



**THE OLYMPIC
AND PARALYMPIC
CAULDRON OF PARIS 2024
RETURNS THIS SUMMER
TO THE TUILERIES**

June 12, 2025



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SUMMARY

THE PARTNERS OF THE CAULDRON'S RETURN

PREFECTURE OF THE ÎLE-DE-FRANCE REGION,
PREFECTURE OF PARIS

LOUVRE MUSEUM

EDF

CITY OF PARIS

MATHIEU LEHANNEUR,
CREATOR AND DESIGNER

AÉROPHILE

AIMKO



**PRÉFET
DE LA RÉGION
D'ÎLE-DE-FRANCE**

*Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité*

The return of the Cauldron created by Mathieu Lehanneur to the jardin des Tuileries is a powerful symbol of the legacy left by the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games. This return was decided by the President of the Republic, in conjunction with the Mayor of Paris, the CNOSF (French National Olympic and Sports Committee) and the COJOP (Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games).

This project, coordinated by the Prefecture of the Île-de-France region, Prefecture of Paris, involves the Louvre public establishment, EDF, the City of Paris, the Police Prefecture, Aérophile, Aimko, Mathieu Lehanneur and the Olympic authorities.

From the National Music Day on June 21st to the National Sports Day on September 14th, the Cauldron will once again rise into the Parisian sky, to the great delight of both French and international visitors, allowing them to extend the magic of the Games.

The Olympic and Paralympic legacy is multifaceted. It is aimed at young people, with over 72,000 new members joining sports clubs since the summer of 2024. Riding this Olympic momentum, these associations benefit from the 1,000 sports facilities built in the Île-de-France region thanks to a plan initiated and funded by the Government. This legacy is also inclusive, with a strong focus on paraspports. The transformed and fully accessible Olympic and Media Villages now include over 3,000 housing units. Likewise, this legacy is sustainable, with nearly all of the 30,000 job seekers recruited for the Olympic and Paralympic Games still employed today.

This multifaceted legacy is embodied by the Cauldron. It stands as a powerful symbol for the Olympic and Paralympic spirit continues to shine over Paris, and that the legacy continues to inspire and bring people together.

Credit : Aérophile



LOUVRE

LOUVRE MUSEUM PUBLIC INSTITUTION

The National Estate of the Louvre and the Tuileries was the ideal setting for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which the Louvre celebrated with a rich and festive cultural program. A close dialogue quickly developed between the museum and the Games, driven by popular enthusiasm: the torch relay lit up the museum's halls, its iconic architecture was at the heart of the opening and closing ceremonies, and several events passed through the estate.

In this exceptional context, the jardin des Tuileries, at the heart of the Louvre estate, was given the task of hosting the Cauldron for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, thus reconnecting with the history of aircraft. It was from the garden, on the 1st of December 1783, that the first flight in a hydrogen-filled gas balloon was made by two of its French inventors, the physicist Jacques Charles and one of the two Robert brothers. This visionary balloon foreshadowed the aerostatic adventure of the following century.

The Louvre and its crews are proud to once again be the host site and partner of of the Paris 2024 Cauldron for the next three summers. Alongside the Prefecture of the Île-de-France Region, the Louvre has worked to define an agile



Credit : le Louvre

architecture and project engineering to enable the Cauldron to take to the skies on the 21st of June. In particular, the Louvre was responsible for the legal and financial arrangements for the project. As the commissioning authority, it called on the Aérophile-Aimko consortium to ensure that the project could be implemented on schedule.

The Louvre has also adapted and integrated the arrival of the Cauldron into all the summer activities scheduled on its grounds. From hosting the

closing concert of the France Music Week in the Carrousel gardens to the "Étés du Louvre" festival, the Louvre, true to its mission and history, is helping democratize the discovery of the jardin des Tuileries and of the Carrousel.



EDF

EDF is proud to announce its contribution to the return of the Olympic Cauldron. This symbolic initiative will enable the public to reconnect with the spirit and emotion of the Games, in collaboration with all the partners involved in this event.

EDF designed the 100% electric flame that lit up Paris' sky throughout Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games. EDF came up with an innovative flame, designed as a symbolic alternative to fossil fuel combustion. Made of water and light, this flame does not burn: it illuminates. It embodies a resolutely forward-looking vision, combining technology, sustainability and emotion.

While the principle remains unchanged, the system has been adapted to meet a new challenge: operating for almost 300 days over three years, compared to around thirty days during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Drawing on the lessons learned from last summer, the robustness and reliability of the equipment have been reinforced, while preserving the unique aesthetic of the ring that hosts the flame.

