

# *Call for Entries:* “Flora: Growing Inspirations”

**LOCATION:** US Botanic Garden  
245 First Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

**DATES:** May 23 – October 12, 2009

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** All applications must be received  
no later than 5:00 pm **Friday, March 13, 2009**

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PO Box 42534  
Washington, DC 20015  
202.686.8696  
[www.WashingtonSculptors.org](http://www.WashingtonSculptors.org)  
[mail@WashingtonSculptors.org](mailto:mail@WashingtonSculptors.org)



**Flora: Growing Inspirations**, an exhibition coordinated by the US Botanic Garden and the Washington Sculptors Group, will feature approximately 40 original sculptures inspired by plants. The sculptures will be displayed in two areas:

1: Outdoors as part of an exhibit of unique garden “rooms” defined by raised planting beds on the flagstone terrace surrounding the USBG Conservatory. Sculptures will be sited, at the discretion of the curators, within the raised beds or on the surface of the flagstone terrace. All applicants are encouraged to visit the Botanic Garden to see the setting.

2: Indoors in the East Gallery, a 2400 sq. ft. air conditioned space. Sculptures will be situated on the floor or on pedestals. Artists may request other installation requirements (such as wall or ceiling mounting) that may be accepted at the discretion of the curators.

**Flora: Growing Inspirations** will celebrate the place plants have long held in culture through artistic expression and symbolic representation. Essential as the energy base of all terrestrial life, plants carry out complex life processes and show remarkable diversity of form. They possess a powerful and persistent, if quiet, life force – one strong enough to buckle sidewalks, cleanse Earth’s atmosphere, support the energy needs of nearly all life forms, and bear witness to generations of human history. Contemporary artists are encouraged to draw on the fundamental strength of plants’ life force for powerful metaphors that comment on the state of modern society and individual human existence.

Artists are invited to submit digital images of their sculptural work dealing with the theme of plants for consideration of inclusion in the indoor and/or outdoor exhibit areas. The US Botanic Garden will publish a black and white catalog in conjunction with the exhibit.

## **ABOUT THE SPONSORS**

**The Washington Sculptors Group** is a volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to promoting awareness of sculpture and fostering exchanges among sculptors, sculpture enthusiasts and the public. Organized in 1984, membership has grown to over 300; WSG sponsors frequent public programs and organizes professional sculpture exhibitions juried by prominent curators. Visit [www.washingtonsculptors.org](http://www.washingtonsculptors.org) for more information about WSG membership and programs.

**The United States Botanic Garden** (USBG) is operated by the Congress of the United States. It is located in Washington, DC on the National Mall across First Street SW from the US Capitol. Annual visitation is estimated at 850,000. The newly renovated Conservatory offers the citizens of Washington and visitors from across the nation a living plant museum that interprets the importance and irreplaceable value of plants to the well-being of humans and earth’s fragile ecosystems. For more information visit: <http://www.usbg.gov>.

This is the second collaborative effort between WSG and the US Botanic Garden.

### **JURORS**

**Lillian Fitzgerald** is the Curator of the Clinical Center at the National Institutes of Health, the gallery at Health and Human Services, Smith Farm Center for Healing and the Arts, and an exhibit specialist for the US Botanic Garden. Lillian Fitzgerald serves on the board of directors for the Society for Arts in Healthcare and is the Director of Fitzgerald Fine Arts. She also works as a freelance curator and juror.

**Holly Shimizu**, Executive Director of the US Botanic Garden since 2001, has a distinguished career in public horticulture. A former host of Victory Garden and consultant to many organizations on garden design and planning, Ms. Shimizu has a strong interest in botanical art and has juried several exhibitions.

**Margaret Atwell** is gardener leader for the US Botanic Garden. She is part of a team that plans exhibits and designs the containers and the annual beds that flank the front of the US Botanic Garden Conservatory. Ms. Atwell holds a BA/BFA in Design from George Washington University.

**Nick Nelson** is the landscape architect for the US Botanic Garden. A graduate of the West Virginia University, Mr. Nelson's prior experience includes four years as a Planning and Design Assistant with Longwood Gardens. Prior to that, Mr. Nelson worked as a Project Manager with the Landscape Architecture firm of Lewis, Scully and Gionet.

