



GUIDELINES / CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2015

Grand-Métis, Québec, Canada, September 10, 2014 – The **International Garden Festival** is launching a call for proposals to select designers to create the new temporary gardens for the Festival for its 16th edition to be held from June 27 to September 27, 2015 on the site of Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens.

“Buzz” is the operative word guiding the 2015 Festival. The installations selected by the jury will have a special energy and connection to the natural world. The temporary gardens will have a central concept that will be clearly articulated and a degree of interactivity that encourages visitors to enter with enthusiasm and leave with a wish to dialogue and discuss. They will be bold or earthy, complex or very simple. The goal is to intrigue visitors with the unusual or to impress by new ways of presenting what is common. Incorporating vegetables and/or aromatic, medicinal or edible plants, the new gardens will be full of colour and intensity.

Designers may submit only one proposal as individuals or inter-disciplinary teams composed of a landscape architect, architect, designer, artist, engineer, scientist, botanist, etc. The Festival encourages participants to form multidisciplinary teams to favour an approach that encompasses the various design disciplines. This call for proposals is open to Canadian and International designers.

Note: while we have beehives at the gardens and are working on pollinator projects, we are not looking for proposals that incorporate bees or beehives for safety reasons.

Deadline to Submit Proposals

The deadline to submit proposals electronically is **MONDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2014 at 5 pm EST**. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

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International Garden Festival: Forum for Innovation and Laboratory for Experimentation

The International Garden Festival (www.internationalgardenfestival.com) is recognized as one of the most important events of its kind in North America and one of the leading annual garden festivals in the world. Since 2000, hundreds of thousands of visitors have discovered more than one hundred and fifty contemporary and ephemeral gardens created by designers from 15 countries. The Festival is a unique forum for innovation and experimentation and an exceptional showcase and launching pad for participating designers from a host of disciplines. It provides an annual *rendez-vous* for admirers of contemporary gardens and design as well as offering a unique space for those involved in the renewal of this art form. This artistic and tourism event also gives visitors a chance to discover inspiring spaces bringing together the visual arts, architecture, design, landscape and the environment.

The Festival encourages participating designers to explore all facets of the garden, from the physical setting (site and context) to creating a range of sensory, emotional and intellectual experiences for the visitor. The Festival sees the garden as a space for creative interaction, while not negating its botanical and horticultural dimensions. The Festival imagines the garden as a multi-sensorial space and encourages designers to consider the visitor's experience in the design of the garden, provoking interaction, participation, exchange and reflection.

The Festival is an opportunity to compare and contrast approaches and engage in a critical examination of the theory and practice of the art of gardens, offering a host of points of view on this contemporary art form to a broad and diversified audience. The goal of the event is to stimulate new creation by presenting temporary projects that question the very idea of the garden in light of its history and its place in today's society while also allowing visitors to enjoy new sensory experiences.

The Festival Site

Located in Grand-Métis, in the Gaspésie region of Québec, Canada, the International Garden Festival is held on a site adjacent to the Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, the historic gardens created by Elsie Reford from 1926 to 1958.

The Festival site is delimited on the north by the St. Lawrence River, on the west by a mature forest of deciduous trees (trembling aspen) and on the east by a field that opens onto a forest of conifers. The site is articulated around two perpendicular axes. The north-south axis is defined by a geometric grid of identical rectangular spaces that are 10 m x 20 m. These sunny and open spaces possess one entry/exit from the West and/or the East. They are separated from each other by a filter of trees (birch, ash, maple and linden) underplanted with ground cover or inert materials. Three of these sites will be available to host new gardens in 2015.

The west-east axis consists of a series of garden rooms that are variable in size and of irregular configurations (from 150 m² to 250 m²). Surrounded by mature conifers (mostly white spruce) and poplars, these garden rooms are shadier than those on the grid. They mostly have a single entrance/exit from the access road but offer filtered views to the St. Lawrence. Three of these sites will be available to host new gardens in 2015.

The natural soil is clay and designs and designers should take into consideration that the water table is about 1.5 meter below the surface. Extensive excavation should thus be avoided. All of the sites have adequate soil and subsurface drains. All sites have access to water and electricity. Wi-Fi access is possible, but frustratingly slow. Electronics, if desired, must be suitable for outdoor applications.

The summer climate in Grand-Métis is temperate, with temperatures varying from 15°C to 30°C from June to September. Most plants flourish in this climate (hardiness zone of 4b). The hardiness zone map (www.planthardiness.gc.ca) outlines the different zones in Canada where various types of trees, shrubs and flowers will most likely survive based on the average climatic conditions of each area. Most annual plants and several varieties of exotics can be used for the summer months.

We produce most of the plants in our greenhouses beginning in March. Planting is done in June. Designers should thus expect to use mature plants or plants with a rapid growth rate if they wish to assure bloom during the time the temporary garden is exhibited.

Festival gardens are often exhibited for more than one summer and designers will be asked to propose ways in which the garden can evolve over two years, either by plantings, structural changes or events for the second year. Not all gardens are presented for more than one year.

