



## Request for Proposals

### ***Spring Enchantment- Fairy Doors or Creature Homes*** **Outdoor Display**

April 2024

Reiman Gardens at Iowa State University seeks proposals from creative individuals, groups or firms to design, construct, and display unique site-specific fairy doors or creature homes for its 2024 temporary outdoor display in conjunction with *Spring Enchantment*. Collaboration is acceptable and encouraged.

#### **Reiman Gardens**

One of the largest public gardens in Iowa and creating a striking entrance to Iowa State University and the city of Ames, **Reiman Gardens' mission is "to educate, enchant, and inspire an appreciation of plants, insects, and the beauty of the natural world."** Situated on a 17-acre site, the year-round facility features 26 unique garden areas with seasonal displays designed around a grand theme that changes each year.

Inside there are two large glass houses; the breathtaking Christina Reiman Butterfly Wing, holding one of the most diverse collections of live, exotic butterflies in the country; and the indoor, tropical Hughes Conservatory; both open year-round. Reiman Gardens is home to Elwood, the world's largest concrete gnome, and is one of the most unique gardens in the country available to student, faculty and staff exploration, research, and on-site learning. Key offerings also include seasonal public events, hundreds of educational programs for various audiences, and beautiful rental spaces for private events.

#### **Exhibition Description**

From Monday, April 1st – Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Reiman Gardens will bring back the outdoor exhibition of fairy doors or creature homes inspired by nature. This show will feature 15 fairy doors or creature homes designed to be site-specific and inspired by the enchantment of nature and spring.

Designers/groups will be selected through a competitive process to exhibit one of 15 fairy doors or creature homes in one of fifteen locations within Reiman Gardens' 17 acres. These structures, together with interpretive materials, will form a display to celebrate spring and to enchant all visitors to the Gardens and encourage them to explore the landscape as spring emerges.

We hope each designer or group will offer an inspiring take on the theme of spring in the form of a fairy door or creature house, with a design that gracefully integrates into the landscape in one of the fifteen locations that will be selected upon completion. Though not required, we encourage designers to consider the use of sustainable products to fabricate their structures to ensure that the project has minimal impact on the environment, and will offer additional interpretive and educational opportunities related to resource conservation.

### **Key Exhibition Messages**

To create a unique display of site-specific fairy doors or creature homes that explore the themes of spring, exploration, and discovery of the natural world.

### **Objectives**

- To inspire people with the adventure and imagination behind fairy doors/creature homes as a special place to celebrate plants, insects, and nature
- To increase awareness and understanding of public art, architecture and design
- To promote Reiman Gardens and its mission
- To educate the public about art, design, and its integration with nature
- To create and promote partnerships between other Iowa museums and art/design & cultural organizations.
- To provide a showcase for local, regional and national designers, groups, or firms.

### **Honorarium, Awards, Sales, Recognition**

Selected designers/groups will receive a \$60 honorarium (one per accepted structure) for exhibiting their work for the duration of the show. Honorarium is awarded on successful installation of Fairy Door or Creature Home.

### **Selection Process & Criteria**

The Spring Enchantment outdoor exhibition is coordinated by Reiman Gardens. To ensure the highest quality exhibition, designs will be chosen by a panel of jurors which includes representatives from Reiman Gardens' Art Collections Committee.

#### **Please consider the following criteria for the design:**

- Creativity, imagination, environmentally friendly
- Choice of weather-resistant materials which will last the life of the event (one month)
- Creative use of materials
- Connection to themes of nature and spring
- Engaging for the entire family
- Durability of structure for weather
- Flexibility to be at any chosen location in the Gardens

### **Each submitted design requires the following:**

- ❑ Please keep identifying information (firm/individual names, logos, etc.) out of all designs and supporting descriptive materials. This information should only be provided on the Application Form, so as to not be visible to the jury panel during design selection.
- ❑ Design in the form of digital rendering, schematic, architectural drawing, or other images with plan view showing scale. 3D models are welcome but not required. Hand drawings or detailed descriptions are also welcome.

Reiman Gardens reserves the right to use any and all images, renderings, and models for the promotion of the exhibition in print or electronic formats.

### **Guidelines & Responsibilities**

The health and integrity of the plant materials in our collection are vital to our mission and institution. It is necessary to protect and maintain our collections by adhering to the following guidelines for construction and installation of all outdoor structures.

- Fairy doors or creature homes must be original and suitable for outdoor display in adverse weather conditions (high winds, rain, heat, snow and freezing temperatures)
- No hot glue of any kind can be used. Epoxy glue is recommended to withstand outdoor display.
- All finished fairy doors and creature homes must be sealed (shellacked) before installation.
- Fairy doors or creature homes must be appropriate for viewing by visitors of all ages.
- Fairy doors or creature homes must be no smaller than 12'x12'(x12') and no larger than 20'x20'(x20').
- The site of the fairy door or creature home shall be chosen after consultation with, and the approval of, Reiman Gardens. A fairy door or creature home must be able to be installed on available sites, some in grassy areas, both sloping and flat. Final location is determined by Gardens' staff.
- Chosen designers/groups (hereafter referred to as "Artist(s)") are responsible for all costs, equipment, and labor necessary beyond the received stipend. The Gardens' staff will provide installation and removal assistance of treehouses.
- It is the responsibility of the Artist to deliver the fairy door or creature home to Reiman Gardens between March 15<sup>th</sup> and March 25<sup>th</sup>. After conclusion of the display, Artists may pick up their fairy door or creature home between May 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>
- The Gardens are fenced and locked nightly. Reiman Gardens is not responsible for damage of the structures due to weather, vandalism, theft, or misuse by visitors.
- The *Spring Enchantment* display will be accessible to the public daily during regular business hours 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. from April 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Reiman Gardens reserves the right to photograph and reproduce images of the fairy doors or creature homes for marketing and educational materials.
- The Gardens will promote the exhibit with planned events, Reiman Gardens' website, media releases, brochures, paid advertising and calendar listings.

Up to three entries per designer/group are accepted. An Application Form must be completed for each design. Upon notification, Artists will be required to confirm participation. Artists will receive a \$60 Honorarium (one per accepted structure) upon successful installation.

### **Exhibition Schedule**

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Request for Proposals                           | November 1, 2023  |
| Proposals Due (please use attached application) | January 15, 2024  |
| Proposal Acceptance Notification                | January 19, 2024  |
| Artist Confirmation due                         | January 29, 2024  |
| Delivery of Fairy Door or Creature Home         | March 1-25, 2024  |
| Artist Honorarium Request (after installation)  | March 26-30, 2024 |
| Exhibit Opens to the Public                     | April 1, 2024     |
| Exhibit Closes                                  | April 30, 2024    |
| Artist Pick-up                                  | May 6-10, 2024    |



### **Contact Information**

Please direct all inquiries to:

Renee Rule, Director of Guest Services and Events  
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[rrule@iastate.edu](mailto:rrule@iastate.edu)  
[www.reimangardens.com](http://www.reimangardens.com)

### **Checklist of Items Required**

- Completed application form
- Scale plan and rendering of design or photographs, with dimensions. (Electronic submissions of PDF files or jpegs will be accepted).
- General description of materials
- Description of your background and experiences
- Reference list of successful exhibits and/or projects
- Photos of past projects
- Any additional details that support your interest in this project

**Please follow this link to submit your application form:**

[https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_bjR7pXgd6vYUDqK](https://iastate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_bjR7pXgd6vYUDqK)