



FUKUOKA FLOWER SHOW

SUN **22** - THU **26** MARCH 2026
Fukuoka Botanical Garden

Garden Contest

Application Guidelines

Application deadline : Tuesday 23 September 2025



Photo : Fukuoka Flower Show Pre-Event

About the Contest

We are calling for participants in the garden contest at the Fukuoka Flower Show 2026, which will be held in March 2026. This contest is an international-level garden competition judged according to entry requirements and criteria based on the world-renowned Chelsea Flower Show. Five entries selected through a document screening will be exhibited in a special area within the venue, and awards will be given based on onsite judging. After the exhibition ends, the works will be relocated around the city to be considerate of the environment and to spread flowers and greenery throughout the town. We are seeking vibrant, uplifting works that enrich people's lives with flowers and greenery, bringing colour and vitality to the city. We sincerely look forward to receiving applications from people all over the world.

About the Contest

Garden Design Requirements

After the exhibition, each garden is expected to be permanently relocated within Japan. Please design and construct the garden as a permanent installation intended for a site in Japan.

Submissions must be based on the needs of a specific client—such as the company or sponsor at the planned relocation site. If no actual client is available, applicants may assume a fictional client and develop a design that reflects their hypothetical requirements.

Production Grants (Tax Included)

To support the cost of garden creation, the following grants will be provided:

◆ Garden Designers

Domestic applicants: up to ¥1,500,000 (Eligible expenses: transportation and accommodation – up to ¥500,000, design fee and labor cost – up to ¥1,000,000)

Overseas applicants: up to ¥2,500,000 (Eligible expenses: transportation and accommodation – up to ¥1,500,000, design fee and labor cost – up to ¥1,000,000)

◆ Construction Companies

Up to ¥5,000,000

(Eligible expenses: construction, plant procurement, materials, labor cost, etc.)

◆ Maximum Total Grant Per Garden

¥7,500,000

- The Secretariat can introduce local construction companies upon request.
- Details regarding payment will be provided after the selection of finalists.
- In addition to the grant, participants are welcome to receive financial or material support from their sponsors to complete their garden.

Garden Relocation

If a relocation site has not been determined at the time of application, the Secretariat can assist with identifying and coordinating a suitable site.

In the event that no relocation site is confirmed by the end of the exhibition period, the Secretariat will take custody of the garden and continue efforts to secure a relocation site on your behalf.

Further details will be provided after the selection of finalists.

Judging Criteria and Awards

Judging Process

1. Document Screening

Submitted drawings and application materials will be reviewed, and five finalists will be selected based on the evaluation.

2. Onsite Judging

Finalists' gardens will be judged during the exhibition based on the following criteria:

- ◆ **Realisation of Client's Brief** Clarity, Delivery
- ◆ **Impact** Ambition, Atmosphere, Flair, Ingenuity, Theatre
- ◆ **Overall Impression** Attention to detail, Choice of Materials, Polish & Dressing
- ◆ **Design and Layout Plan** 2D, Dimensions, Scale, Unity
- ◆ **Design – 3D and Spatial Composition** Scale, Mass & Void, Volume, Balance
- ◆ **Construction** Quality of Build & Finish
- ◆ **Planting Design** Visual Impact, Composition, Colour, Texture, Form, Plant Selection, Appropriate Size of Plants, Suitability to Brief.
- ◆ **Planting Associations** Sustainability, Cultural Requirements
- ◆ **Planting Implementation** Quality, Density, Believability, Execution

