



## 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.

#### **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.

### **Stipend, Awards, Sales, Recognition**

Selected designers/groups will receive a \$50 stipend for exhibiting their work for the duration of the show. Payments will be sent electronically after the Fairy Door/Home has been dropped off to Reiman Gardens.

### **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

### **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.

Upon notification of selection, Artists will be required to sign an Artist Agreement. An Application Form must be completed for each design.

## **Exhibition Schedule**

Request for Proposals	November 1, 2023
Proposals Due (please use attached application)	January 31, 2024
Proposal Acceptance Notification	February 5, 2024
Signed Exhibitor Agreements due	February 15, 2024
Delivery of Fairy Door or Creature Home	March 1-25 <sup>th</sup> , 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

Iowa State University

1407 University Blvd.

Ames, Iowa 50011

Phone: 515-294-8994

[rrule@iastate.edu](mailto:rrule@iastate.edu)

[www.reimangardens.com](http://www.reimangardens.com)

## Spring Enchantment

### Exhibition Application Form

Please fill out this form and submit any additional proposal materials by the end of the day Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Either hard copy or electronic format (preferred) applications will be accepted.

#### Contact Information

Designer/Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Construction/Fabrication (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to sign a contract outlining the scope of work if my proposal is accepted.

#### Checklist of Items Required

- Completed application form (above)
- Scale plan and rendering of design or photographs, with dimensions. (Electronic submissions of PDF files or jpegs will be accepted). Email to [rrule@iastate.edu](mailto:rrule@iastate.edu) or mail to Reiman Gardens (address below).
- 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

**Email all above materials to Renee Rule at [rrule@iastate.edu](mailto:rrule@iastate.edu) or mail to Reiman Gardens, c/o Renee Rule, 1407 University Blvd., Ames, IA 50011**