

From: joannerosen2@gmail.com,

Subject: Invitation to participate in a fun new event - Chelsea Fringe - Seattle Satellite! Deadline April 30

Date: Mon, Mar 14, 2022 10:36 am

A message from Gayle Harris and Marilee Ahalt:

Seattle Garden Club has been invited by local organizer, Sue Nevler (a Miller Garden Trustee) to participate in the Chelsea Fringe - Seattle Satellite. Chelsea Fringe is part of the London Chelsea Flower Show that occurs every May, and thousands of people participate.

This will be the first time Chelsea Fringe will have a satellite in North America. Sue is pulling together local artists, writers and garden aficionados to participate in this event, and has invited Seattle Garden Club members to join the fun and showcase our talents in decorating umbrellas. The deadline for participation is April 30.

Here is an overview of the event and how to participate:

Globally, gardeners know of the famed Royal Horticultural Society's annual **Chelsea Flower Show**, a tradition held in London in May for 109 years. Less well known is the **Chelsea Fringe**, a spontaneous, lively, simultaneous offshoot of the Show now in its 11th year. It's a creative, non-commercial horticulturally related, broadly artistic series of community events. Ten years ago, Seattle writer Marty Wingate wrote of this event in Pacific Horticulture. <https://www.pacifichorticulture.org/articles/chelsea-fringe/> It occurred to Sue that this year would be an especially good time for Seattle to participate given the theme is Wild and Natural Spaces. Exhibits will feature naturalistic plantings, wildflowers, sustainability, biodiversity, all topics of importance here.

Sue corresponded with Fringe organizers to inquire if it would be possible for Seattle to enter as a **Chelsea Fringe Satellite** venue in 2022. They immediately responded that there have never been any North American participants and they would welcome us, so Sue decided to coordinate a city-wide surprise Seattle Satellite, hoping to be the first ever in North America, and to make a resounding Seattle statement.

Members of the Seattle Garden Club can join in this effort by decorating umbrellas with garden, botanical, floral, edible, or natural artistic decorations that follow the stated theme of the show: Wild and Natural Spaces.

The umbrellas can be small, large, modest or magnificent! Size and materials can be of your choice and inspiration. Ferns, bark, dried flowers, grasses, painted, or collage are all acceptable, and the theme may prompt new ideas. Take your picture with your umbrella in your garden (or your favorite Seattle public garden or park) and send it to Gayle Harris: gaylegharris@gmail.com by April 30.

Umbrellas will be displayed live in Wisteria Hall at the Washington Park Arboretum on May 25th and 26th for visitors to enjoy. I hope you will consider displaying yours, and we will provide a drop off time closer to the event.

Please email Gayle if you would like to participate and let her know if you would like your umbrella to be displayed.

There are close to 20 other related events being organized as well. A small sample:

- Local author Marty Wingate and others will read her Chelsea Flower Show Murder Mystery "Bluebonnet Betrayal" at the Miller Library
- Artists Curtis Steiner, David Traylor, Anna McCrea, Laura Brodax are mounting installations
- Miller Garden Director Richie Steffen is creating a Fern Table in the Arboretum
- Author, artist Lorene Edwards Forkner is posting color meditations on Instagram
- UWBG is hosting a Treasure Hunt at the UW Farm
- Photographs highlighting the Arboretum collections, film efforts, garden personality photographs, and other events are also happening.

This is a unique opportunity to advance Seattle's horticultural voice in the world and to help put Seattle on the global horticultural map in a creative, light-hearted, but thoughtful way, advancing the spread of horticultural knowledge and responsible practice in many forms.

We will continue to share information and provide updates as they become available.

Meanwhile, pull out an old umbrella from the back of the closet and let your creativity flow!