge into modern botanical science
- Notes that systemic racism and lack of access to resources have historically hindered African American participation in botany, but efforts are increasing to encourage greater inclusion in STEM fields.



Summary of Evidence - Primary

- "Visitor Responses to an Ethnic Garden Display in a Botanical Garden"
- Study conducted at Harry P. Leu Gardens in Orlando, FL.
- Study concluded that race influenced the attitude toward the garden display
- Visitor attitudes demographic factors like age and income.
- Cultural representation can make gardens more inclusive

Summary of Evidence – Science Communication

- ▶ "Gardens For All"
- ▶ An African American woman working in the botanical garden field wants change.
- ▶ She goes about this change by being a representative for IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access).
- ▶ She begins to conduct meetings, and in one of these meetings, the room was so packed that there were not enough chairs for everyone.

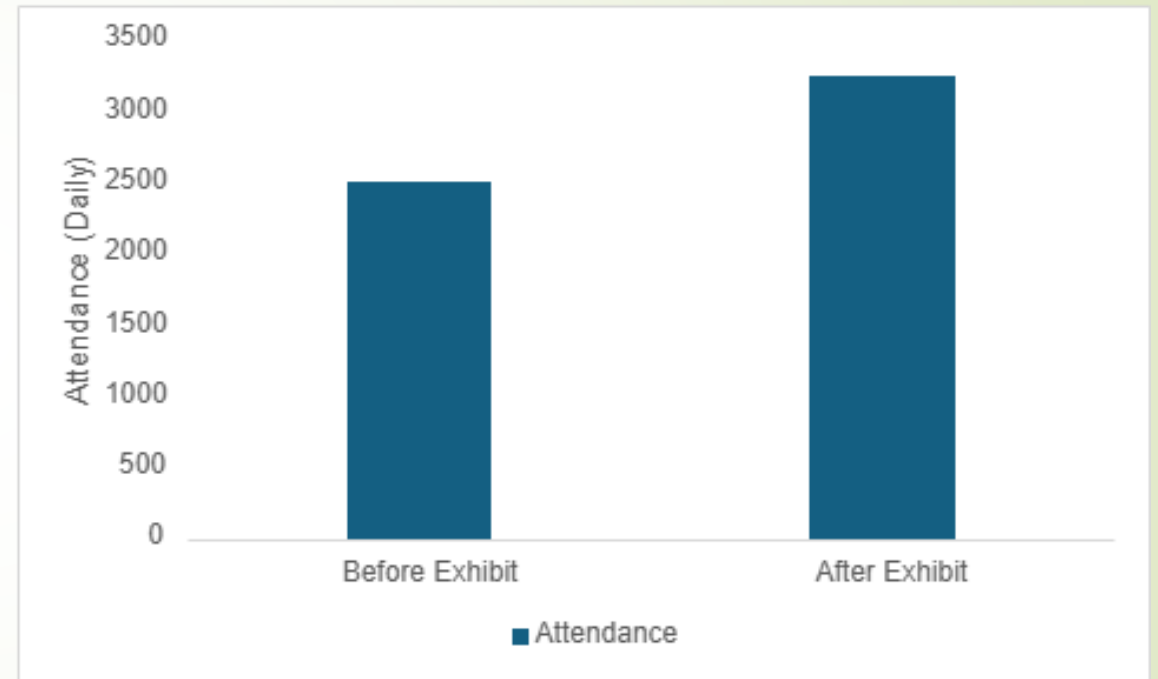


Proposed Experiment

A representation of what the attendance is expected to do when the exhibit including the African American history at the garden is made and implemented.

Independent Variable: Exhibits

Dependent Variable: Attendance



Summary & Reflections

- ▶ The findings that were found in this report were very supportive of the idea of a historic exhibit inside of the garden. Because of this exhibit, it is assumed that the attendance would increase, validating our hypothesis
- ▶ The most interesting thing that we learned over this paper is the restorative properties that gardens have. Another interesting thing is the reaction to an ethnic garden display will appeal to “underrepresented individuals” (Steinhauer et al. 543).





References



- [1] Steinhauer, Melissa, M.A. Brennan, Dennis McConnell, Carrie Reinhardt-Adams, and David Sandrock. "Visitor Responses to an Ethnic Garden Display in a Botanical Garden". HortTechnology hortte 17.4 (2007): 537-543.
<<https://doi.org/10.21273/HORTTECH.17.4.537>>. Web. 16 Sep. 2024
- [2] Kern, J. D. (2023, May 15). Gardens for all. Arnold Arboretum.
<https://arboretum.harvard.edu/stories/gardens-for-all/>
- [3] Bunner, Allissa, and Pilot Online. "In Full Bloom: African American Involvement in Botany Deeply Rooted, Beginning to Get Deserved Recognition." Pilot, The Virginian-Pilot, 15 July 2020