

# **ARTS IN THE GARDEN**

## **GARDENER'S GUIDE**

2023



Photo credits: Tamar Kozlov

# THANK YOU

## FOR YOUR INTEREST IN BEING PART OF ARTS IN THE GARDEN

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We are so glad that you are interested in applying to be part of Arts in the Garden 2023! Arts in the Garden has been running for over 20 years, and we are grateful for people like you whose energy, passion and generosity makes this valuable community event possible.

Arts in the Garden is a celebration of the intersection between artistic practices and the natural world. Each year, musicians, visual artists and performers transform outdoor spaces into places of imagination and creativity, inspiring visitors to care for the natural world while being in better relations to one another, and to those who share the land with us.

We're excited to gather again this year, and hope you will be part of it!



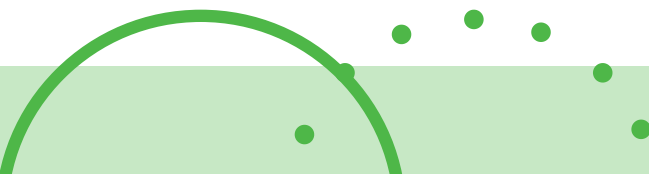
# WHAT IS ARTS IN THE GARDEN?

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Arts in the Garden is an annual event in which visitors are invited into garden spaces across the North Shore to reflect on our relationship to place and to land, and to be part of a creative interaction between nature and various art forms. During the event weekend, visual artists, musicians and performers are hosted in a garden, allowing visitors to appreciate the intersection of nature, land and the arts.

Each garden usually hosts two or three visual artists, two bands/musicians and potentially one performer or performance group. The aim is for the different art forms to be in conversation with each other and with the garden space.

The two visual artists are stationed in the garden for the whole weekend, from 12pm to 5pm both Saturday and Sunday. They set up their art throughout the garden – tucked in little corners, bushes and patches to become interspersed with the growth. If it rains, this display might need to be shuffled under a tent, which is the artists' responsibility to provide. The artists will be present with their work and to chat with visitors for the whole weekend.



# WHAT IS ARTS IN THE GARDEN? (CONTINUED)

The musicians take turns performing: one band/artist is usually scheduled for the first few hours of the event, and the next for the last few hours. Both groups get a fifteen minute break mid-set. It is the responsibility of the gardener to find a covered, flat area for the musician(s) to set up. Some people choose to sit and listen to the music, while others appreciate it as background music while enjoying the garden space and the art.

Performances vary greatly depending on the group and the space, encompassing everything from spoken word poetry to group dance performances. These performances are scheduled during a break in the musicians' performance, and usually only take place one of the two event days.

There is a table at the front of the garden where ideally two volunteers are stationed to answer questions and, at most gardens, to collect the garden entry fee of a couple dollars (cash).

Depending on the garden and the weather, visitor numbers can vary across a very wide range of 20 to 200 in a day, usually averaging somewhere in the middle. Factors that determine how many visitors come to a garden include the weather and the locations' proximity to a main road or transit route, to parking options, and to other participating gardens.

This is a rain or shine event.



# WORKING WITH NORTH VAN ARTS

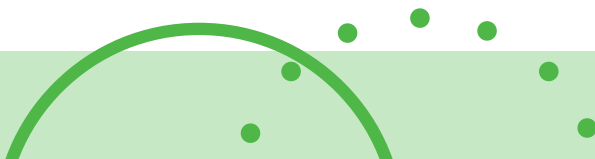
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Among other things, North Van Arts is responsible for assigning artists, musicians and performers to a garden space, and for coordinating volunteers. Once the group of artists, musicians and performers has been confirmed, we will send an introductory email to the gardener and to these participants, so that everyone has each other's contact information. We offer volunteer training so that the volunteers are on the same page as the gardener and participants, and aim to connect volunteers and gardeners prior to the event.

In the days leading up to the event, we ensure all garden locations receive event signage, as well as a box containing necessary supplies for the volunteers' table.

We are available to support gardeners, as well as the participants, throughout this event and the preparation, by phone (604-988-6844), email ([katherine@northvanarts.ca](mailto:katherine@northvanarts.ca)), and in-person (335 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver).

An honorarium is provided in recognition of the gardeners' time and labour in preparing for this event.





# GARDENERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

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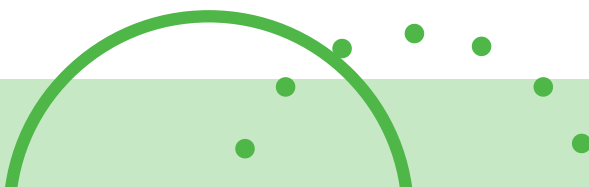
The gardener is essentially responsible for ensuring that the space is hospitable for the artists, musicians and performers, as well as for the visitors and volunteers.

This involves providing:

- A table and chairs for the volunteers
- Shade/rain shelter for the volunteers
- A tent or covered area for the musicians
- Access to an outlet or other power source for musicians and performers
- Access to a bathroom and tap water for musicians, performers, artists and volunteers (not the public)

Please also ensure that your garden is as tidied up and free of avoidable tripping hazards as possible; we want to ensure that this event is as safe and accessible as can be.

Once email introductions have been made, we ask that the gardener work with each participant to arrange a time for them to view the garden and determine how their art, equipment, instruments, etc will be set up; this is essential to ensuring the set-up on the event weekend goes smoothly.



# WHO SHOULD APPLY

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Arts in the Garden is a reflection on and celebration of land and nature taking place on the traditional and unceded territories of the səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation and the 'Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), whose people have cared for and stewarded this land since time immemorial, as they continue to do so today.

