



FLEURS DE VILLES

Artistic Talents of Local Florists and Arts and Cultural Organizations to be Showcased in Spectacular Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE Event at The Leaf in January

– With special thanks to event patron Michael Nesbitt –

For immediate release: Winnipeg, December 18, 2024 – The Assiniboine Park Conservancy (APC) is pleased to announce the line-up of local florists and arts and cultural organizations that will be featured in the upcoming **Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE** show on display at The Leaf over the course of 11 days from January 16 – 26, 2025.

“We are thrilled to bring Fleurs de Villes back to The Leaf for another exceptional showcase of floral artistry and excited to be partnering with local arts and cultural organizations to create a truly made-in-Manitoba experience,” said Gerald Dieleman, Senior Director of Horticulture, Assiniboine Park Conservancy.

Winnipeg is the first stop on the **Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE** 2025 global tour, which debuted in Miami during Women’s History Month (March 2024) and has traveled to cities through the US, Canada, and the UK. The spectacular arts-themed showcase pays tribute to extraordinary artists across diverse disciplines. Each curated show offers a unique experience, with talented florists from each city creating incredible fresh floral mannequins inspired by accomplished artists, cultural organizations, and vibrant art scenes around the world.

The event at The Leaf will feature 15 one-of-a-kind fresh floral mannequins created by local floral designers. Taking inspiration from 15 curatorial partners representing Manitoba’s vibrant arts and cultural scene, each florist will create a unique floral masterpiece, culminating in a fresh, dynamic, and truly engaging cultural story-telling experience set in the visually stunning surroundings of the Mediterranean Biome and Babs Asper Display House at The Leaf.

This incredible showcase of floral artistry takes visitors on a floral journey of discovery, featuring mannequins inspired by upcoming performances from the Manitoba Opera, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, as well as the striking architecture of the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the Winnipeg Art Gallery’s renowned collection, and more.

During the event, Leaf visitors are invited to vote for their favourite floral mannequin for a chance to win a luxury one-night stay at Fairmont Winnipeg and the Ultimate Winnipeg Arts Package: 4 tickets each to 15 must-see arts and cultural experiences. The **Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE** experience continues at Fairmont Winnipeg, where another stunning floral mannequin will be on display, drawing inspiration from the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

The full list of local florists and curatorial partners includes:

- **Manitoba Children's Museum** mannequin created by Posh Pampas
- **Folklorama** mannequin created by Fache Florals + Buffy Handel
- **Leo Mol Sculpture Garden** mannequin created by Geranium Lake Botanicals
- **Manitoba Chamber Orchestra** mannequin created by McDiarmid Flowers
- **Manitoba Museum** mannequin created by Meraki Fiori
- **Manitoba Opera** mannequin created by Academy Florist
- **Manitoba Theatre for Young People** mannequin created by Petals Flowers and Gifts
- **Prairie Theatre Exchange** mannequin created by Osborne Florist
- **Royal Canadian Mint** mannequin created by The Floral Merchant
- **Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre** mannequin created by Silver Heights Florist
- **Royal Winnipeg Ballet** mannequin created by Bloom Floral Creative
- **Canadian Museum for Human Rights** mannequin created by Oak & Lily
- **Winnipeg Art Gallery** mannequin created by The Camel Studio
- **Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra** mannequin created by Juniper Jayne Creative
- **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** mannequin at The Leaf created by Addison Taylor Floral Design
- **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra** mannequin at Fairmont Winnipeg created by Flora Culture

"At the heart of the Fleurs de Villes brand is a deep appreciation for art and a commitment to elevating floristry as an art form like none other," said Karen Marshall, Fleurs de Villes Co-founder. "With this vision in mind, our show Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE not only speaks to our origins, but also celebrates the universal love for the arts and their extraordinary capacity to bring people together and unite the world around us. We are delighted to be returning to The Leaf at Assiniboine Park for our second Winnipeg show, and to be collaborating with Manitoba arts and cultural organizations to inspire new floral art forms."

Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE at The Leaf was made possible with support from event patron Michael Nesbitt and our mannequin partners: Thor Plumbing & Heating Ltd., James Cohen O.M. & Linda McGarva-Cohen, Tannis M. Richardson, C.M., LL.D, Fairmont Winnipeg, and an anonymous donor. Floral wholesale partner Petals West will supply the most beautiful varieties of fresh cut flowers to the florists to bring their creative visions to bloom.

Tickets to see **Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE** and explore the biomes at The Leaf can be purchased in advance online or in person at The Leaf. Tickets are date and time specific. Due to capacity limitations and the anticipated popularity of this event, visitors are strongly encouraged to purchase their **Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE** tickets in advance to avoid disappointment. More information about the event can be found on the Assiniboine Park Conservancy [website](#).

See attached backgrounder for more information about Fleurs de Villes, The Leaf, and the mannequins that will be on display.

Digital assets (high-resolution images and video) from ARTISTE shows at other locations can be accessed [HERE](#).