Awards

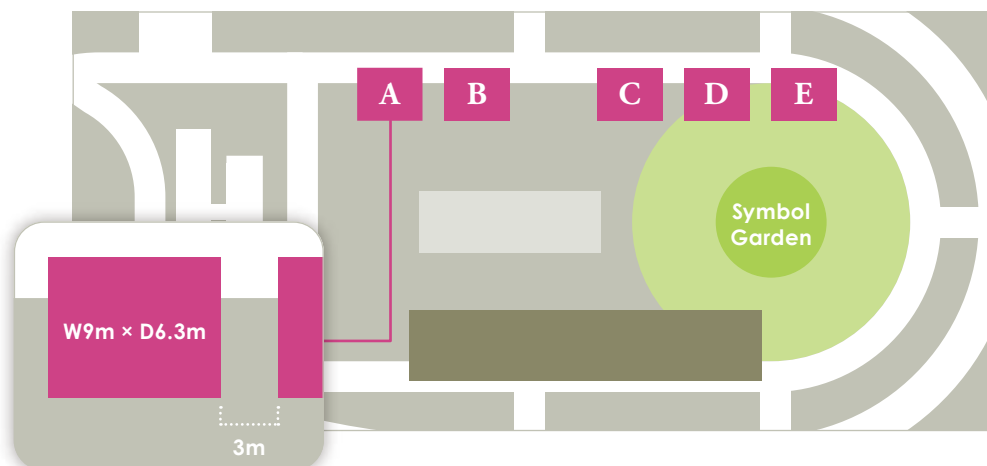
- ◆ Awarded gardens will receive one of the following honors:
Gold Medal, Silver Gilt Medal, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal
- ◆ Additional awards include:
 - People's Choice Award Selected by public vote
 - Best Construction Award Given for excellence in craftsmanship and construction techniques
- ◆ Award recipients may also receive the following support:
 - Feature articles in newspapers, magazines, and broadcast media
 - Business and promotional matchmaking to support future activities

Judging Panel (Tentative)

The panel will consist of three garden experts from Japan and abroad. Expected members include a judge recommended by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) and Keiko Yoshiya, a garden designer and official "One Citizen, One Flower" ambassador of Fukuoka City.

Garden Specifications

Gardens will be constructed in a designated outdoor space within the Fukuoka Botanical Garden.



- ◆ **Size:** W9mxD6.3m (56.7 m²), flat surface consisting of artificial turf and compacted soil. Use stones or logs to secure soil edges.
- ◆ **Placement:** The exact location of each garden will be determined by the Secretariat, taking the overall venue balance into consideration.
- ◆ **Ground Conditions:** Artificial turf and stabilized soil paving. Excavation is not permitted—gardens must be built using raised beds.
- ◆ **Plot Features:** Some plots may contain artificial turf, curbstones, or gratings. Please adjust for unevenness as needed.
- ◆ **Height Restrictions:** For safety, the maximum height of all garden elements—including plants, panels, and lighting—is approximately 3.6 meters. If exceeding this limit or raising safety concerns, please consult the Secretariat in advance.
- ◆ **Accessibility:** If visitors are allowed to enter the garden, accessible pathways must be at least 90 cm wide.
- ◆ **Background:** Natural wooded areas will serve as scenic backdrops. Designs should consider views from the front and both front-side angles.
- ◆ **Safety Measures:** Secure any structures or features that could fall or tip over. Consider anti-theft and plant protection measures.
- ◆ **Lighting:** Nighttime illumination is required. Please ensure your garden remains visually appealing after dark.
- ◆ **Ground Protection:** Basic ground protection (e.g., surface covering and padding) will be provided by the Secretariat. Depending on your layout and construction method, please apply additional protection as necessary to prevent damage to the surface.

Power Supply (Lighting & Water Pumps)

- ◆ **Maximum Power Capacity**
Up to 500W per garden during the exhibition period.
- ◆ **Lighting**
Nighttime illumination is mandatory until 9:00 PM during the exhibition (until 5:00 PM on the final day).
• Use LED or similar low-heat, water-resistant lighting. Avoid contact with flammable materials.
- ◆ **Pump Use**
• Must be a recirculating system.
• Design the electrical system to stay within the 500W limit, with separate circuits for equipment used during the day (e.g. pumps) and equipment used at night (e.g. lights).
Each circuit should be able to be switched on or off manually as needed.
- ◆ **Temporary Power Supply During Construction**
During the construction period, participants may use the venue's existing maintenance power line, which has a total capacity of 1,500W shared among all five gardens. High-consumption devices such as hair dryers are not permitted.

