

For Immediate Release:  
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## **'Brighten a Barrel' Returns to the 2019 Epcot Flower & Garden Festival**

(Orange County) Barrels by the Bay, a non-profit organization committed to using rain barrels to educate individuals about conservation and sustainability, is teaming up with Walt Disney World Resort, Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC (Coke Florida), and Orlando City Mayor Buddy Dyer's Green Works Initiative for its third "Brighten a Barrel" event during the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival.

From March 8 to 10, 2019, Walt Disney World guests visiting the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival will be able to paint 60 rain barrels for the local community at the "Brighten a Barrel" activity station. The rain barrel system collects and stores rainwater from a roof, preventing rainwater runoff pollution that could flow into streams, rivers, and oceans.

"Brighten a Barrel" is a way for Epcot guests from around the globe to give rain barrels a splash of color while learning more about the importance of protecting our world's waterways," said Megan Rosenberger, President and Founder of Barrels by the Bay.

As a continued commitment to water stewardship and making a sustainable impact at the local level, Coke Florida has donated their syrup barrels to be "upcycled" and converted into rain barrel systems. Guests will be invited to paint a rain barrel from 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. each day near the Epcot Fountain Stage. Volunteers will share information with guests about rain barrels and ways to protect community waterways.

At the conclusion of the event, Orlando City Mayor Buddy Dyer's Green Works Initiative will install the painted rain barrels throughout Orange County to help protect the community's water resources.

"Coke Florida has a long-standing commitment to water stewardship, as it is one of our environmental priorities to conserve, restore and replenish our local water supplies," said Erin Black, Coke Florida's Vice President, Sustainability and Risk Management. "Through our partnership with Barrels by the Bay, we upcycle our syrup concentrate drums into rain barrels, which will be heavily utilized in Orange County to mitigate the overuse of groundwater. Rain barrel events provide just one opportunity to be on the frontlines to educate people about conserving and reusing water in our shared communities."

### **About Barrels by the Bay Story**

After a devastating rainfall flooded her hometown community, Megan Rosenberger began to educate her community about rain barrels and their positive impact on pollution and flooding reduction. In March 2015, while a midshipman at the US Naval Academy, Megan founded Barrels by the Bay, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate individuals about world's water resources. Since its founding in 2015, Barrels by the Bay has reached over 15,000 participants in five states and Washington, D.C., reducing millions of gallons of potentially contaminated rainwater runoff annually. For more information about Barrels by the Bay, visit [www.barrelsbythebay.org](http://www.barrelsbythebay.org).

### **About Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC**

Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC (Coke Florida) is a family-owned independent Coca-Cola bottler. Coke Florida's exclusive sales and distribution territory covers over 18 million consumers across 47 Florida counties, and includes the major metropolitan markets of Jacksonville, Miami, Orlando and Tampa. Coke Florida manufactures, sells and distributes over 600 products of The Coca-Cola Company and other partner companies including Monster Energy and BODYARMOR. Coke Florida is the third-largest privately-held, and the sixth-largest independent bottler of Coca-Cola products in the United States. The company is also one of America's largest black-owned businesses. Coke Florida was founded in 2015 and is headquartered in Tampa, Florida. For more information, please visit [cocacolaflorida.com](http://cocacolaflorida.com).

### **About the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival**

Spring is alive at Walt Disney World Resort. Come see what's blooming, and have a taste of what's cooking, at the 26th annual Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival - March 6 through June 3, 2019. Guests find springtime inspiration strolling alongside the endless floral display - and among more than a dozen Disney Character topiaries. Delicious aromas from Outdoor Kitchens fill the spring air. Musical acts take the stage each night during the Garden Rocks Concert Series. And hands-on activities and specialty tours give an in-depth look at horticulture and agriculture for the enthusiast and the novice alike.

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Barrels by the Bay  
Megan Rosenberger  
Founder and President  
[megan@barrelsbythebay.org](mailto:megan@barrelsbythebay.org)  
(724) 968-7264

Coca-Cola Beverages Florida, LLC  
Karen Varga-Sinka  
[Kvarga-sinka@cocacolaflorida.com](mailto:Kvarga-sinka@cocacolaflorida.com)  
813-944-7124