



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

VOUZIERS (FRANCE)

CZECH REPUBLIC - SLOVAKIA

OVERALL PRESENTATION

The Peace Gardens project - initiated by the Association Art & gardens – Hauts-de-France and by the First World War Centenary Partnership Program- consisted in creating around fifteen perennial gardens in 2018 and 2019 on the theme of peace in the Hauts-de-France region. This new memorial trail pay tribute to the countless deaths on French soil between 1914 and 1918, and bear witness to the number and diversity of the countries involved in this conflict.

Since 2020, with the support of the French Ministry of the Armed Forces, the association wishes to extend the Gardens of Peace to other territories in France and thus proposes new projects in the Grand Est region with the French Ministry of the Armed Forces in particular. The aim is to create a Peace Trail dedicated to the First World War and which would extend from the Belgian boundaries to the Swiss border via the Nord, the Pas-de-Calais, the Somme, the Aisne, the Oise, the Ardennes, the Marne, the Meuse, the Moselle, the Bas-Rhin and the Vosges.

GARDENS OF PEACE

18 gardens of peace have been already created or are in development.

- Le Quesnoy :
 - New-Zealander garden : Xanthe White Design
 - Belgium garden : Thomas Van Eeckhout (Racine carrée) et Mathieu Allain (Maap)
- Flesquières > JFrench-british garden : Sébastien Perret, Sandrine Verrando, James Hartley, Caroline Belette-Gleize et Vivian Jolivet
- Arras > Scottish garden : Anna Rhodes et Melissa Orr
- Notre Dame de Lorette, Ablain Saint Nazaire : French garden Elise et Martin Hennebicque
- Neuville Saint-Vaast
 - J Czech and Slovak Garden : Zuzana Nemeckova, Lenka Drevjana et Miroslava Stanekova
 - Polish Garden : Aleksandra Gierko
- Richebourg > Portuguese garden : Ricardo Gomes et Samuel Alcobia
- Vimy > J Canadian garden : Karyna Saint-Pierre, Julie Parenteau et Pierre-Yves Diehl (Collectif escargo)
- Noyelles sur Mer > Chinese Garden
- Thiepval :
 - Welsh garden : Andrew Fisher Tomlin, Dan Bowyer
 - English Garden : Helen et James Basson
- Péronne > Irish Garden : Peter Donegan et Ian Price
- Clairière de l'Armistice, Compiègne > French-German Garden : Gilles Brusset, Marc Blume et Francesca Liggieri
- Craonne, Chemin des Dames
 - German garden : Thilo Folkerts (100land)
 - Italian garden : Lorenza Bartolazzi, Luca Catalano, Claudia Clementini
 - JMoroccan garden : Karim El Achak (Atelier Kel) et Bernard Depoorter (BDP)
- Passchendaele, Belgique : French garden: Mathieu Gontier, Pierre David (Wagon Landscaping)

THE CZECHOSLOVAK BRIGADE ON THE FRONT AT VOUZIERS

From the beginning of the war, many nationals from the Czech and Slovak territories who were in France decided to join the Foreign Legion to fight alongside the allies of the triple entente. Some 300 volunteers form the first contingent of Czech soldiers to fight at the front. Many are killed in the fighting. The idea of Czechoslovak independence is gradually established in the minds of these volunteers and they are soon joined by thousands of others from around the world, including many former Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war.

The formation of an independent Czechoslovak army was ratified by decree in France on 16 December 1917. The total strength of the Czechoslovak army was 12,000 men.

At the end of June 1918, the brigade of the 21st and 22nd Czechoslovak Chasseur Regiments that had been assigned to the Vosges, won the front in Alsace. They then fought with the 53rd French infantry division in Argonne where they contributed to the victory in October after heavy fighting near the communes of Vouziers, Chestres, Vandy and Terron-sur-Aisne. The losses were heavy: 27 officers and 1157 men.

The bodies of 282 Czechoslovak soldiers, including 122 in an ossuary, are buried in the French necropolis of "Chestres" in Vouziers

A monument dedicated to Czechoslovak soldiers was erected on the upper part of the cemetery. The monument was built in 1925 to honour the memory of these combatants, it bears an epitaph in the Czech language which translates as: "In memory of the legionnaires of the 21st and 22nd Czechoslovak regiments who fell for freedom in 14-18 alongside their comrades of the Allied armies".



Vue des tombes et du monument Tchèque

THE NATIONAL NECROPOLIS OF "CHESTRES" IN VOUZIERS (ARDENNES)

The national necropolis of Chestres regroups 2,902 bodies of soldiers and civilian victims who died during the two world wars. Created in 1919 after the fighting in Vouziers in 1918, this cemetery was built from 1922 to 1935 to bring together bodies exhumed from temporary cemeteries or isolated graves located in different municipalities in the Ardennes department.

From the First World War, this necropolis brought together 2,484 French soldiers, including 1,337 in an ossuary; 110 British, 282 Czechoslovak, 124 Russian civilian prisoners, 10 Belgian civilian prisoners and 3 British.



Vue aérienne avec les parcelles cadastrales

THE PROPOSED SITE

The Czechoslovak Peace Garden is to be set up on a plot adjacent to the necropolis, near the graves of Czechoslovak soldiers, and is alongside the D946 road.

The site is on an elevated position on a hill facing the town of Vouziers. The panoramic view over the surrounding countryside, the river Aisne and Vouziers is impressive: this is the real advantage of the site. The site forms the upper part of a larger plot. This space is exposed to the wind.

