



Switch Grass by Treehouse Collective, Winter Wonders 2025

## Call for Performing Artists

### Royal Botanical Gardens - Winter Wonders Installations

**Deadline for application:** Sunday, August 2, 2026 12 midnight

**Optional Site Visit:** Site visits will be held on Tuesdays and Thursday, between 10am to 2pm upon request

**Event Dates:** Preview Night November 25th, 2026  
Public Run  
November 26th, 2026 – January 3rd, 2026  
Thursday through Sunday, plus including December 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30  
26 Dates in total  
5pm to 10pm each night

Learn more about the Royal Botanical Gardens at [www.rbg.ca](http://www.rbg.ca)

To request a site visit email: [artists@rbg.ca](mailto:artists@rbg.ca)

#### About Winter Wonders:

Winter Wonders is Royal Botanical Gardens' signature winter experience attracting approximately **40,000 visitors over 5 weeks**. Guests explore illuminated outdoor trails, enjoy festive music and seasonal treats, and take in the beauty of winter landscapes throughout **Hendrie Park**. Inside, vibrant plant displays, holiday décor, and a charming model train exhibit offer warmth and wonder for all ages. It's a joyful tradition that blends nature, light, and celebration.

## What we're looking for:

To enhance the Winter Wonders experience RBG is seeking a performing arts element that helps **animate the site with live performers**. We are seeking a single organization or artist collective who can bring a sense of whimsy and energy to the **outdoor festival grounds** for the entire duration of Winter Wonders.

### The presentation should be:

- Family-friendly, engaging for a multi-generational audience
- Consists of no less than 4 performers at all times
- Include professional costumes, masks, puppets or mobile elements that add to the experience
- Vignettes, bits, characters and moments, rather than a scripted, long-format narrative
- Interactive and engaging for both individuals at an intimate level, or a spectacle for crowds from a distance

### What we don't want:

- A presentation that takes place in one space. We want a performance that goes to the people and engages the grounds of Hendrie Park
- A deeply narrative work that requires the audience to see the entire performance for it to resonate
- A presentation that requires significant technical requirements (ie. No stage, production lighting, PA system, etc.)
- Only a roving musical performance > music is welcome, but must be viewed as accompaniment, not the core performance offering

## Location:

Winter Wonders takes place in **Hendrie Park**, located directly across from the RBG Main Centre. This gated park includes multiple gardens (dormant during Winter Wonders), the [Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection](#) of 20+ permanent works from around the world, the reflecting pond, Tea House, Mitchell's Field, the historic Hendrie Gates and numerous other stunning features.

Winter Wonders includes interactive and engaging art installations, a vendor market in heated cabins, fire pits and tasty snacks, illuminated trails and photo-ops, a new curling interactive, indoor live music and thousands of twinkle lights – making Hendrie Park a stunning environment for our guests.

## Fees & Resources

**Artist Fee:** \$50,000.00 CDN

This fee is inclusive of all artist fees, transportation, accommodation as required, materials, studio and fabrication costs, insurance, licensing, technical needs, installation requirements, costumes and consumables.

Selected artists will be required to provide **proof of insurance** for the duration of the design, fabrication, and presentation period.

## Resources:

**Storage** Selected artists can store their equipment, costumes, props or other elements at the RBG for the duration of the event.

**Power** Power is available to various locations throughout the park

**On-Site Rehearsal**

The selected artists will be able to visit the site throughout the creation process, and during the technical set-up week prior to the event for rehearsal, technical testing and exploration.

## Timeline:

Deadline for application: Sunday, August 2, 2026 12 midnight

## How to apply:

To apply to the [Winter Wonders Call for Performing Artists](#), please submit the following information by visiting:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Wonders262>

**Document Formatting:** All documents should be in **12 pt font, single spaced, PDF format ONLY**

**Deadline for application: Sunday, August 2, 2026 at 5pm**

Name of Artists/Collective:

Name of Business if different:

City of Origin:

Website:

Instagram:

Tik Tok:

Facebook:

Email:

Phone:

**Artist CV:** 3-page maximum artist/collective CV outlining your experience & performance history

**Description:** 2-page maximum description of your practice and how you would approach creating a performance for Winter Wonders

**Photos:** Submit 3 photos of previous performances

**Videos:** Submit up to 3 links to videos of previous performances