

GUIDELINES | CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Grand-Métis, Québec, Canada, September 26, 2023 – The **International Garden Festival** is launching a call for proposals to select designers to create the new temporary gardens for the Festival's 25th edition, which will open on June 21, 2024, on the site of **Les Jardins de Métis | Reford Gardens**.

2024 Theme – THE ECOLOGY OF POSSIBILITY

Celebrations are in order: in 2024, the International Garden Festival turns 25! While it is certainly something to celebrate, hitting this milestone is also an invitation to reflect on our journey thus far and to look to the future. So, what was the premise for the Festival, the first edition of which was held at the turn of the millennium? What issues and themes have been addressed since then? How have our concerns and ideologies evolved? And what kind of future do we envision for the gardens?

Established in the year 2000, the International Garden Festival has always been heavily committed to the exploration and renewal of the art of the garden. The inaugural edition showcased eight original creations that placed the nature-culture dialectic at the forefront.

Although the Festival still considers the hows and the whys of the contemporary garden, the concepts addressed, and the perspectives employed have changed. Over the past 25 years, our theoretical outlook on various issues has shifted, our critical vocabulary has diversified, and now more than ever, we feel the urgency to act in the face of accelerating climate change. The basic dichotomy of nature versus culture now seems antiquated; contemporary anthropology having demonstrated that humankind's understanding of the natural universe falls within a relational dynamic. Following this rationale, the concepts of nature and culture cannot be compared, as the former is invariably perceived through the latter.

It seems to us that the garden today (be it private or public) has a social responsibility. Sustainable, it preserves and supports biodiversity. Plants are rigorously selected after considering the specific needs and behaviours of each species and how they interact. The characteristics of the site to be developed and their evolution over the seasons are also carefully studied.

In light of these ideologies and present circumstances, is the future of the garden a united one? Is it based on a relational, cross-disciplinary approach?

We'd like to wager that the future of the garden will be forged from genuine dialogue with the living.

Eligibility of Candidates

This call for proposals is open to all landscape architects, architects, visual artists and multidisciplinary teams from Canada and abroad. The Festival encourages participants to form multidisciplinary teams. Applicants are limited to one proposal, either as individuals or as a team. Participants can be from a single city or country or cross international boundaries.

Designers are invited to design a garden that can take place in one or other of the axes of the Festival. The artistic and technical committee of the Festival will identify, in collaboration with the designers, the site that will best showcase their project. Designers will be asked to imagine their garden for exhibition for at least two summers and to propose strategies for the repurposing or recycling of the garden or its materials after the end of its exhibition.

Designers whose work has been exhibited in one of the last three editions (2020, 2021 or 2022) of the Festival are not eligible for this call for proposals.

Deadline to Submit Proposals

The deadline to submit proposals electronically is **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 at 17:00 EST**. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Further information: Ève De Garie-Lamanque
Artistic Director
International Garden Festival
festival@jardinsdemetis.com

Selection Process

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

- The creative response to the brief for the 2024 edition: **Écologie des possibles | The Ecology of Possibility**;
- 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.

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.

International Garden Festival: Forum for Innovation and Laboratory for Experimentation

The [International Garden Festival](#) 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, over 1 million visitors have discovered the more than 250 contemporary 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 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, a National Historic Site and Québec heritage site.

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, maple and linden) underplanted with ground covers or inert materials.

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.

The natural soil is clay and designers and designers should take into consideration that the water table is about 1.5 meters below the surface. Excavation is possible, but extensive excavation should be avoided. All of the sites have adequate soil and subsurface drains. All sites have access to water and electricity.

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.

Project Oversight and Construction

The construction of the temporary gardens is executed in large part by the staff of the Festival. The technical coordinator and horticultural foreman oversee the construction and planting of each garden by a team of staff, interns and volunteers. The construction of the gardens will begin in April and must be completed by June 21. The Festival and its crew assure the maintenance of the garden after the opening for the duration of the event.

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 (Sunday, June 16 to Friday, June 21, 2024). Designers are housed in summer houses in nearby Métis-sur-Mer at the Festival's expense during that week.

Participants will be expected to work physically during the week to complete their gardens. Designers 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 CAD**. This budget is divided in the following fashion:

- **\$5,000** for the team's honorarium, which is paid to the designers in two instalments;
- Up to **\$15,000** 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 **\$5,000**. This sum is managed by the Festival.

The Festival assumes for each garden, upon presentation of supporting invoices, the travel expenses up to:

- **\$ 1,000 CAD** for Quebec-based designers;
- **\$ 2,000 CAD** for designers from other Canadian provinces and territories;
- **\$ 3,000 CAD** for designers coming from abroad.

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. You can register at any time. To complete your registration, go to: www.projects.internationalgardenfestival.ca.

The deadline to receive proposals electronically is **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 at 17:00 EST.**

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

A 1 PDF (maximum 10 MB, 300 DPI and RGB mode), presenting the PROJECT with the following documents, in this order (making sure to present the information without the name of the 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 MB or 3000 x 4500 pixels.

C 1 PDF file (maximum 5 MB) 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, visual artist, etc.);
 - City and country of residence;
 - An 80-word presentation of the designer or the team;
 - Your answer to the following question (70 words): How does your project tackled ***Écologie des possibles | The Ecology of Possibility?***
- 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, email, website) of the primary contact for the team.

Please avoid compressing your texts or images to Bitmaps (BMP) 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 website presents all the projects submitted to this competition.



Schedule

September 26, 2023	Launch of the call for proposals
November 20	Deadline to submit proposals
November 21 to December 14	Selection process and jury deliberations
December 18 to January 5, 2024	Timeframe to contact all candidates
February 2	Deadline to submit documents showing preliminary design for the garden
February 16	Deadline to submit plans and estimates for the construction of the garden, incorporating comments by the technical committee of the Festival
February 23	Final approval of plan and budget by Festival's artistic and technical committee
February 26 to April 26	Purchase of materials and preparation of plants by the Festival in collaboration with the designers
April 29	Construction begins by the Festival team
June 16 to 22	Designers are on site to supervise the completion of their garden, participate in its construction, attend the opening and meet with the media
June 21	Inauguration of the 25 th edition of the International Garden Festival
June 22	The Festival opens to the public
October 6	Last day to visit the installations of the 25 th edition of the Festival

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