The history of this flame goes back to work initiated in 2010 by EDF researchers and designers on the design of an alternative flame to fossil fuel combustion for the Cauldron of the London 2012 Games.

The signing of the partnership agreement with the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games reactivated this work and enabled the major advances in LED technologies to be incorporated.

A solution quickly emerged, based on the simultaneous, controlled projection of a cloud of mist and a powerful stream of light, creating a lively and electric flame. The successive proposals developed from 2021 in EDF's Pulse Design laboratory have been positively received by the Paris 2024 and IOC teams.

They subsequently became a decisive factor in the viability of Mathieu Lehanneur's bold creative project, selected by Paris 2024 to design the Cauldron.



To bring the project of an electric flame shining in the sky over Paris to a successful conclusion, EDF worked with French companies with renowned expertise. The project required numerous studies and prototypes, as well as the design of custom lighting and misting components, and has been patented by EDF.

The ring of fire incorporates 40 spotlights with a light output equivalent to 4 million lumens and 200 high-pressure misting nozzles. Water consumption, around 3m³ per hour when the Cauldron is in flight, is reduced to 2m³ when it is on the ground in the jardin des Tuileries.

This exceptional aluminium mechanical component meets the challenge of being both robust and light. The feat lies particularly in the positioning of the fire ring at a height of 60 metres, involving an inescapable constraint of lightness, integrity and safety comparable to the requirements of aeronautical engineering. To guarantee the continuous operation of the device, an innovative solution has been developed for routing the flow of electricity and high-pressure water to the fire ring, using a cable capable of following the movements of the Cauldron while in flight.

This electric flame shows that it is possible to electrify everything. It is a concrete illustration of the ability of electricity to replace fossil fuels. This project is fully in line with EDF's DNA and demonstrates its desire to offer realistic, inspiring and sustainable solutions to build a carbon-neutral future.



CITY OF PARIS

One year after the success of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and the historic opening ceremony on the Seine, the City of Paris intends to perpetuate the festive and popular spirit of the summer of 2024. Alongside the President of the Republic and all the parties involved, the Mayor of Paris wanted the Cauldron to light up once again the Parisian sky every night. The City of Paris is thus contributing to the return of this symbol, in particular through a major mobilisation of the Paris Municipal Police and the involvement of all the City's departments in the success of this project.

Several members of the Municipal Police and two or three security guards will be deployed around the Cauldron, in support of the Louvre's security service. In the evening, during the Cauldron's ascent and special events such as the June 21st concert, the Municipal Police will be deployed alongside the Prefecture of Police to ensure security and manage traffic around the garden. This coordinated effort will enhance the safety of the area, allowing everyone to enjoy these festive moments in a peaceful and secure environment.

As Host City of the Paris 2024 Games, the City of Paris is also leading numerous initiatives aimed at bringing to life and promoting the popular and symbolic legacy of the Games. As well as the historic reopening of swimming in the Seine on the 5th July, the City will be unveiling other powerful symbols to Parisians and visitors throughout the summer. As part of the "Paris en Seine" program, a series of free, popular events will be held to celebrate this first anniversary. These cultural and sporting events, spread throughout the summer season, invite everyone to

take part in this friendly and festive atmosphere, embodying the spirit of openness, sharing and diversity that characterises the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Credit : Aérophile



Credit : Abaca Press, Ammar Abd Rabbo



MATHIEU LEHANNEUR

MATHIEU LEHANNEUR

Mathieu Lehanneur is the creator and designer of the Olympic Cauldron for the Paris 2024 Games. His work is a first in the history of the Games: an aerial Cauldron suspended in the air, designed to be seen by as many people as possible. Monumental and poetic, this technological yet contemporary creation is a veritable ode to lightness.

The 27th of July 2024. The day after the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games, at the official press conference, Mathieu Lehanneur said that many messages and tweets about the future of the Cauldron were already circulating: "The Cauldron must stay". "The giant balloon is ours, we're keeping it". "A new Eiffel Tower is born".

Nothing was planned for this. It was never envisaged or even imagined during its creation and design, yet in just a few hours the ephemeral was destined to become permanent. In the space of a single night, the desire to add this apparition to the collection of Parisian monuments was imprinted in people's minds and hearts.

When designing this flying Olympic and Paralympic Cauldron, Mathieu Lehanneur and his teams paid particular attention to the dismantling and complete recycling of all the components, from the balloon itself to the smallest assembly systems. Fate and the public decided otherwise.

