

## **New *Cool Gardens* Display Opens Today at The Leaf**

**For immediate release:** Winnipeg, June 6, 2025 – The biomes at The Leaf will re-open today after a scheduled closure during which the Babs Asper Display House was transformed for the summer. The new *Cool Gardens at The Leaf* display will run from June 6 to September 7 and feature two unique works of art, which can be enjoyed indoors in the Babs Asper Display House and outside in the Sensory Garden.

[Cool Gardens](#), presented by Storefront Manitoba, is a design competition and public exhibition that invites local and international teams of artists and designers to create innovative, engaging, and accessible landscape art installations. 2025 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> and largest edition to date, with new installations at locations across Winnipeg, including Assiniboine Park.

### **PAIRIDAEZA**

Created By: Yasaman Kashani, Madeleine Dafoe, and Calvin Tan  
Location: indoors, Babs Asper Display House at The Leaf

Suspended high above visitors in the Babs Asper Display House, PAIRIDAEZA explores waste, reuse, and materiality, inspired by images of garbage caught in fishing nets during ocean clean-ups.

Constructed from recycled materials diverted from landfills, the structure features a geometric layout inspired by Persian gardens, which symbolize paradise, a juxtaposition to the materiality of the structure. The design emphasizes the symmetry and vibrant colours characteristic of these gardens, often reflected in the motifs of Persian carpets.

PAIRIDAEZA underscores the vital role that designers play in giving new life to reused and recycled materials. By imbuing discarded materials with new form and function, we can transform it into something magical. What was once destined for the landfill is transformed into a colourful mosaic, reminiscent of a garden of paradise.

### **Petals in Perspective**

Created By: Noah Shotton, Gavin Buhler, Bayan Shaeri, and Owen Tintor  
Location: outdoors, Sensory Garden at The Leaf

Perceptual art is a style of art meant to engage movement and encourage viewers to fully uncover the content. Petals in Perspective invites viewers to move around the Sensory Garden and discover flower pieces that appear whole when viewed from a particular position.

The installation highlights two plant species native to Manitoba: the prairie crocus, Manitoba's provincial flower, and the endangered western spiderwort. In the shadow of The Leaf and the presence of the Sensory Garden, these structures stand tall, emphasizing the importance of these plant species.

Petals in Perspective prompts viewers to question their decisions concerning habitat loss, while offering a playful way to create awareness about these flowers, the spiderwort's endangerment, and plant life cycles more broadly.

-2-

“Public art has always had a place here at Assiniboine Park. It inspires curiosity, sparks conversation, and connects people to their surroundings,” said Laura Cabak, Director of Communications & Public Relations, Assiniboine Park. “We are excited to partner with Storefront Manitoba to bring the Cool Gardens experience to The Leaf and to share these creative and meaningful works of art with Park visitors.”

The *Cool Gardens at The Leaf* installation in the Babs Asper Display House is included with regular Leaf admission. Admission is not required to view the installation in the Sensory Garden. Hours of operation and other helpful information can be found at [assiniboinepark.ca](http://assiniboinepark.ca).

-30-

**For interviews and information requests, please contact:**

Laura Cabak

Director, Public Relations & Communications

Cell: 204-795-0091 | Email: [lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca](mailto:lcabak@assiniboinepark.ca)