

# **ARTS IN THE GARDEN**

## **PERFORMERS' GUIDE**



Performer: Lamondance  
Photo: 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! 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 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. 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 will assign the performers to each garden space. The performers will then be 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 performers decide where they will be performing, what they might need to bring, and to determine how much space will be available to them. The garden will also be shared with at least two visual artists and a musician or band, so the performer(s), gardener and other participants will need to work together to ensure space is distributed well.



# PERFORMERS' ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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The performance should be somewhere between fifteen and twenty minutes in duration (unless otherwise agreed upon with North Van Arts).

The musicians sharing the garden with performers will take turns performing: one band/musician is usually scheduled for the first few hours of the event, and the next for the last few hours. Both take a fifteen-minute break mid-set. The performance usually takes place either during the musicians' fifteen-minute break or during the break between bands/musicians. Performers therefore must be somewhat flexible with their timing, and able to communicate clearly and work closely with the musician(s) and others in the garden to ensure all runs smoothly and as on-schedule as possible.

Some people will come to the garden specifically to watch the performance, some will stop what they're doing to watch, and others will inevitably walk by without deeply engaging. The performance therefore will become one of the activities in the garden, along with the art, music and connections.

# 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 sə́lilwə́tał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nation and the 'Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation).

We learn from them that this land is living, and that we are in relationship with it; we strive for this to be a relationship of respect and understanding. We aim for Arts in the Garden to be a space of sharing - sharing of place, of art, of music, of knowledge - and of connection and engagement. We appreciate all forms of art that encourage or foster conversation, vulnerability and learning.

Performances that suit this event may include (but are not limited to):

- Site-specific performances that respond to place and environment – perhaps therefore involving elements of improvisation and engagement;
- Performances that have a form of story-telling incorporated, such as through dance or poetry;
- Place-based performances that work directly with the land (without disturbing or harming it, of course), including creating artworks from found materials;
- Ongoing performances, such as stilt-walking or wearable art creation.

# WHAT TO CONSIDER

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Before filling out an application, please consider the following:

- Will you be available to perform on May 25 - 26, 2024?
- Will you be around and available in the weeks prior to the event to connect with your host gardener and tour their garden space?
- Are you within commuting distance from the North Shore, or able to be here during the event weekend?
- Are you able to transport your equipment, and set up in an outdoor space?
- Are you able to perform outside, regardless of weather?
- Is your set-up and group small enough to fit in a garden space, or under limited shelter space?
- Is your work suitable and engaging for a multi-generation / all-ages setting?

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 four sections: Contact information, application, 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 or gather prior to beginning to fill out the application form:

- A bio or description of you / your group (short and longer)
- Links or files to samples of your performance
- A description of the technical, material and/or space requirements for your performance
- An image you would like us to use in promo materials

# HOW TO FILL OUT AN APPLICATION CONT

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

The application form is available online until February 12. You can receive updates regarding Arts in the Garden by subscribing to North Van Arts' newsletter at the bottom of our website ([northvanarts.ca](http://northvanarts.ca)), 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 performers closes, we will review all submissions and begin to pair performers and gardens. Here is a sense of the timeline:

- February 12: Applications close.
- Mid February: We review all artist, musician and performer submissions.
- By end of March: 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, 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, 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!