



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

CALL FOR PROPOSALS – 26th INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL

Grand-Métis, Québec, Canada, September 5, 2024 – The **International Garden Festival** is launching a call for proposals to select designers to create the new temporary gardens for the Festival's 26th edition, which will open on June 20, 2025, on the site of **Les Jardins de Métis | Reford Gardens**.

2025 Theme – BORDERS

Borders partition a whole, giving it a value of its own. Tangible without necessarily visible, they mark a distinction of state, nature and materiality. They “separate” digital from analog, inside from outside, garden from expanse, landscape from geography. Sometimes fixed, rigid or more or less hermetic, they can also be porous, ambiguous or multiple. Constantly renegotiated, borders also act as passageways, places of encounter and exchange.

For its 26th edition, the International Garden Festival invites designers from all horizons to rethink the notion of borders in today's post-colonial context, and to transpose their reflections into a garden-environment that blurs disciplines, renegotiates preconceived ideas about the garden/landscape, and actively dialogues with the visitor.

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.

Deadline to Submit Proposals

The deadline to submit proposals electronically is **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2024 at 17:00 EST**. Applications submitted after the deadline will not be accepted. All the details are available here: www.projects.internationalgardenfestival.ca.

International Garden Festival

Created at the turn of the new millennium by Marie-Josée Lacroix, Denis Lemieux, Philippe Poullaouec-Gonidec and Alexander Reford, the [International Garden Festival](#) is recognized as one of the most important contemporary garden festivals in North America. Since its inception in 2000, nearly 190 contemporary gardens have been exhibited at Grand-Métis and as extramural projects in Canada and around the world. Presented at Les Jardins de Métis / Reford Gardens, at the gateway to the Gaspé Peninsula, the Festival is held on a site adjacent to the historic gardens created by Elsie Reford, thereby establishing a bridge between history and modernity, and a dialogue between conservation, tradition and innovation. Each year the Festival exhibits over 20 conceptual gardens created by more than 70 landscape architects, architects and designers from various disciplines. Over

the years, the Festival has received numerous distinctions, including the Hector-Fabre Award (2007), given out every two years by the Ministère des Relations internationales et de la Francophonie to an organization that has contributed to the international renown of its region.

[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.

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