



## Call for Design Proposals

### SUKKOT: THE HOLIDAY OF INGATHERING

The Jewish Museum and Archives of BC along with the Grandview Woodland Food Connection are pleased to present the inaugural Britannia Sukkot Festival in October 2017.

Sukkot is the Jewish harvest festival, held each autumn to celebrate the bounty of nature and the giving of the Torah by God to the Jewish people. To commemorate this holiday, Jewish families build temporary outdoor shelters (sukkahs), where they dine with family and friends each evening for a week. These temporary shelters remind us of the impermanence of our possessions and harken back to the 40 years the Jewish people wandered through the desert following their emancipation from slavery in Egypt.

Sukkot expresses universal themes of harvest celebration, cultural identity, human vulnerability, and community building. The Britannia Sukkot Festival will bring together diverse community members from all backgrounds to feast and share in both a Jewish Sukkot and Coast Salish-led ceremonies in the spirit of cross-cultural sharing, learning, and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples and as part of the city wide Sustenance Festival 2017. (<http://sustenancefestival.ca/>)

### INVITATION TO ARTIST COLLABORATION

At the heart of these festivities will be a community feast, along with a sukkah designed to welcome and provide a respite from city life.

Designers, artists, and architects of all cultures are invited to submit designs to build this sukkah. Submissions will be accepted from both teams and individuals, with special consideration given to submissions by Coast Salish designers and artists.

The sukkah will be publicly accessible throughout the seven days of Sukkot, where community members will be invited to share tea and food, meditation and reflection.

## SITE

Britannia Community Centre is a 17.04 acre facility shared with Britannia Schools in East Vancouver. Its vision is to be a catalyst for social connection, capacity building and integration of services, while also celebrating diversity, and enhancing the life and well-being of everyone who lives, works and plays in the Grandview Woodland community.

Public programming for the Britannia Sukkot Festival will occur in the Carving Pavilion, located within this large community space. The sukkah will be constructed adjacent to the Carving Pavilion, in a green space bounded by Britannia High School, Britannia Pool, and Britannia Ice Rink.

## PROGRAM

A successful sukkah should heighten our awareness of our relationship to nature. While the structure must be strong enough to endure a full week of Vancouver weather, the themes of fragility, impermanence, and community should be evident and inform the design.

Sukkahs are typically constructed following specific kosher design elements, some of which are described below. Apart from these elements, we encourage creative sukkah design. Check out [www.sukkahcity.com](http://www.sukkahcity.com) for some widely creative sukkahs (keeping in mind that some are complex and expensive designs).

Designs must also adhere to the following criteria:

### Base

- The sukkah should occupy a footprint no larger than 10 x 10 feet. It does not need to fill the full space, but should provide sufficient space for a small group to gather inside.
- The sukkah may not be anchored to the site, but must be stabilized or weighed down without penetrating or damaging the hard surfaces or exceeding the maximum permitted footprint.

### Height

- The highest point of the sukkah should be no taller than 15 feet.

### Walls

- The structure of the walls can be made from any kind of materials and can be spaced up to a maximum of one foot apart.
- The sukkah must have at least two complete sides and part of a third side, at least 16" wide. There should be a sense of enclosure to the sukkah.
- The bottom edge of the sides must be within 12" of the ground.

- Walls must be sturdy enough to withstand the impact of ordinary winds.

#### Roof

- The roof must be constructed with a natural material.
- In addition, the roof structure must be partially covered with a material that grows from the soil and is completely detached from the ground. (examples: leaves, branches, branches with leaves)
- This roof design and its covering should be loose enough so that one can see the sky, yet thick enough so that it provides some protection from the elements. While innovative roof and wall shapes and geometries are encouraged, the sukkah must provide a sense of shelter and offer respite from the elements.

#### Community Engagement

- We encourage collaboration and community engagement. Ideally the building of the sukkah will include community participation under supervision of the lead artist/designer.

#### General Design Considerations

- While a sukkah is traditionally built anew each year, a sustainable design approach which minimizes waste and disposal or re-use of the sukkah materials is strongly encouraged.

To assist with the design challenge, ask yourself the following questions:

1. If I stand in my sukkah during the day, will there be more shade than sun?
2. Are the walls more closed than open?
3. Is the roof made out of natural material, which has been detached from the ground?

If the answer to any of these questions is “no” your entry will be disqualified.

## TIMELINE

The sukkah must be completed no later than October 1st

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

Your proposal should give the selection committee a clear indication of what the finished sukkah will look and feel like. Include illustrations of the sukkah in situ, and consider including samples of the textures and materials you intend to incorporate in your design.

Your proposal should fill a maximum of three tabloid size (11” x 17”) panels. Please accompany your proposal with an Artist statement, CV, and portfolio of past work. These documents should all be

submitted as a single PDF to: [info@jewishmuseum.ca](mailto:info@jewishmuseum.ca) , with subject line: "Sukkah Challenge Entry – <Sukkah Title>"

Please title your PDF as follows:

VancouverSukkahChallenge2017\_SukkahTitle.pdf

The presentation layout is at the discretion of the entrant. In order for the jury to select the design anonymously, please only include the sukkah title in the top left corner of each of your presentation panels.

The winning entry will receive \$5,000 for the full design and building of the sukkah, plus a materials budget of \$750.

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE

June 23, 2017

Contract is not covered by workmen's compensation or liability insurance.