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## GUIDELINES / CALL FOR PROPOSALS

**Grand-Métis, Québec, Canada, October 19, 2020** – The **International Garden Festival** is launching a call for proposals to select designers to create the new temporary gardens for the Festival for its 22<sup>nd</sup> edition, which will open on June 26, 2021, on the site of **Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens**.

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. Designers are invited to design a garden that can take place in one or other of the axes of the Festival. When the winners are known, it is up to the artistic and technical committees of the Festival to 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.

### **Eligibility of candidates**

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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 whose work has been exhibited in one of the last three editions of the Festival are not eligible for this call for proposals.

### **Deadline to Submit Proposals**

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The deadline to submit proposals electronically is **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020 at 17h00 EST.** Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted.

Further Information: Alexander Reford  
Director  
International Garden Festival / Reford Gardens  
[festival@jardinsdemetis.com](mailto:festival@jardinsdemetis.com)

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## Selection Process

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

- The creative response to the brief for the 2021 edition: ***Magic Lies Outside***
- 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 January 2021 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.

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## International Garden Festival: Forum for Innovation and Laboratory for Experimentation

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The International Garden Festival ([www.internationalgardenfestival.com](http://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, over 1 million visitors have discovered the more than 195 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 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.

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## The Festival Site

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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.

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 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 m<sup>2</sup> to 250 m<sup>2</sup>). 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.

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The natural soil is clay and designers and designers should take into consideration that the water table is about 1.5 meter 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](http://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

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The construction of the temporary gardens is executed in large part by the staff of the Festival. The technical coordinator and foreman oversee the construction and planting of each garden by a team of staff, students and volunteers. The construction of the gardens will begin in May 2021 and must be completed by June 25. The Festival and its crew assure the maintenance of the garden after the opening for the duration of the event.

Depending on COVID-19 restrictions, 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 19 to June 26, 2021). 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

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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 installments;
- 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 (CAN)** for Quebec designers;
- **\$ 2,000 (CAN)** for designers from other Canadian provinces;
- **\$ 3,000 (CAN)** 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.

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## Presentation of Entries

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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](http://www.projects.internationalgardenfestival.ca).

**The deadline to receive proposals electronically is TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2020 at 17h00 EST.**

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

**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 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 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, 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 illustrate that Magic Lies Outside?
- 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 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.**

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## Schedule

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### 2020

- October 19** Launch of the call for proposals
- December 8** Deadline to submit proposals
- December 17** Announcement of the chosen projects to all candidates

### 2021

- January** Public announcement of the chosen projects
- February 12** Deadline to submit documents showing preliminary design for the garden
- March 12** Deadline to submit plans and estimates for the construction of the garden, incorporating comments by the technical committee of the Festival
- March 19** Final approval of plan and budget by Festival's artistic and technical committee
- March 22 to April 30** Purchase of materials and preparation of plants by the Festival in collaboration with the designers
- May 3** Construction begins by the Festival team
- June 19 to June 25** Designers are on site to supervise the completion of their garden, participate in its construction, attend the opening and meet the media
- June 25** Inauguration of the 22nd edition of the International Garden Festival
- June 26** The Festival opens to the public
- October 3** Last day to visit the installations of the 22nd 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.**