Maintenance and Site Restoration

- ◆ **Maintenance During Exhibition:** From completion to the end of the event, each participant or team is responsible for maintaining their garden.
- ◆ **Post-Exhibition Maintenance:** Maintenance, after the event until relocation is completed, will be coordinated with the participant and team based on their preferences.
- ◆ **Site Restoration:** All gardens must be dismantled and the site returned to its original condition after removal.
- ◆ **Support:** Up to ¥500,000 (tax included) will be provided to assist with maintenance and site restoration during the exhibition period.

How to Apply

Please complete and submit the required information via the application form.

Application Form URL: <https://forms.gle/SeTUfR4GSUSXTZaq5>

General Details

Include your contact details, background, past awards, and portfolio of relevant work. If a construction company has already been selected, please provide its details as well.

Sponsor's Details

If a sponsor has been confirmed, please include their information.

Garden Legacy

Whether or not a relocation site is secured will not affect the results of the document screening.

Garden Design Proposal

Submit the following documents and visual materials:

*Please use A-series formats (e.g., A3) in landscape layout for all submitted drawings. Equivalent sizes are acceptable if A-series paper is not available in your country.

Layout Plan (Basic Design Drawing)

A top-view layout showing plantings and structures, with scale, orientation, and legend. Hand-drawn or digital formats are both acceptable.

Section and Positioning Drawings (Elevation View)

Show slopes, raised beds, foundation depths, reference points, centerlines, and key dimensions. Sketches with simple dimension lines are acceptable.

Rendered Perspective Image

A visual representation of the completed garden. Hand-drawn or digital formats are both acceptable.

Plant List

Include names, characteristics, and intended uses of the plants to be used.

Downloadable Format Template <https://convention.box.com/s/xplyb0ll37na0bqi12lmx8zigqba90i>

Client's Brief

Create your design in response to the request of a real or fictional client (e.g., relocation site host or sponsor). Include details such as the client's profile, intentions, installation site, concept, design objectives, and key features.

Cost Estimate

To verify feasibility, please submit a budget plan. For overseas applicants who need an introduction to a construction company within the city, the contest secretariat can arrange one. Because coordination takes time, please contact us as early as possible.

Sustainability

Describe how your design and construction plan consider environmental sustainability. Please refer to page 6 of the guidelines for sustainability requirements.

Schedule

* All time indicated are Japan standard time (JST).

- ◆ Application Opens Tuesday 5 August 2025
- ◆ Application Deadline Tuesday 23 September 2025
- ◆ Notification of Results Monday 6 October 2025
- ◆ Construction Period Thursday 5 March 2026 – Friday 20 March 2026
- ◆ Exhibition Period Sunday 22 March 2026 – Thursday 26 March 2026
- ◆ Post-Exhibition Display Gardens will remain on display until relocation is completed.
Final exhibition date: No later than Wednesday 6 May 2026

Contact

Fukuoka Flower Show Contest Secretariat

Email: fukuokaflowershowcontest@gmail.com

Terms and conditions of application

Applicants for the Fukuoka Flower Show 2026 Garden Contest (hereinafter “applicants”) must read the following carefully and apply only if they agree to these terms. By submitting an application, you are deemed to have agreed to the terms and conditions below; if you do not agree, you cannot apply.

