Structure of the Center:  
The Botanical Art and Illustration Archives

The time has now come to consolidate our botanical art and illustration collections in a centralized state-of-the-art facility in direct proximity to our scientific staff and plant collections in the Department of Botany. The Center for Botanical Art and Illustration will be a new division within the Department that will parallel the U.S. National Herbarium and the Botany and Horticulture Library. The Center Archives will include art works, historical volumes, scientific documents, and other objects related to botanical art and scholarship. Currently the Department of Botany occupies the fourth and fifth floors of the West Wing of the National Museum of Natural History. An approximately 3,000 sq ft area will be renovated within the Department to house the Center. This location will promote interaction between our plant scientists and staff with the botanical artists and guests visiting the Center as well as integrate our program of botanical illustration with the other botanical facilities in the Department, including the Library and Herbarium. The Center will be placed within close proximity to public access, although it will be open to non-professionals on an appointment-only basis.

The Center for Botanical Art and Illustration will include a well-lit studio for use by our resident Botanical Illustrator and visiting artists, a small classroom for teaching and workshops, a laboratory for processing illustrations and artwork, an office for the Curator of Botanical Art, and a 2,200 square foot compactorized and climate-controlled archival subdivision for housing the collection of botanical art and illustration. All works of art will be data-based, digitally imaged, and directly accessible for use by artists and scientists.