The decision was taken to make the Cauldron a permanent summer fixture for three years, until the Los Angeles Games in 2028, and Lehanneur had only one obsession: to make it reappear exactly as the tens of thousands of daily spectators had admired it in 2024. The challenge was not insignificant, as this original and complex creation had to be completely rethought and optimised for this new life, much longer than the previous one.

"Everything has to change for nothing to change", jokes the designer, quoting the famous line from Visconti's film *Le Guépard*. From restoring the original colour in the continuity of the Torch to the movements of the flame, the greatest care has been taken with every detail. From creator of the Cauldron, Mathieu Lehanneur has become its guardian, keen to bring back to life the magic and shared emotion.

This creation, inherited from the Games, now goes beyond that to become a contemporary work that reflects the creativity, technology, know-how and history of France.

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I couldn't have wished for a better future for this creation. The original idea was to play with the sun and take over from it every evening, in a pendular movement. The Cauldron will now follow the rhythm of the seasons, returning every first day of summer. More than a monument, it's become a seasonal star that lights up the heart of Paris!

Mathieu Lehanneur

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Credit: Felipe Ribon for raf-studio



AÉROPHILE, TETHERED BALLOON WORLD LEADER

100% FRENCH EXPERTISE, ROOTED IN THE HISTORY OF AERONAUTICS

For over 30 years, Aérophile has been reinvigorating a French invention: the tethered balloon. Founded in 1993 by Jérôme Giacomoni and Matthieu Cobbi, two polytechnic graduates with a passion for aeronautics, the company has brought up to date this technology invented in 1878 by French engineer Henri Ciffard at the jardin des Tuileries.

Their ambition: to offer as many people as possible the experience of flying in the air, in complete safety, aboard a balloon connected to the ground by a winch.

Aérophile, which designs, manufactures (and has manufactured), assembles and installs these aero-

stats, has established itself as the world leader in large captive balloons, with more than 120 balloons sold in 40 countries and 12 million passengers carried. The SME also operates 6 sites around the world, including the balloons at Disney (Orlando and Paris), San Diego Zoo, the Angkor site, Parc André Citroën... and now, since the Paris 2024 Games, the balloon that raises the Olympic Cauldron into Paris' sky.

A STRONG COMMITMENT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

The tethered balloon is one of the most environmentally-friendly transport methods in the world, with no noise, no pollutant emissions, and an ascent by Archimedes' buoyancy and a descent powered by an electric winch. Helium, the gas used to fill the balloon, is recovered and recycled each time it is deflated, with a view to sustainability.

THE TUILERIES BALLOON: A TECHNICAL FEAT AND POETIC SYMBOL

Based on the codes of Henri Ciffard's tethered balloon, this balloon combines high technology with spectacular staging:

Features of the Cauldron balloon

- 224 meters in diameter, 6,200 m³ of helium;
- An envelope made of high-tensile polyester fabric and polyurethane films, manufactured between Germany and Burgundy;
- A lift force of 4.8 tons at takeoff;
- An electric winch designed in Montceau-les-Mines, capable of safely hoisting the balloon;
- A dedicated team of around twenty people mobilized for three months of operation.

AN EVENTFUL AND HERITAGE-FOCUSED COMEBACK

On June 21st, for the National Music Day, the balloon will once again rise into the Parisian sky, at the very spot where physicist Jacques Charles's first gas balloon ascended on December 1st, 1783, and just a few meters from the great tethered balloon of the 1878 World's Fair. This return to the heart of the jardin des Tuileries, planned every summer through 2027, marks the reintegration of an aerial and poetic symbol into the living heritage of the capital.

Credit: Maxime Meurisse



Credit: Christophe Lepetit



AIMKO

AIMKO

AIMKO is responsible for the creative production and technical coordination of the Cauldron for the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Rimko once again taking on these responsibilities for the return of the Cauldron in Paris 2024, with the following tasks:

- In collaboration with designer Mathieu Lehaneur, create an identical object to the one that was one of the strong symbols of the Paris 2024 Games... This return will take place over 3 years and must preserve its design and magic;
- Design the technical, material and operational solutions to get the Cauldron off the ground more than 250 times until the Los Angeles Games in 2028.

It is within this framework that, following 2024, the following were once again called upon:

- Benoît Probst, founder of ARTEOH, for his expertise in show engineering and the construction of large-scale set designs, and Yann Creff, project director for the Paris 2024 Cauldron, accompanied by the 100% French service providers Cuillet SA, FL Structure, and Crystal Groupe.