**Matt King** is an assistant professor in Art Foundation and Sculpture at VCU. He received his MFA from Bard College in 2004. Prior to this he studied at the Cooper Union School of Art and he participated in the Whitney Independent Studio Program. Reviews of his work include the New York Times and Sculpture.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

All artists are eligible to submit work for consideration.

### **WORK TO BE CONSIDERED**

Artists should design a three-dimensional sculpture in any medium addressing the theme of the exhibition. All work accepted and exhibited must remain on display for the full duration of the show. Work that is not of the quality represented in the images entered may be refused at the time of installation.

### **LIMITATIONS**

- All work must be completed prior to submission of entry form. Proposals for future work or work in progress will not be accepted.
- Artists must install and de-install their own work in the exhibits with the assistance of the US Botanic Garden. The US Botanic Garden staff will designate locations for installation in both the indoor and outdoor exhibits.
- Limited space is available for work larger than approximately 4 ft. x 4 ft. x 12' h.
- Outdoor exhibit:
  - All work for the outdoor exhibit must be able to endure 6 months outside in typical Washington DC summer environment of rain, temperature extremes (50°-105°F), full sun, winds up to 70 mph, and high humidity.
  - Work that requires concrete foundations or drilling into the flagstone terrace underneath the raised beds will not be accepted.
- Indoor exhibit:
  - Work for the indoor exhibit will be in an air-conditioned museum space, illuminated by natural and artificial light. Windows are coated with UV protection.

- Space is limited for work requiring hanging from mounts or cables.
- A limited number of pedestals and vitrines are available for displaying sculptures. Please indicate your need for a vitrine or pedestal on your application form.

### **INSURANCE**

The US Botanic Garden is locked and guarded at all times. Each artwork will be insured by WSG for an amount up to \$50,000.00 with a deductible of \$250.00, payable by the artist.

### **SALES**

Work will not be advertised for sale. However, a listing of work available for purchase will be provided upon request to visitors. All discussion concerning sale of the work will be referred to the artist or their designated representative. For work sold while on display, the National Fund for the US Botanic Garden requests a 5% donation. Work sold during the exhibit may not be removed until the conclusion of the exhibit.

### **SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

Each application must be accompanied by **a completed entry form, a CD of images with accompanying statements and a SASE postcard for notification of reception of application.** Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope if the artist wants the images returned.

**DIGITAL IMAGES:** Artist should send **digital images on a CD.**

Only digital images will be accepted (see guidelines below). Artists may submit no more than three (3) entries and no more than two (2) images of each entry for a total of no more than six (6) images. Applications including more than three (3) entries or more than two (2) images per entry will not be considered.

- All images must be saved as **Jpegs (.jpg)** at **300 dpi resolution.**
- All images must be no larger than **4x6 inches and no larger than 1 mg.**
- Each image should be labeled with the artist's last name; first initial and image number 1–3 (WalkerF1, WalkerF2). If submitting two images of one work the image should be labeled with the artist's last name; first initial and image number with a and b ( WalkerF1a and Walker F1b).

### **IMAGE STATEMENTS FOR CATALOG:**

Please include a 65-word or less statement about each work suitable for the catalog. This should be in Word format (.doc) saved in a separate file on the same CD with the images. Each statement should identify which piece it relates to as listed on the Entry Form

### **EXHIBITION CALENDAR**

- **March 13, 2009** – Entries must be received by 5 pm on this date
- **March 30, 2009- April 3, 2009** - Notification of accepted artists
- **April 15, 2009- May 15, 2009** - Delivery of work- Artists will be contacted individually to arrange details of delivery and installation
- **Saturday, May 23, 2009 - Monday, October 12, 2009** - Exhibition dates
- **Thursday, May 28, 2009** – Artists' reception 5:30 – 7.30 pm
- **Tuesday, October 13, 2009** - All works must be picked up between 8 am - 5 pm- WSG and USBG are not responsible for any work left after this date

<p><b>Mail all Entries by 5 pm on March 13, 2009 to:</b> Washington Sculptors Group C/O Novie Trump 7539 Burnside Ct. Falls Church, VA 22043</p>
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