Selection Process

The gardens will be selected by a jury on the basis of:

- The creative response to the brief for the 2015 edition of the Festival;
- The originality, coherence and clarity of the concept and the creative approach;
- The contribution of the proposed approach to the art of the garden and its renewal;
- The positioning or critical basis of the proposal with regard to the practice of garden design.

The selected gardens will be announced in December 2014 on the International Garden Festival website and to international media. All participants will receive the results of the competition by email.

In addition to designers selected by this international call for proposals, the Festival may also select designers by invitation.

Project Oversight and Construction

The design and construction of the temporary gardens will be overseen by the Festival team. A foreman (François Leblanc) and horticulturist (Jean-Yves Roy) oversee the construction and planting of each garden. The construction of the gardens will begin in May 2015 and must be completed by June 26. The Festival and workers assure the maintenance of the garden after the opening.

Designers are expected to be on site to assist in the construction of their garden during the week leading up to the opening of the Festival (June 20 to 28, 2014). Designers are housed in summer houses in nearby Métis-sur-Mer at the Festival's expense during that week.

The candidates chosen to participate in the Festival agree to work to the schedule established by the Festival.

Honoraria and Budget

The budget for the creation and construction of each garden is **\$25,000 (CAN)**. This budget is divided in the following fashion:

- **\$5,000** for the designers' honorarium, which is paid to the designers in two instalments;
- Up to **\$10,000** for the purchase of materials necessary for the realization of the project (including engineering or other fees if required). This budget is managed jointly by the Festival and the designer;
- A team of Festival staff build each garden. The budget for labour is **\$10,000**. This sum is managed by the Festival.

Up to **\$2,000** is available for travel expenses to allow designers to travel to the Festival.

Designers are encouraged to solicit donations or grants for materials or other expenses (travel, printed material, etc.) for the realization of their garden from arts councils, sponsors or private partners. The Festival offers a range of visibility for donors and sponsors depending on the magnitude of the contribution in cash or product.

Presentation of Entries

Registration is first required in order to submit your application and will take a few minutes. To complete your registration and submit your application, visit: www.projects.internationalgardenfestival.ca.

The deadline to receive proposals electronically is **MONDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2014 at 5 pm EST**.

The proposal (in French or English) must be sent electronically as 3 separate files:

- A. 1 PDF file presenting the PROJECT without the designers' name to assure anonymity (maximum 10 meg.);
- B. 1 JPG image presenting the PROJECT (maximum 13 meg.);
- C. 1 PDF file identifying the DESIGNERS or the members of the TEAM (maximum 5 meg.);

A. 1 PDF (maximum 10 meg., 300 dpi and RGB mode), presenting the PROJECT with the following documents, in this order (making sure to present the information without the team's name or designers):

- A schema 11" x 17" or A3 with:
 - A 180-word text describing the concept and presenting the experience offered to visitors in the proposed garden;
 - A layout plan of the garden (at minimum scale of 1/100);
 - A list of suggested plants.
- A schema 11" x 17" or A3 with:
 - 2 main views or elevations of the garden (candidate is free to choose the scale);
 - A perspective, sketch or rendering, showing the garden in its entirety.

B. 1 JPG IMAGE presenting the PROJECT:

- An overall view of the project in JPG. Maximum size: 13 meg. or 3000 x 4500 pixels.

C. 1 PDF file (maximum 5 meg.) identifying the DESIGNER or the members of the TEAM and presenting the following documents, in this order:

- Presentation page 11" x 17" or A3 with:
 - Title of the project;
 - Name of the designer or the members of the team with their profession (architect, landscape architect, etc.);
 - City and country of residence;
 - An 80-word presentation of the designer or the team;
 - Your answer to the following question (70 words): In what way, in your view, will your project contribute to the renewal of the art of the garden?
- A schema 11" x 17" or A3 presenting up to three recent projects by the team and/or its designers.
- *Curriculum vitae* of the designers (2 pages maximum per person).
- Complete information (address, telephone, e-mail, web site) of the designer or the primary contact person of the team.

Please avoid compressing your texts or images in bitmap in the PDF files.

By taking part in this call for proposals, candidates authorize the International Garden Festival to make public, exhibit and disseminate their proposals. The Festival web site presents all the projects submitted to this competition.

Schedule

2014

- September 10** Launch of the call for proposals
- November 17** Deadline to submit proposals
- December** Announcement of the chosen projects

2015

- February 2** Deadline to submit documents showing preliminary design for the garden
- March 2** Deadline to submit plans and estimates for the construction of the garden, incorporating comments by the technical committee of the Festival
- March 13** Final approval of plan and budget by Festival's artistic and technical committee
- March 16 to May 2** Purchase of materials and preparation of plants by the Festival in collaboration with the designers
- May 4** Construction begins by the Festival team
- June 20 to June 26** Designers are on site to supervise the completion of their garden, participate in its construction and participate in the opening events and meet the media
- June 26** Inauguration of the 16th edition of the International Garden Festival
- June 27** The Festival opens to the public
- September 27** The Festival closes

This schedule may be modified without notice. The International Garden Festival reserves the right to not respond to this call for proposals.

