

WSNLA & WALP Collaborate on 2014 NW Flower Garden Show

Q&A

Lints & Boyker Lead Collaborative 2014 NW Flower & Garden Show Team

Find out what inspired their garden concept and what the ROI of leading the design team for this massive industry garden!

About the Designers

After graduating from the University of Washington with Botany degrees, Kirsten and Rob both served as volunteers in the Peace Corps. Kirsten and her husband, Kiva, served in the Kingdom of Tonga. Rob met his wife, Tida, in The Gambia. Upon returning stateside, Rob formed Avid Landscape Design and Development LLC in Seattle and Kirsten began offering landscape design and coaching services as Gardens ALIVE Design. Coincidentally enough, they were both selected by their respective organizations - unbeknownst of their similar pasts - to co-design/create the first collaborative display garden for the WSNLA/WALP for the 2014 NW Flower & Garden Show.

What is the overall garden concept?

It is late spring, the weather is warming, and their forest garden is alive with brilliant fresh foliage, tender flowers, and succulent vegetables. The ebullient sound of falling water and birdsong provides an animating soundtrack for their work. Various organic forms of art are rooted throughout the garden, displaying the couple's talent, artistic history, as well as their passion for found treasures that inspire them.

Look closely to find that one artist has been sketching in a notebook, diagramming the details of a next sculpture while the other has just set down the tools of a latest stone project. Under the leafy canopy of a generously sheltering tree, the couple is taking a brief respite from their work. Every direction you look: the forest, its resident art, the immovable stones, mysterious waters, delicate ferns, and ethereal flowers convey a look of bright and hopeful newness and weathered permanence at the same time. They

wander the paths of their verdant, private paradise, taking in the energizing shades of emerald green, lime, white, and rust, inhaling the earthy fragrance, and reflecting upon the glistening water. What beautiful object will they create next?

Are there certain elements/features that have inspired your design concept?

This year's theme for the 2014 NW Flower & Garden Show is 'Art in Bloom'. The 1100 square foot island garden brings elements of both associations forward. Rock structures, superior plant material and possibly a water feature are strong themes. Collaboration, education, inspiration, mentoring and craftsmanship are places where the people of the associations are stepping forward to support the garden. Creating a garden that is alive and captures your imagination and attention is the hope.

To properly serve the show and its attendees, we want to avoid repeating the gardens of the past. We are trying to create uniqueness within an otherwise typical NW forest. We want to bring all of the wonderful elements of our native forest into an intimate space and include the human artistic element.

How will the garden bring the Art in Bloom theme to life?

The show theme allows the ability to really punch up the art element as an intense and forward factor. In conjunction with stone, forest, water and lighting - the supersized metal sculptures from various artists are not only a valid approach to adding art to a landscape but a collected treasure that can last in any landscape.



Rob Boyker (Avid Landscape Design & Development, LLC) and Kirsten Lints, CPH (Gardens ALIVE Design). This year's garden inspiration can be found in the various pictures shared on page 14 & 15.

Our garden also carries the storyline that the space is used in the development of art, through inspiration, thought and reflection, as well as the actual production of different mediums.

Kirsten, as a returning garden show team member, what value, both professional and personal, do you receive from participating in the garden creations?

Being a team member gives me the most value in this process. Normally work days are on my own with the chance to occasionally visit with association members at events or nurseries. In this process, it is a pleasure to work with fabulous individuals within our industry. And professionally, learning never ends, contacts can't be numerous enough and striving at a new venture is thrilling.

Knowing this is a large scale commitment, what additional volunteers are needed to insure the execution of the 2014 garden?

We've had wonderful support thus far for which we are extremely grateful. Many have gone out of their way to already sign up for key elements and to loan material and provide assistance.

Top priorities that we are still seeking:

- Tall, forcing greenhouse that may also have machinery to load/unload large trees.
- Incredible, odd, amazing plant material – let us know if you have something unusual!
- Stonework abilities for creating challenging features – great projects to take on for someone skilled.
- Publicity assistance: video creation, narration from a QR code, social media – let's get the word out and inspire others to enjoy landscapes!
- Others that want to have a great time and be a part of this partnership – sign up and join us.

If you are interested in participating in this industry collaboration, contact kirsten@gardensALIVEdesign.com or rob@avidlandscape.com.

