

Call for Entries

On the occasion of the 10th edition of the International Garden Festival, to be held from June 27 to October 4, 2009 on the site of Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, the Fondation des Jardins de Métis is launching a call for proposals to select designers to create temporary gardens for the Festival.

The Festival encourages participants to form multidisciplinary and teams to favour an approach which is open and encompassing of the various design disciplines. This call for proposals is thus open to:

- Canadian and international designers;
- multidisciplinary teams composed of, for example, architects, engineers, designers, scenographers or artists, with as a member of their team a landscape architect and/or a horticulturist.

The theme for the 2009 Festival is : **FESTIVE GARDENS**, in order to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Festival and contribute to the creation of contemporary gardens.

Deadline for the Reception of Entries

The deadline to receive proposals electronically is **Friday, November 21, 2008**. The International Garden Festival will not accept applications transmitted after the deadline. See section “**Submission of Entries**” for further information on transmitting entries.

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International Garden Festival: a Forum for Innovation and a 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 two leading annual garden festivals in the world. Since 2000, 800,000 visitors have explored more than 100 gardens created by over 200 designers from nine countries. The Festival is a unique forum for innovation and experimentation and an exceptional showcase and launching pad for the 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 nature.

The Festival encourages participants to explore all facets of the garden, from the physical setting (site and context) to creating a range of sensory, emotive and intellectual experiences for the visitor. The Festival sees the garden as a space for creative interaction and a theme for reflection, while not negating its botanical and horticultural dimensions. The Festival conceives the garden as a multi-sensorial space and encourages participants to consider the visitor's experience in the conception 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 promotes an encounter between diverse disciplines and as such encourages designers to form interdisciplinary teams to submit proposals.

The Site

The Festival is held on a 20-acre site adjacent to the historic gardens, Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, created by Elsie Reford from 1926 to 1958. The Festival site is laid out on two axes. The north-south axis comprises a geometric grid of identical spaces that are 20m x 10m. The east-west axis consists of a series of garden rooms, which are variable in size and of irregular configurations. Photographs of the site and of gardens created for previous editions of the Festival can be viewed on the photo gallery of the Festival web site www.photosjardinsdemetis.com/english and in the publication *Hybrids: Redefining the Contemporary Garden in Métis*, edited by Lesley Johnstone, published by BLUEimprint, ISBN 978-1-894965-70-5.

Festival gardens may be exhibited for a two or three-year period and designers will be asked to propose gardens that 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.

The Theme of the 2009 Festival: Festive Gardens

The International Garden Festival is organized around the theme of “festivities”. The garden is thus a joyous place, a venue for exchange, enrichment and emotions, as well as a paradise where the human spirit in all its forms is enriched. It may also be the venue for the exploration of the idea of nature, biodiversity, beauty, technology, artificial materials and the environment.

Visitors of all ages will be called to play and to learn, and to understand the mysteries of life, as the garden is a place that is living and brings humans alive. We will celebrate the senses, the environment as well as the arts and the creative process. Gardens that are at once amusing and poetic, spanning realism to surrealism, the 2009 Festival will celebrate many emotions and colours!

For the 10th anniversary – A Celebration of Past Successes

As part of the 2009 program and to set the tone of celebration and creation, we will install the garden that helped put our Festival on the map in 2000 when Claude Cormier Architectes Paysagistes exhibited the Blue Stick Garden for the first time. Widely published around the world, Claude Cormier's garden was presented subsequently at Canada Blooms in Toronto (2002), Hestercombe Gardens in England (2004) and the Flora International in Montréal (2006). The installation of the Blue Stick Garden will demonstrate how the Festival and its gardens can both evolve and travel – and be replanted for another edition – a fitting symbol of the success of the first decade of the Festival and an invitation to continue the creative process for the next one.

Candidates of the 2009 Festival

This call for entries is open to all professional designers (or teams of designers) from Québec, the rest of Canada and internationally that work in the fields of the landscape architecture, architecture, visual arts, and design. A separate competition is being held for students in landscape architecture and environmental design, presently enrolled in Canadian universities to be launched later in October.

The Festival seeks to promote an “auteur” approach and favours individual creativity rather than submissions from professional offices (without identified designers) or associations.

Submission of Entries

The entries must be sent electronically as a PDF file. The name of your file should start with your name (personal or collective) and contain the following:

- Presentation page with:
 - Name of the project;
 - Name of the designers;
 - Name of the respondent for the design team;
 - Address
 - Telephone, fax, e-mail and web site address (if appropriate);
 - Your answer to the following question (70 words maximum): 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 with:
 - A 250-word text (English or French) describing the concept and presenting the experience offered to the visitor;
 - A layout plan of the garden, at minimum scale of 1/100.
- 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 showing the garden in its entirety.
- *Curriculum vitae* of the designers (2 pages maximum per person).

You can also submit a schema 11" x 17" or A3 presenting three recent projects.

To send your application, you must visit the following address: www.jardinsdemetis.com/festival2009

User name: **application**

Pass word: **2009edition**

The deadline to receive proposals electronically is **Friday, November 21, 2008.**

All submitted proposals may be presented as part of an on-line exhibition. By taking part in this call for proposal, candidates authorize the International Garden Festival to make public, exhibit and disseminate their proposals.

Selection process

The designers will be selected by a jury chaired by an internationally-known designer as follows:

- The positioning or critical basis of their proposal with regard to the practice of garden design;
- The contribution of their approach to the art of the garden and its renewal;
- The originality, coherence and clarity of the creative approach;
- The quality of their professional practice and recognition of the excellence of their work.

The decision of the jury will be made public on Monday, December 8, 2008.

Project oversight and design

The design and construction of the temporary gardens will be overseen by the artistic and technical committee, consisting of the director, the artistic director, and the technical co-ordinator of the Festival.

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

Production conditions and process

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;
- Up to **\$10,000** (including taxes) for the purchase of materials. This budget is managed jointly by the Festival and the designer;
- Up to **\$10,000** for labour costs for the construction of the garden. The construction is done by a team of workers employed by the Festival under the supervision of the technical co-ordinator, working in collaboration with the designers. This budget is non-transferable. The Festival assures the upkeep and maintenance of the garden at its own expense.

Up to **\$2,000** is available for travel expenses and meals to allow designers to travel to the Festival. The designers are housed in Métis-sur-Mer at the Festival's expense during the final week leading up to the Festival opening, from June 20th to 28th, 2009.

The International Garden Festival reserves the right not to follow up on this call for entries.

Schedule

October 15, 2008

Launch of the call for entries

November 21, 2008

Deadline to send proposals

December 8, 2008

Public announcement of the designers chosen for the 10th edition of the International Garden Festival

February 1, 2009

Deadline for reception of documents showing the preliminary design for the garden

February 27, 2009

Deadline to submit plans and estimates for the construction of the garden, incorporating comments by the technical committee of the Festival

March 14, 2009

Final approval of the plans and estimates by Festival's artistic and technical committee

March 16 to May 1, 2009

Purchase of materials and preparation of plants by the Festival in collaboration with the designers

May 4, 2009

Construction begins by the Festival team

June 20-26, 2009

Designers are on site to supervise the completion of the gardens, participate in the opening events, meet the public and the media

June 26, 2009

Inauguration of the Festival

June 27, 2009

The Festival opens to the public

June 28, 2009

Designers meet with the public

June to August 31, 2009

Program of summer activities (to be determined). The program may include the participation of designers in various public activities (presentations, lectures, etc)

October 4, 2009

The Festival closes

This schedule may be modified.