



1812 Bicentennial Art of Peace Gardens Trail Project

This 1812 Bicentennial Project is an initiative undertaken by the Binational Economic & Tourism Alliance, Arts Councils, Cultural and Heritage Organizations and Community partners throughout the binational Southern Great Lakes Region to create a cross-border Peace Garden Trail by the launch of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 in June 2012.

The Peace Garden Trail is designed to attract international visitors as well as residents of this historically-significant cross-border region to experience and enjoy the natural beauty that a garden provides while commemorating the peace that has existed between Canada and the United States over the past 200 years.

These Peace Gardens can be new creations or specially designated locations within existing gardens or communities, and will provide artists from various disciplines and community members a space in which to perform and demonstrate their culture and talents: readings, dance, music, painting, sculpture, theatre are all possibilities.

The objective is to begin with a minimum of 4 1812 gardens in 2009, and add to these each year leading up to, and throughout the three year celebration of the Bicentennial (2012 to 2014).

A cohesive signage and promotional program, along with calendar of events in the various locations, will showcase the trail communities and partners, and ensure distribution of information to local as well as tourist audiences.

The community partners involved in this initiative must commit to the design, creation, planting, maintenance, local promotion and cultural programming of their garden in accordance with the Art of Peace Garden guidelines developed.

The Art of Peace Garden Steering Committee will act as an umbrella group to strategically direct and grow the initiative throughout the binational Southern Great Lakes region, providing community partners with best practices and instructions as to how to begin their program, will be responsible for signage and regional and binational promotion of the program to travel trade and the media, solicit new partners, sponsors and volunteers for the initiative and source new information and resources to assist the communities in their garden development.

These efforts will be coordinated within the context of the overall Bicentennial of the War of 1812 program now being developed.

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