Important notes

- Once you have applied, you cannot cancel your application without the consent of the secretariat.
- If a dispute arises between the applicant and a third party in connection with the application, the applicant must resolve the dispute at their own responsibility and expense; the secretariat accepts no responsibility.
- The secretariat assumes no responsibility for any damage incurred by the applicant or a third party in connection with the application.
- Applicants (or their organisations) must not be, nor in future become, members of or associated with organised crime groups, their members, quasimembers, corporate racketeers or other antisocial forces as defined in the Fukuoka City Exclusion of Organised Crime Groups Ordinance (enforced July 1, 2010).
- The contest content, schedule, application terms and requirements specified on the secretariat's official website may be changed if the secretariat deems it necessary. The secretariat may make such changes by posting them on the official website or by notifying applicants individually, without obtaining individual consent. The changed content will apply from the earlier of (a) the time it is posted on the official website or (b) the time an individual notification is received by the applicant.
- The secretariat will not answer any inquiries about the judging process.
- All expenses incurred in connection with the application must be borne by the applicant.
- The right to participate in the contest cannot be transferred to a third party.
- Even after you have been selected to participate in the contest, if you are found not to meet the application terms or requirements specified on the secretariat's official website, your participation may be revoked.
- If an applicant violates the application terms or requirements specified on the secretariat's official website, or causes damage to the secretariat for reasons attributable to the applicant, the applicant must compensate the secretariat for that damage.
- When bringing in, removing or preparing to remove equipment or materials for construction, take adequate safety measures and strive to prevent hazards to visitors. Please follow the instructions of onsite staff.
- Construction and maintenance must be carried out during the periods specified by the secretariat.
- Participants are responsible for maintaining their gardens from completion until the end of the exhibition period.
- If, after the garden is completed and before it is removed, you must withdraw from the contest for unavoidable reasons, the constructed garden will thereafter be managed by the secretariat.
- Documents and data submitted at the time of application will not be returned.
- If the applicant is a minor, please apply with the consent of a guardian.

Use of applicants' documents and photos

- The design drawings, layout plans, snapshots and photos of the completed garden submitted at the time of application may be used by the secretariat, on the Fukuoka City website, on official social media and in other printed or promotional materials. Photos and videos may be edited or processed, and individual notification will not be given.
- The secretariat may change or remove all or part of a garden, or take other measures it deems necessary, in the following cases:
 - The exhibition period has ended.
 - It is necessary for safety or sanitary management.
 - The applicant violates the application terms or the requirements set out on the secretariat's official website.
 - In other cases deemed necessary by the secretariat.

Prohibited acts

- The following acts are prohibited when applying for this contest. If the secretariat determines that an applicant has carried out or is likely to carry out any of the following acts, the secretariat may cancel the application or award, or remove the work, without prior notice:
 - Acts that interfere with the operation of the contest.
 - Acts that interfere with the applications of other applicants.
 - Acts that infringe the honor, social credibility, privacy, portrait rights, publicity rights, copyrights or other intellectual property rights, or any other rights (including those prescribed by law and those recognized by precedent) of others.
 - Acts that slander, threaten or harass third parties or cause them damage or discomfort.
 - Acts for the profit of oneself or a third party, or acts intended to prepare for such profit.
 - Acts that are contrary to public order or common decency.
 - Other acts equivalent to the above or acts deemed inappropriate for this contest by the secretariat.

Disclaimers and other provisions

- If the secretariat determines that an applicant is in violation of these terms, it may take measures such as canceling the application or withdrawing an award, and the secretariat will not be liable for any resulting damage incurred by the applicant.
- During construction, each participant is responsible for their own belongings; the secretariat is not responsible for any damage, theft or loss of belongings.
- Please note that this contest may be changed or canceled without notice. The secretariat is not responsible for any damages or compensation arising from changes or cancellation.
- Any disputes or damages that occur between an applicant and a third party arising from the applicant's work, or other matters not attributable to the secretariat, must be resolved by the applicant at their own responsibility; the secretariat will not be liable. Applicants are advised to take out insurance or other measures as necessary.

Handling of personal information

- Personal information provided by applicants will be used only for the operation and notification of the Fukuoka Flower Show. For award recipients, names, organisation names and portraits (such as face photographs) will be used for publication at exhibition sites and in various media.
- For details on how personal information is handled, please refer to Fukuoka City's official website :
<https://www.city.fukuoka.lg.jp/sub/kojinjyohou.html>

Sustainability

Design and construction must consider long-term sustainability and relocation by addressing the following:

- Waste reduction, reuse, and recycling (e.g. designing to minimise waste, including simple compost facilities, and reusing discarded materials)
- CO² emission reduction (e.g., efficient transportation, renewable energy use)
- Biodiversity (e.g., Select plants suited to the environment and provide habitats that support a diversity of species.)
- Sustainability in maintenance (e.g., ease of replanting/watering, use of permeable materials, shade planning)