The agency is therefore responsible for the following operations:

- Technical, operational, and financial coordination with Aérophilie;



- Collaboration with EDF and the BLAM workshop for the design of the flame ring;

- Site management during the various phases of the event, with support from the City of Paris;

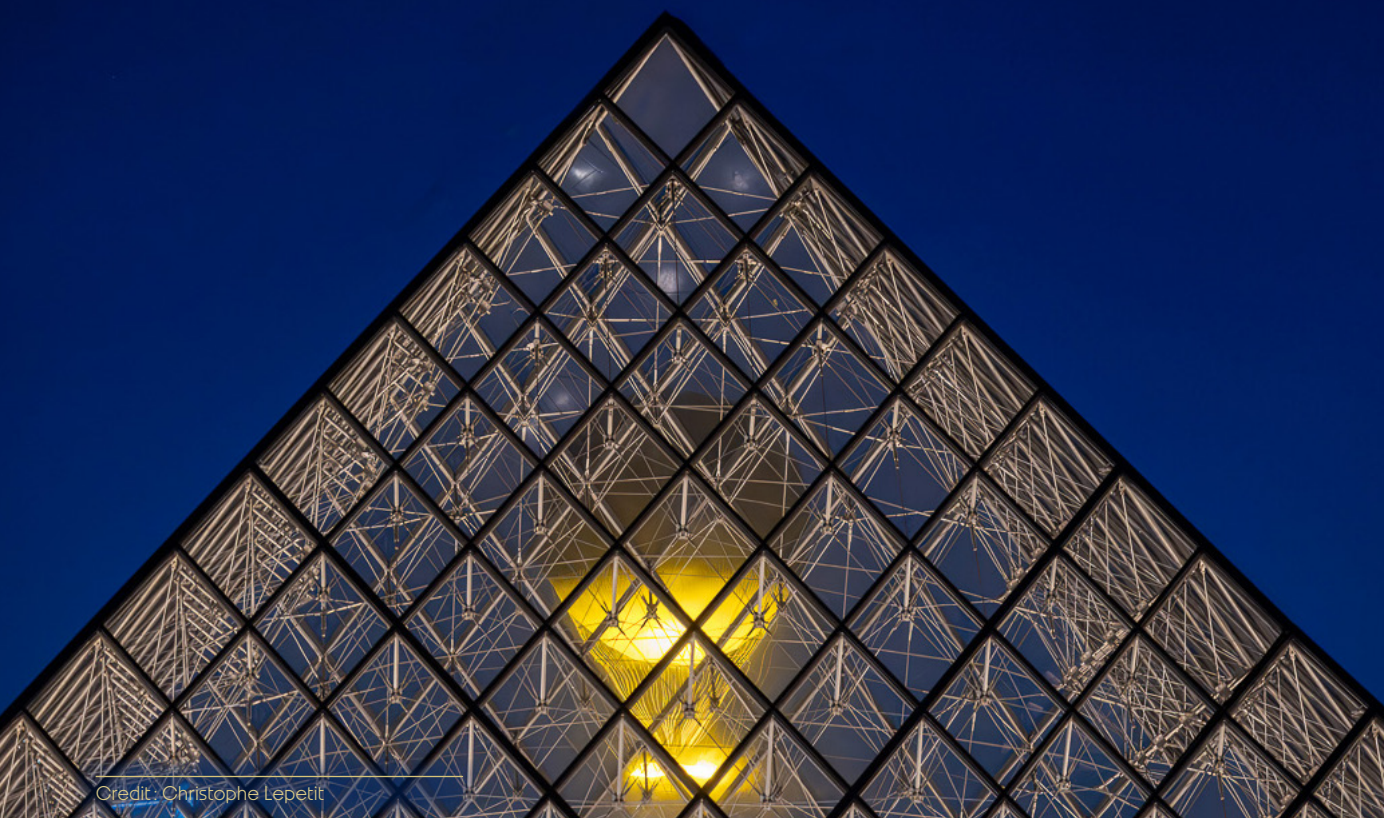
- Welcoming and hosting the various audiences around the Paris 2024 Cauldron;

- Collaboration with all departments of the Louvre to ensure respect for the daily life and diverse activities of the jardin des Tuileries.

Credit : Felipe Ribon for raf-studio

Credit : Felipe Ribon for raf-studio





Credit : Christophe Lepetit

Find all the information about the Cauldron:

www.Jusqueparis2024.fr

Artistic direction and layout: Orlane Bourcigaux

Préfecture de la région d'Île-de-France, préfecture de Paris
5 rue Leblanc - 75015 Paris

<http://www.prefectures-regions.gouv.fr/ile-de-france>

Service régional de la communication interministérielle

