



Reford Gardens
International
Garden Festival



Partenaire depuis 1999

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate distribution

The International Garden Festival launches its call for projects for the 2027 edition

Making Visible: Alternative Geographies

June 19–October 3, 2027

Landscape architects, architects, artists, and multidisciplinary teams from all over the world are invited to propose projects for the gardens that will shape the 28th edition of the International Garden Festival.

Grand-Métis, Canada, September 2, 2026 — Every summer since 2000, the **International Garden Festival** has transformed the Reford Gardens into a laboratory for creative landscape design. For its 28th edition, the Festival invites landscape architects, architects, artists, and multidisciplinary teams from all over the world to propose concepts for four or five new gardens. The Festival's next edition will open on Saturday, June 19, 2027, at Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, in Québec's Gaspésie tourist region.

2027 Theme: *Making Visible: Alternative Geographies*

The triennial thematic cycle centred around human beings' relationship with space and territory, conceived by the Festival's artistic director, Ève De Garie-Lamanque, concludes in 2027.

In 2025, *Borders* focused on issues arising from the representation, organization, and management of geographic space, drawing on concerns involved with geopolitics and private property. In 2026, *Mapping Sensitivity* addressed the immaterial and affective aspects of territory by encouraging a relational dynamic and returning users to the foreground.

This new call for projects, with the theme *Making Visible: Alternative Geographies*, will ultimately lead to the selection of four or five contemporary garden projects that will extend – and reveal the shortfalls of – the reflections undertaken during the preceding editions.

Emerging at the confluence of *Borders* and *Mapping Sensitivity*, this new theme probes mechanisms, approaches, and systems that have become the norm. Approaches will draw on the concepts of intersectionality (a theoretical framework introduced in 1989 by the American jurist Kimberlé W. Crenshaw) and counter-mapping (a term coined in 1995 by the American sociologist Nancy Lee Peluso). Both of these concepts have contributed, among other things, to providing marginalized or traditionally underrepresented individuals and communities with voice and visibility.

To ensure complementarity – in both substance and form – with the projects chosen for the first two years of the thematic cycle, the designers are encouraged to consult the web pages and press releases for the Festival's [26th](#) and [27th](#) editions.

The projects selected will be revealed to the public in **February 2027**.

“Once again, artists are invited to transpose their ideas into an experimental garden that bursts through boundaries, revisits ideas about landscape and territory, and engages the public in an active encounter,” stated **Alexander Reford, co-founder and director, International Garden Festival**. “The International Garden Festival is an exceptional laboratory for creativity in which landscape architecture, art, and design are tested on



a life-size scale, in a location that features almost a century of horticultural history and the force of the St. Lawrence River. It is in this dialogue between heritage and avant-garde that tomorrow's landscapes are imagined for our visitors to enjoy."

Applicant Eligibility

This call for projects is open to landscape architects, architects, visual artists, and multidisciplinary teams from Canada and abroad. The Festival encourages the formation of teams bringing together several disciplines. Individuals and teams may submit only one proposal, and the participants may come from the same city or country or from different world regions.

Applicants are asked to design a garden that falls within one or another of the Festival's subject areas. Once the winning projects are selected, the Festival's artistic and technical committees will determine, in collaboration with the designers, which site will best highlight each project. Applicants are asked to design a garden that will be presented for at least two summers and to propose strategies for repurposing, reusing, or recycling its materials once its presentation ends.

The selected projects will receive artistic and technical guidance and a production budget.

Deadline for Receiving Applications

The deadline for submitting a project online is **Tuesday, October 27, 2026, AT 5:00 PM EDT (UTC – 4).** Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

All the details can be found at <https://projects.internationalgardenfestival.ca/>.

About the International Garden Festival

The International Garden Festival is the largest contemporary garden festival in North America and one of the foremost international platforms for creation and dissemination of architectural research. Since its creation in 2000, almost 200 gardens have been presented at Grand-Métis and in other locations in Canada and abroad. The Festival takes place on a site adjacent to the historical gardens, establishing a dialogue between history and modernity and among conservation, tradition, and innovation. Each year, the event offers close to 30 creations produced by some 70 architects, landscape architects, artists, and designers from various disciplines. Over the years, the International Garden Festival has presented works by some of the most influential designers of their respective generations, including Agence Spatiale, Appareil Architecture, ArandaLasch, Atelier Le Balto, Diana Balmori, Pierre Bélanger, BGL, Adrian Blackwell and Jane Hutton, Christopher Bradley-Hole, CCxA, Claude Cormier, Coryn Kempster and Julia Jamrozik, Bernard Lassus, NIPPAYSAGE, Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates, Ken Smith, Snøhetta, Stoss Landscape Urbanism, Studio Bryan Hanes - DIGSAU, Taylor Cullity Lethlean, Pierre Thibault, Topotek 1, Charles Waldheim, and Mason White and Lola Sheppard. Since 2019, the Festival has also operated La Maison d'Ariane, in Métis-sur-Mer, and its residency program. The Festival receives financial support from the Canada Council for the Arts, the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec, and a community of donors to and friends of the Festival.

About Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens

A National Historic Site of Canada and a Quebec heritage site, Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens is a must-see destination for anyone visiting the Gaspé Peninsula and the Lower St. Lawrence region. A cultural space and iconic landscape, the Gardens offer visitors inspiring and restorative experiences that foster a deep connection with nature. Located at the confluence of the St. Lawrence and Mitis rivers, the Gardens were designed by horticulturist Elsie Reford between 1926 and 1958.



Reford Gardens
International
Garden Festival

For more information

internationalgardenfestival.ca

Media Contacts

Emadou Payette-Brisson

Media Relations Specialist (International)

epayette@v2com-newswire.com

Olivier Lapierre

Media Relations Specialist (Québec)

olivier.olpr@gmail.com



Partenaire depuis 1999