



**Illinois**  
**Department of Commerce**

& Economic Opportunity

**OFFICE OF TOURISM**

Bruce Rauner, Governor

**FOR DISTRIBUTION**

July 19, 2016

**CONTACT:** Brooke Vane  
(312) 729-3639

Brooke.Vane@fleishman.com

**Illinois Office of Tourism Releases Newest Maker video, Longshadow Gardens, part of Illinois Made program**

*Latest maker video features beautifully made garden ornaments and planters*

**Pomona, Ill.** – The Illinois Department of Commerce’s Office of Tourism today highlighted a local Pomona business as part of Illinois Made video series: Longshadow Gardens.

Launched in July 2016, Illinois Made is an ongoing program that recognizes the artisans, products and experiences that are unique to the state. It offers Illinois Made-inspired travel ideas to encourage people to extend their travel beyond a day trip by exploring the local businesses and great attractions nearby.

After 20 years of trial and error, Charlotte and Danielle Ward have become experts at growing plants and creating planters. The two met at the Chicago Botanic Gardens and discovered a shared passion for garden ornaments and planter design.

The beautiful 123-acre property that houses Longshadow Gardens features small garden center pieces that weigh three to four pounds to large planters that weigh one ton. Creating a unique local touch, many planters are named after Chicago suburbs.

The Longshadow Garden’s planters have been featured internationally and locally in the state at Chicago’s Field Museum and Shedd Aquarium. “Longshadow Gardens helps customers achieve their own personal nirvanas through beautiful garden ornamentation,” says Cory Jobe, Director of the Illinois Office of Tourism.

To learn more about Longshadow Gardens and view the new Maker video, visit [www.enjoyillinois.com](http://www.enjoyillinois.com).

###

*The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.*