



**CALL FOR PROPOSALS – 22<sup>nd</sup> INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL: *MAGIC LIES OUTSIDE***

**Grand-Métis (Québec, Canada), October 19, 2020** – The **International Garden Festival**, presented at the **Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens** in the Gaspésie region of Québec, Canada, is preparing its 22<sup>nd</sup> edition and is issuing an international call for proposals to select designers who will create the new temporary gardens that will be presented from June 26, 2021. Building on the success of the past summer (where 60,000 visitors safely toured twenty-five garden installations), the 2021 Festival is intended to deliver hope, celebrate creativity and bring colour to a world battling to emerge from months of indoor confinement after a global pandemic.

***Magic Lies Outside*** is the theme for the 2021 Festival. We are asking designers to acknowledge COVID-19 with an imaginative response. Your challenge is to offer visitors a temporary installation that will create a visceral connection to the outdoors. Doing so within the confines of regulations and sanitary concerns is a given. This means that your project will offer experiences that can be enjoyed in small numbers or assembly points that are generously proportioned to allow the appropriate distance. The modest space you imagine will foster connectivity to the outside world, free of the screen technologies that have been our constant companion for the past year.

Being outdoors is one of the few known antidotes to extended confinement. Designed landscapes may be occupied, but still offer safe and secure environments that enhance our well-being and mental health. The installations chosen with this call for proposals will bring awareness of the importance of designed greenspaces and their special magic. They will inform the global conversation on the special value of the outdoors and the unique capacity of design professionals and artists to create vibrant landscapes. Connecting visitors to creative landscapes is the objective. Fostering a needed engagement with the outdoors is the desired result.

The jury for the 2021 Festival will choose five projects from this call for proposals. **The deadline for the submission of entries is TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020 at 17H00 EST.** For information on the budget, design fees, build calendar, consult the 2021 Festival Guidelines document at [www.projects.internationalgardenfestival.ca](http://www.projects.internationalgardenfestival.ca).

The Festival encourages participants to form multidisciplinary teams. 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.



This call for proposals is open to all landscape architects, architects, 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 who have participated in one of the last three editions of the Festival are not eligible for this call for proposals.

**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, more than one million visitors have discovered over 195 contemporary and ephemeral gardens created by designers from 15 countries. 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 is an annual *rendez-vous* for admirers of contemporary gardens and design as well as offering a unique creative space for those involved in the renewal of this art form.

**Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens** are located on the shores of the St. Lawrence and Mitis rivers in Québec, Canada. Created from 1926 to 1958 by avid gardener and plant collector, Elsie Reford, the gardens are a national historic site designated. Les Jardins de Métis are considered one of the premier gardens in North America. They are an obligatory stop for all those visiting eastern Québec and the Gaspésie region. Hydro-Québec has been a major partner of the Reford Gardens since 1999. Visit the [www.refordgardens.com](http://www.refordgardens.com) for more details.

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