Even though the slope is less steep at the top (it is almost flat in the corner next to the cemetery), the site is generally sloping.

The site does not offer any privacy today, as it is open on three sides. The D946 road which runs alongside is quite busy and the sound of cars is ever-present. Visual separation is an option.

There is only one tree, an Oak (*Quercus*), on the plot. A hedge of hornbeam (*Carpinus*) separates the site from the cemetery.

Access to the visitors' garden will be via the cemetery (to the north). For this purpose, some of the hornbeam hedge would need to be moved to enable pedestrian access and to provide a viewpoint of the landscape.



From the south-east corner of the site



From the northeast corner of the site, next to the Czech Monument

FROM DESIGN TO COMPLETION

With an eye on the future, this Garden of Peace will be testimony to the vitality of artistic creation to French-Polish friendship 100 years after the end of the First World War.

The proposed garden should take into account the specifics of the site and its technical limitations. An on-site visit, paid for by the organiser, must be carried out before the final submission of the project.

The durability of the garden must be considered. The design must take into account its evolution over time: the plantation plan must adapt to the seasons with preference given to plants requiring little maintenance (eg perennials). Natural materials will be preferred.

Seating can be included for visitors. A review of the circulation of the public, between the different spaces, should be carried out.

In terms of procurement, priority should be given to local companies.

There is no water or electricity on the site. During the works, vehicle access is possible by road, at the very bottom of the site. However, the slope between the road and the top of the site is too steep to allow direct access for trucks to the top of the site. Provision should be made therefore for the rental of a loading/unloading vehicle for the transport of materials.

The selected team will need to actively take part in the garden design; it will be essential for everyone to be present on site for at least 10 days. The team will be advised and accompanied during this design stage by the Technical Director of Art & jardins - Hauts-de-France.

Upon completion, the artists will need to provide the organizers with complete maintenance guidelines for the garden. Thereafter, the Ministry of the Armed Forces will take charge of the maintenance, through the ONACVG.



From the north-east corner of the site, inside the necropolis

CONDITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This call for projects is open to Czech and Slovak professional landscapers and architects. Mixed teams are allowed, but the team will consist of a minimum of one person of Czech nationality.

Applications can be from individuals or groups. If the application is from a group, only the expenses of two people will be covered for the periods of residency.

An understanding of English or French is important for the realization phase.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Applications will be assessed and selected by an Artists Committee with qualified specialists: landscapers, representatives of Vouziers, of the Ministry of the Armed Forces and Art & jardins - Hauts-de-France...

The Artists Committee will go through each application, rating each one according to the following criteria:

- The artistic value of the itinerary / 50%
- Whether or not the candidate took into account the theme of peace and made the best use of the natural and historical environment of the site in their letter of intent / 30%
- Technical and budgetary feasibility / 20%

CALENDAR

Application Deadline : 13 June 2021 (inclusive)

Candidates agree to the following:

- Between 20 June and early July : to visit the site
- By mid-September 2021 : to submit the final project for the garden
- By mid-November 2021 : to finalize the garden

FINANCIAL TERMS

The production budget to create the garden is a maximum of 48 000 Euros including tax. This amount is managed with the Organiser.

In addition to this amount, the organiser will bear the costs of the travel/accommodation :

- for the preparatory visit / for two person maximum
- for the project presentation / for one person maximum
- for the garden development period / for two persons maximum
- for the launch / for two persons maximum

The amount directly allocated to the landscapers is a fixed fee of 8,800 Euros including tax (VAT). This amount includes copyrights as well as design and development fees.

APPLICANT FILES

The files must be submitted in French or English.

Applicant files comprise :

- A cover letter of no longer than three pages, including a design sketch
- An up-to-date portfolio of no more than ten pages containing the applicant's general approach and accompanied by legends for a selection of works
- A curriculum vitae
- A copy of the applicant's national identification card or passport
- The completed registration form

This file must be submitted in electronic form (1 PDF document) **before the 13th of June 2021 (11:59 pm)** to the following address : **artetjardins.hdf@gmail.com**

REGISTRATION FORM - CZECH/SLOVAK GARDEN OF PEACE

This sheet must be completed and submitted with the candidature file before the 13th of June 2021 (11:59 pm)

For individual applicants :

NOM / SURNAME - Prénom / First name :

Nationalité / Nationality :

Adresse postale / Address :

Téléphone / Phone number:

E-mail address :

Site internet / Website :

For group :

Name of group :

Name of group members participants in the project :

Please list the person responsible for the group's communication at the top of the list.

NOM / SURNAME - Prénom / First name :

Nationalité / Nationality :

Adresse postale / Address :

Téléphone / Phone number:

E-mail address :

Site internet / Website :

NOM / SURNAME - Prénom / First name :

Nationalité / Nationality :

Adresse postale / Address :

Téléphone / Phone number:

E-mail address :

Site internet / Website :

NOM / SURNAME - Prénom / First name :

Nationalité / *Nationality* :

Adresse postale / *Adress* :

Téléphone / *Phone number*:

E-mail address :

Site internet / *Website* :

NOM / SURNAME - Prénom / First name :

Nationalité / *Nationality* :

Adresse postale / *Adress* :

Téléphone / *Phone number*:

E-mail address :

Site internet / *Website* :

NOM / SURNAME - Prénom / First name :

Nationalité / *Nationality* :

Adresse postale / *Adress* :

Téléphone / *Phone number*:

E-mail address :

Site internet / *Website* :