We learn from them that this land is living, and therefore cannot be owned, but rather that we are in relationship with it; we strive for this to be a relationship of respect and understanding. With this in mind, we invite applications from those who carry knowledge about and/or hold appreciation for the land they are on, including the climate and natural ecosystems that enable the land to thrive. We are especially interested in working with gardeners who are attentive to and willing to share their knowledge about tending to the land in a sustainable way that ensures it is healthy and thriving for generations to come, who are aware of the ongoing history of the land they are on, and who work to find ways to share their space with community.

Whether your space is private or shared, if tending to the land you are on is a form of art, passion, creativity and joy for you, we invite you to offer it as a space of community gathering and connection for this event.



# WHAT TO CONSIDER

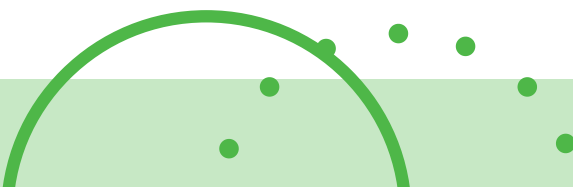
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Before filling out an application, please consider the following:

- Will you be available to be onsite to host visitors, artists, musicians, performers and volunteers from 12pm-5pm (or earlier/later for set-up and take-down) on May 27th and 28th, 2023?
- Will you be around and available in the weeks prior to the event to show the artists, musicians and performers assigned to your garden the space?
- Is your space located on the North Shore?
- Are you willing to host artists, musicians, performers, volunteers and visitors in your garden for the Arts in the Garden event, rain or shine?

If the answers to the above questions are 'yes!', please proceed to fill out an application!





# HOW TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION

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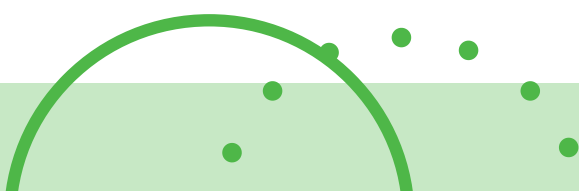
The garden application form is relatively short. You will need a computer with internet connection to fill out the form; if this is a barrier for you, please call 604-988-6844 or visit CityScape Community ArtSpace at 335 Lonsdale Avenue for assistance.

We highly recommend that when the form asks you to type a few sentences, you draft your answers in a separate document, such as Word, so that your work is saved in case the form crashes or your internet connection becomes unstable.

The form will ask you for the following information, broken into three sections (contact information, garden information, and additional details):

- Your name
- Your contact information (email and phone number)
- The address of your garden (remember, it must be located on the North Shore!)

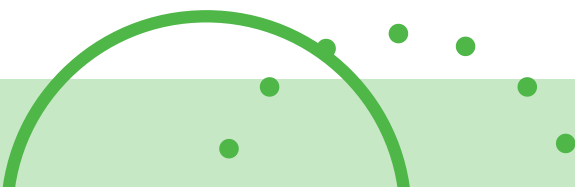
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# HOW TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION (CONTINUED)

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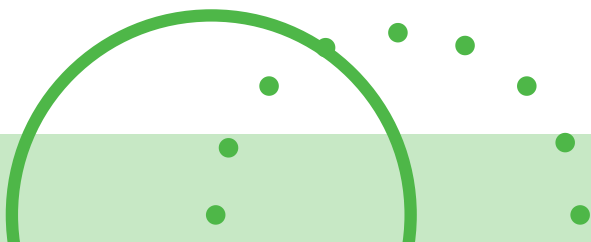
- A description of your garden (including some thoughts regarding your approach to gardening and the relationship between the space to which you tend and the land and environment surrounding it. We recommend drafting this in a separate document)
- If you have a covered structure or area to shelter musicians and volunteers (tents count!)
- Information regarding parking (we suggest you draft this in a separate document)
- Information regarding public transportation (we suggest you draft this in a separate document)
- If your garden is accessible. Consider in advance: whether your garden has wide pathways, flat surfaces, stairs, handrails, nearby parking, and any solid areas that could accommodate wheels.
- To provide five images of your garden. These images will be used in our promotional materials, so please choose the very best ones you have! Images that give a sense of your whole garden, rather than simply of a bush or flower bed, are best. The event takes place in May, so images of how your garden looks in the spring will give visitors a sense of what they'll experience.



# HOW TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION (CONTINUED)

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- To tell us about your images, and how they represent the garden (we suggest you draft this in a separate document).
- Whether you would be willing to offer a talk or information session for visitors about sustainable gardening practices, growing food/food security, or a similar topic. This is entirely optional – we would love for a few gardens to host a talk, but definitely won't expect one at every location!
- A few final details, such as where you heard about the call to participate.
- If you have any questions for us! We will respond to these by email using the information you provide at the top of the form. We are happy to address any questions or concerns you have, or simply to offer more information about the event if a few things still feel unclear.



# TIMELINE

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Once we receive all the applications, we will review them and will be in touch with those we'd be interested in working with for the event to set up a time to view their garden. Once we have seen these gardens, we will select from them the Arts in the Garden 2023 locations.

Here is the timeline you can expect:

- November 18th: Applications close.
- Late November: We reach out to potential gardens to schedule site visits.
- Early December: We contact gardeners whose gardens we would like to include in Arts in the Garden 2023 to confirm our interest and their availability, and to sign a contract.
- Mid December: Contracts are returned, thereby confirming participating gardens.

If you have any questions along the way, please don't hesitate to contact us by email at [katherine@northvanarts.ca](mailto:katherine@northvanarts.ca) or by phone at 604-988-6844.

