

# **ARTS IN THE GARDEN**

## **ARTISTS' GUIDE**

2023



Photo: Tamar Kozlov  
Artwork: Margaret Joba-Woodruff

# 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 creativity 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 fill outdoor spaces with their 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 there with us!



# 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 about a dozen garden spaces across the North Shore, allowing visitors to appreciate the intersection of nature, land and the arts.

Each garden usually hosts two or three visual artists, two bands/musicians (who each perform about a two hour set) 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.

Visitors are charged an entry fee of a couple dollars (cash) at the entrance to private gardens. This helps cover the cost of the event, including the payments made to participants.

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. 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 will also distribute promotional materials to participants, so that they can spread word about the event with their networks.



We are available to support 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).

This is a paid opportunity. The exact amount depends on grants and sponsorships that are yet to be confirmed as of December 2022. We will post an update as soon as we are able; in the meantime, please don't hesitate to be in touch with questions or concerns.



# WORKING WITH THE GARDENER

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Most gardens in Arts in the Garden are private, although we do have a few public spaces that participate. North Van Arts assigns artists to a garden. Artists are then put in touch with the gardener so that they can arrange a time to see the space in advance of the event. We recommend setting up this meeting no later than two weeks prior to the event, as seeing the space will help the artist decide which works to bring, how many, and how to set up. The artist will work closely with the gardener to ensure that their works are integrated into the garden, but don't harm the life growing around them. There are always at least two visual artists in the garden, which will also be shared with the musicians and performers; artists should keep this in mind when determining where to display their work, as they will need to leave room for the works of others.



# ARTISTS' ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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The visual artists are stationed in the garden for the whole event weekend, from 12pm to 5pm both Saturday and Sunday. They will set up their art throughout the garden – tucked in little corners, bushes and patches to become interspersed with the growth.

During the weekend, artists will be chatting with visitors, and staying present with their artwork to answer questions and make connections.

Artists are responsible for bringing:

- Easels, plinths, and any other supplies needed to display artwork in an outdoor space
- A chair
- A table for supplies or belongings, as needed
- A tent to protect the artist and their artwork from rain (essential!)
- Any other supplies or materials needed

Artists are also responsible for preparing an art demonstration or activity to engage visitors. Some examples include: working on an unfinished work; sketching or painting; bringing tools and materials to inspire questions about process (a good option for sculptors and glass artists); providing materials for visitors to create their own artworks.

# ARTISTS' ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES CON'T

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The intentions of these engagements are to encourage moments of connection between artists and visitors, to provide visitors with an opportunity to learn about the artists' practices, and to inspire visitors to explore their own creativity.



Please keep in mind that hands-on activities should be relatively simple, so that even someone without any art experience can complete the project within under half an hour. Also keep in mind that many children attend the event, and will likely be the most curious about participating in activities. An artist's activity or demonstration should be relatively low-maintenance for them, so that they are still able to engage with other visitors.

The artists will work with staff at North Van Arts prior to the event to finalize their demonstration / activity. It is the artists' responsibility to provide all supplies and materials for these activities; however, North Van Arts is available to help cover the costs of engagement materials.

# 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 are especially interested in working with artists whose art practice engages with the land in a thoughtful and sustainable way, or whose work responds to themes of nature, sustainability, and/or climate justice. We aim for Arts in the Garden to be a space of connection and engagement, and appreciate all forms of art that encourage or foster conversation, vulnerability and learning.

However, we truly are keen to receive applications from all who are interested in being part of the event – this theme is simply an interest, not a requirement!



# WHAT TO CONSIDER

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Before filling out an application, please consider the following:

- Will you be available to be onsite to with your artwork for the duration of the event: from 12pm-5pm (plus 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 connect with your host gardener and to tour their garden space?
- Are you within commuting distance from the North Shore, or able to be here during the event weekend?
- Is your artwork waterproof, or can it be easily moved beneath shelter in case of sudden rainfall?

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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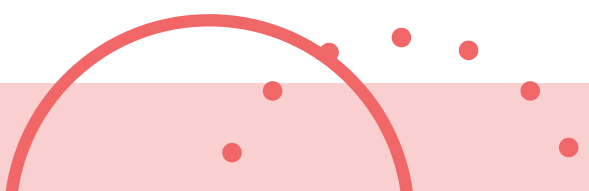


You will need a computer with internet connection to fill out the artist application form; if this is a barrier for you, please call 604-988-6844 or visit CityScape Community ArtSpace at 335 Lonsdale Avenue for assistance.

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 is broken into five sections: contact information, application, activity/demonstration, promotion information, and concluding notes. Each section is a page, with a few questions on it. As part of the application, you will need to submit the following, which we recommend you prepare prior to beginning to fill out the application form:

- An artist bio and artist statement
- Eight images of your artwork
- Information regarding how you would install your work in an outdoor space

*(continued on the following page)*



# HOW TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION CONT

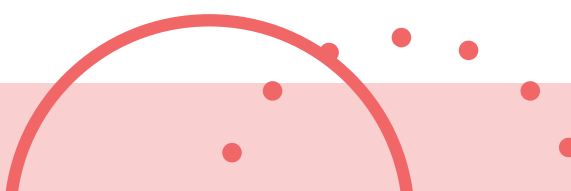
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- A description of your art activity/demonstration
- An image of your artwork that you would prefer us to use in promotional materials

Please reach out to [katherine@northvanarts.ca](mailto:katherine@northvanarts.ca) with any questions.

The application form is available online until February 22nd at the following link: <https://northvanarts.ca/call-for-artists-arts-in-the-garden-2023/>. You can receive updates regarding Arts in the Garden by subscribing to North Van Arts' e-bulletin at the bottom of the webpage linked above, or by following North Van Arts on social media (we will be posting updates on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)).



# TIMELINE

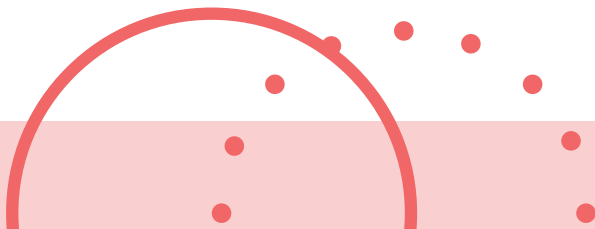
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After our call for artists closes, we will review all submissions and begin to pair artists and gardens. Here is a sense of the timeline:

- February 22th: Applications close.
- February 23rd – March 20th: We review all artist, musician and performer submissions.
- By March 25th: We contact applicants to let them know our decision regarding their application.

If, at any point during this time frame, you realize that you are no longer interested or able to participate Arts in the Garden 2023, please email [katherine@northvanarts.ca](mailto:katherine@northvanarts.ca) to let us know as soon as you are able! This will save us a great deal of time when processing applications and aiming to meet confirmation deadlines.



# TIMELINE CON'T

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If we are interested in working with you for Arts in the Garden 2023, we will be in touch by email. Therefore, please actively check both your inbox and junk mail (for the email address you provided us) during the time frame in which we will be contacting applicants (early and mid March).

If we offer you the opportunity to participate in the event, but do not hear back from you within ten days of emailing you your acceptance and contract, we will offer your place to someone else. If you are hesitating to get back to us because you have questions or need to confirm your availability, please just send a quick email to [katherine@northvanarts.ca](mailto:katherine@northvanarts.ca) to update us. We will aim to contact all applicants to let them know our decision, so if you have not heard from us yet, it may simply be because we are behind our timeline; feel free to send an email to check in, and thank you for your patience!

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.

We look forward to hearing from you!