For interviews and information requests please contact:

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BACKGROUNDER

Fleurs de Villes ARTISTE at The Leaf

January 16-26, 2025

About Fleurs de Villes

Founded in 2015 by lifestyle and media experts Tina Barkley and Karen Marshall, Fleurs de Villes (flowers of the cities) is a Vancouver, Canada based luxury brand specializing in bespoke fresh-floral experiences and activations. Champions of experiential marketing in the form of large-scale floral installations, Fleurs de Villes is a floral story-teller, bringing to bloom brand legacies through flowers. Gardens, venues, and shopping districts come to life through fresh-floral place-making and retail engagement, plus collaborations with some of the world's biggest luxury brands and entertainment franchises. Fleurs de Villes has produced more than 115 unique luxury floral shows, uniting over 1100 floral artists in major destinations across Canada, the United States, England, Scotland and Australia. For more information, please visit fleursdevilles.com.

About The Leaf

Located in Winnipeg's historic Assiniboine Park and surrounded by approximately 30 acres of gardens and greenspace, The Leaf is the most significant horticultural development undertaken in Canada in the past 25 years. The attraction features state of the art engineering and stunning architecture designed to create a transcendent visitor experience and optimal growing conditions for thousands of trees, shrubs, flowers, and other plant life flourishing in four indoor biomes: Hartley and Heather Richardson Tropical Biome, Mediterranean Biome, Babs Asper Display House, and Shirley Richardson Butterfly Garden. Visitor amenities include event and banquet facilities, indoor and outdoor programming spaces, a gift shop, coffee bar, and new restaurant called Gather Craft Kitchen & Bar. Through horticultural and interpretive displays, education programs, on-site engagement, and special events, The Leaf explores the human connection with nature and the role plants play in shaping our communities and cultures.

About the Mannequins

Manitoba Children's Museum mannequin created by Posh Pampas

Inspired by the Children's Museum's [Illusion Tunnel](#), a visually iconic exhibit that uses optical illusions and bold patterns to challenge visitors' perceptions of reality.

Folklorama mannequin created by Fache Florals + Buffy Handel

Inspired by traditional Indigenous Hoop Dance, a sacred aspect of storytelling, rituals and ceremonies, that has been practiced by Indigenous people for centuries.

Leo Mol Sculpture Garden mannequin created by Geranium Lake Botanicals

Supported by an anonymous donor

Inspired by the artistic beauty and stunning natural setting of the [Leo Mol Sculpture Garden](#) at Assiniboine Park.

Manitoba Chamber Orchestra mannequin created by McDiarmid Flowers

Inspired by the upcoming concert [Lullaby of the Snow](#), featuring Winnipeg musician Allen Harrington, one of Canada's finest wind players.

Manitoba Museum mannequin created by Meraki Fiori

Supported by James Cohen O.M. & Linda McGarva-Cohen

Inspired by the museum's Planetarium, a beloved local landmark that captivates visitors with awe-inspiring shows and presentations of the wonders of the night sky.

Manitoba Opera mannequin created by Academy Florist

Supported by Elba Haid and Deborah Thorlakson, O.M.

Inspired by [La Bohème](#), presented by Manitoba Opera in April 2025, a timeless coming-of-age tale of love and loss set in 19th-century Paris.

Manitoba Theatre for Young People mannequin created by Petals Flowers and Gifts

Inspired by the vibrant world of Manitoba Theatre for Young People (MTYP), this floral mannequin celebrates the joy, imagination, and culture of its young performers.

Prairie Theatre Exchange mannequin created by Osborne Florist

Inspired by the upcoming production of [A Killing at La Cucina](#), a darkly witty murder mystery reminiscent of the *Knives Out* franchise, by PTE's own former artistic director, Thomas Morgan Jones.

Royal Canadian Mint mannequin created by The Floral Merchant

Inspired by the Royal Canadian Mint's special commemorative coins, which encourage Canadians to learn about and engage with their nation and its shared history.

Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre mannequin created by Silver Heights Florist

Inspired by Royal MTC's production of [Indecent](#) by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Paula Vogel, an arresting play about forbidden love, artistic censorship, and the enduring power of theatre.

Royal Winnipeg Ballet mannequin created by Bloom Floral Creative

Supported by Tannis M. Richardson, C.M., LL.D

Inspired by Val Caniparoli's [A Cinderella Story](#), an inventive reinterpretation of the fairy tale favourite which fuses classical ballet with jazz and tap to themes from Richard Rodgers' songbook

Canadian Museum for Human Rights mannequin created by Oak & Lily

Inspired by the striking architecture designed by renowned architect Antoine Predock, who envisioned the museum as a unifying symbol of inclusion, freedom, equality, and dignity.

Winnipeg Art Gallery mannequin created by The Camel Studio

Supported by Thor Plumbing & Heating

Inspired by *Large Bird of the Sun* by Kenojuak Ashevak, from the Winnipeg Art Gallery's renowned collection.

Winnipeg Jazz Orchestra mannequin created by Juniper Jayne Creative

Inspired by the WJO's annual International Women's Day concert, honouring the legacy and influence of women in jazz - composers, instrumentalists, singers, dancers, and educators - who have shaped the genre throughout history.

Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra mannequin created by Addison Taylor Floral Design

Supported by Fairmont Winnipeg

Inspired by the WSO May 2025 concert [Celebrating Gwen Hoebig](#); this tribute honours the long-serving Concertmaster, showcasing her exceptional talent and remarkable musical legacy.

Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra mannequin at Fairmont Winnipeg, created by Flora Culture

Supported by Fairmont Winnipeg

Inspired by the WSO February 2025 concert [Brahms & Tchaikovsky](#), featuring renowned conductor and WSO Music Director, Daniel Raskin.