

Call for Artist Proposals

DECORATE A GNOME FOR OUR FALL EXHIBITION

Gnomevember at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill
November 1 to 30, 2022



OVERVIEW

We are seeking proposals from artistic individuals or groups who will volunteer to uniquely decorate and name one or more of our 20 concrete garden gnomes, and then return them to New England Botanic Garden to be displayed during our *Gnomevember* exhibit which takes place November 1 to 30, 2022. Each gnome is made from concrete and is 28 inches tall. A \$200 stipend per gnome, will be awarded to the artist(s).

EXHIBITION DETAILS

From November 1 to 30, 2022, New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill will debut a whimsical, family-oriented exhibition – *Gnomevember*. The exhibit will feature a display of 20 stylized gnomes created by local artists. New England Botanic Garden staff will select individuals and/or groups through a competitive process to design and decorate one of the planned 20 stylized gnomes. These gnomes, together with interpretive materials, will form an outdoor display that invites a creative addition to garden and lawn ornamentation. We hope each artist will offer a unique twist to the traditional garden gnome in a high-quality fashion.

Exhibition Goals

The goal of *Gnomevember* is to attract family audiences in search of informal education opportunities that are both whimsical and artistically inspired. The Gardens' mission is to "create experiences with plants that inspire people and improve the world." We hope that our mission will inspire applicants designs. In keeping with our mission, we are seeking imaginative artists to create garden gnomes that challenge their traditional nature. We plan to place them throughout the Gardens to encourage visitors to explore the landscape. We encourage artists to take into consideration the Garden's desire to be an inclusive, equitable, and accessible place for a diverse community to visit, and learn.

Who should I contact with questions?

Lea Morgan, Manager of Exhibitions

lmorgan@nebg.org

617.589.6111 x166

BENEFITS & RECOGNITION

Selected artists and groups will receive the following benefits and recognition:

- You will receive a \$200 stipend per decorated gnome
- Your gnome will be displayed this *Gnomevember*, with the potential of being displayed in future gnome exhibits at the Garden
- You, or your group, will be recognized on a sign placed next to your gnome, on our website, and in social media
- You will receive five free gate passes to New England Botanic Garden

SELECTION PROCESS

Once chosen, participants will be provided with an undecorated concrete gnome by the end of August. Completed gnomes are due back by the close of business October 7. Participants will be asked to pick up and drop off their gnomes at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill, 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA, between the hours of 10am and 5pm. If participants are unable to pick-up or drop-off their gnomes, an exception for special delivery can be made, by request. If you are requesting a special delivery, please note it in your proposal. The *Gnomevember* exhibit will run through the month of November. After the 2022 exhibit the gnomes will be a part of the permanent New England Botanic Garden gnome community.

Exhibition Schedule

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| • Proposals due by | August 3, 2022 |
| • Proposals chosen & participants notified | August 5, 2022 |
| • Gnome pick-up at 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA | August 15 – 19, 2022 |
| • Gnome information due (e.g., description, name, etc.) | September 15, 2022 |
| • Gnome drop-off at 11 French Drive, Boylston, MA | October 3 – 7, 2022 |
| • <i>Gnomevember</i> exhibit | November 1 – 30, 2022 |

Gnome designs should:

- Be playful and family-friendly
- Have artistic appeal for adults, with high quality craftsmanship
- Offer once-in-a-lifetime photo opportunities
- Take into consideration the Garden's mission to *create experiences with plants that inspire people and improve the world.*
- Reflect our Garden's desire to be an inclusive experience for everyone
- Be able to withstand outdoor weather conditions for up to two months
- Be recognizable as a garden gnome (abstractions are welcome, but visitors must be able to associate an abstract design with its natural counterpart without difficulty)

Competitive Requirements:

To ensure the highest quality exhibition, we are looking for artists/designers who have experience creating, or a desire to create, high quality outdoor artwork for a family audience. New England Botanic Garden staff will make the final selection of design proposals and decide which completed gnomes will be on display during *Gnomevember*. New England Botanic Garden reserves the right to use all images, renderings, and models for the promotion of the exhibition in print or electronic formats.

Construction guidelines:

- Please use **latex acrylic exterior house paint** (you don't need to use concrete paint; it just costs more).
- You can also use epoxy glue (outdoor brand) to attach things to the gnome.
- **Do not** use enamel paint, water-based paint, or oil paints (they don't bond to concrete).
- **Do not** use sealers. If you use the latex acrylic exterior house paint...that's all you need.

What do the undecorated gnomes look like?



Examples of Decorated Gnomes:





PROPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

To submit a proposal please fill out the **GNOMEVEMBER ARTIST PROPOSAL FORM** below and submit it, by email, to Lea Morgan, Manager of Exhibitions, at lmorgan@nebg.org by **July 20, 2022**. Proposals will be reviewed and chosen participants will be notified by August 1, 2022.

GNOMEVEMBER ARTIST PROPOSAL FORM

**Please submit to Lea Morgan, Manager of Exhibitions by email lmorgan@nebg.org*

Participant Contact Information

Organization/Individual Name _____

Contact person _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Proposal Details

How many gnomes are you proposing to decorate? _____

Gnome Theme(s) _____

What inspired your design? _____

Briefly describe your artistic experience: _____

Which style gnome do you want to decorate? (Circle one)



Please provide a sketch and a brief description of your proposal idea(s) in the space below: