



## PRESS RELEASE

**SUMMER WONDERS brings Brussels to life from 14 July:  
an urban garden on Place De Brouckère and an XXL art installation on Place Fontainas**

*City of Brussels, Tuesday 11 July*

From 14 July to 6 August, **SUMMER WONDERS** takes place in the capital with a meticulous, high impact scenographic approach in the form of a large urban garden. Visitors and locals alike will be treated to a summer wonderland flavoured with surrealism and that typically Brussels zest for offbeat humour that runs through the entire programme.

"The capital continues to move throughout the summer, and so much the better! We're not forgetting our Brussels residents who stay in the city during the holidays, so we've put together a summer programme that's sure to delight young and old alike," explains **Philippe Close**, Mayor of Brussels.

Friday 14 July sees the opening of **SUMMER WONDERS**. A three-stage route will give a foretaste of the summer programme in our **Urban Garden**.

For **Delphine Houba**, Alderwoman for Culture, Tourism and Major Events, "14 July marks the start of Summer Wonders! For 3 weeks, sparkling cultural activities will be held every day for a wide range of audiences. From live sessions and DJ sets to open mics, stand-up comedy, storytelling and art installations, Brussels is transformed into a cultural crossroads for citizens and tourists alike. Thanks to a predominantly local programme, the City is also putting the spotlight on its countless talents and reaffirming its ambition to showcase the Belgian artistic and musical scene."

From **5.30 pm**, the public is invited to discover *Lean on Me*, **Gilles Duinslaeger's** giant bamboo installation on **Place Fontainas**, with the broadcast of *Early Voices*, a sound work created as part of Joost Van Duppen's project for *La Semaine du Son / De Week van de Klank*.

Then, from **6.30 pm**, you can relax in the **SUMMER WONDERS Urban Garden** on **Place De Brouckère**. Food trucks will be on hand to delight the palates of visitors. A programme hosted by the *Compagnie des rêveurs* awaits you, all to the sound of **Progress Booking** artists: 6.30 pm - DJ set **Deep O**, 7.15 pm - concert **JIES**, 8.15 pm - concert **ARTY LEISO**, 9.15 pm - DJ set **Deep O**.

Finally, at **9.30 pm**, **SANTA**, the emblematic artist from the group Hyphen Hyphen, will perform the final act of the evening: a breathtaking artistic performance on **Place de la Bourse**. For her first solo performance in Brussels, the singer will be performing a gig suspended from a crane, with her grand piano 45 metres above the ground.

### **An exciting 'made in Brussels' line-up to awaken all your senses**

On the first weekend (15 & 16 July), get ready to aim straight for the net, with **football** activities organised by *Promo Jeunes* from 2 to 6 pm. Take your pick from the **food and drinks** area to recharge your batteries. And after all that effort comes relaxation : on Saturday evening, an open-air evening at C12 and on Sunday evening, a jam session by *Orféo* where everyone is invited to bring their own instrument.

"We're making the choice to make sport accessible to everyone, and not just in our halls, during club seasons. It's also important for the people of Brussels to be able to play sports free of charge in the public space, downstairs from their homes and in the centre of their city. The football, basketball, spike



ball and pickleball activities will give residents the chance to discover or improve their favourite sport," says Benoit Hellings, Alderman for Climate and Sport.

During this first weekend, a **"POP VINTAGE made in Brussels" concept shop** will be selling second-hand items, while encouraging a thoughtful and sustainable way of consuming, with vintage, recycled and personalised items to be used as accessories and clothing for today's tastes. Tattoo artists David Slaager "Le nouveau tatoo" and Olivier "Monsieur Oli" are also hosting a flash tattoo of both real and fake tattoos (decals).

"SUMMER WONDERS is an invitation to take a stroll, to (re)discover the shops in the town centre and their diversity, and to enjoy the pleasure of talking to dynamic and unique shopkeepers while taking in the summer's festive, cultural and sporting atmosphere. A unique and entertaining experience in the heart of Brussels," says **Fabian Maingain**, Alderman for Economic Affairs, Employment, Smart City and Administrative Simplification.

During the week that follows, a whole host of **cultural activities** (open mic, stand-up, etc.) and **sporting events, accessible to all, will delight young and old alike**. From Tuesday to Friday, **after works** will come to life in the urban garden with concerts produced by the Brussels-based urban music association **Shine Prod, Melodiggerz**, a collective of music lovers, record collectors (diggerz) and organisers of convivial hip-hop and soul/funk events, **Zukunft** (a women's collective who have played a leading role in bringing electronic music to the mainstream in Brussels, notably as instigators of *Piknik Elektronik*), and much more to discover over the weeks ahead...

**Find out more about the programme at <https://www.plaisirdete.be/en/>**

*NB: the programme may vary from week to week for the different concerts, DJ sets and cultural and sporting activities.*

## CONTACTS

### City of Brussels

- Carole Poncin, Office of the Mayor, [carole.poncin@brucity.be](mailto:carole.poncin@brucity.be), +32 488 04 38 24
- Eloïse Pirard, Office of the Alderman for Culture, Tourism and Major Events, [eloise.pirard@brucity.be](mailto:eloise.pirard@brucity.be), +32 474 41 05 44
- François Descamps, Office of the Alderman for Climate and Sports, [francois.descamps@brucity.be](mailto:francois.descamps@brucity.be), +32 474 90 28 39
- Anne-Sophie Dekeyser, Office of the Alderman for Economic Affairs, Employment, Smart City and Administrative Simplification, [anne-sophie.dekeyser@brucity.be](mailto:anne-sophie.dekeyser@brucity.be), +32 473 97 51 98

### Organisation - Brussels Major Events

- Adelaïde de Patoul, spokeswoman, [a.depatoul@bmeo.be](mailto:a.depatoul@bmeo.be), +32 496 87 88 86