

Created at the Canyon 2023: Call for Artists / Workshop Leaders July 14th and 15th, 2023

Background

Created at the Canyon (C@C) is an outdoors art event celebrating artistic perspectives on nature and history in the Yukon, hosted by the Yukon Conservation Society (YCS). Since 1980, YCS has provided free interpretive hikes in the Whitehorse area to visitors and Yukoners. YCS believes that through developing an understanding of the natural world and our place within it, people will deepen their relationship with the environment which will lead to making better decisions about its conservation. Through our interactive, multi-perspective and educational programming, we strive to connect individuals and communities to one another and to nature.

YCS has hosted annual art-in-nature events at Kwanlin (Miles Canyon) since 2012. These events give Yukon-based creatives an opportunity to reflect and create art outdoors while sharing their process and inspiration with the public. For over a decade, artists at all stages of their careers, working in a variety of artistic media, have created diverse interpretations of the rich history, culture, and natural beauty of the area.

Changes for C@C 2023

YCS believes in the power of art to educate and inspire environmental action. For C@C 2023, we would like to feature artists who utilize eco-friendly, naturally-derived, biodegradable, or salvaged materials which have been sourced ethically, locally and sustainably. This criteria reflects YCS' values. We invite artists and performers in all media, including but not limited to music, poetry, storytelling, beading, leather-working, dance, installation, mixed media, painting, carving, pottery, craft, photography, sculpture, etc. to apply.

Recognizing that 2023 is the 125th anniversary of the Yukon, we'd like to amplify Indigenous perspectives and culture. Commonly celebrated Yukon history and culture often doesn't, or minimally, includes Indigenous perspectives, focusing mainly on the Klondike Gold Rush and Yukon settlers. We would be honoured to feature artists of Kwanlin Dün First Nation heritage and/or Indigenous artists from throughout the Yukon willing to share knowledge, naming, making, or storytelling practices with the public, as well as non-Indigenous creatives who practice art in environmentally-conscious ways.

For C@C 2023, our vision is to connect Yukoners and visitors to the magnificent landscape through nurturing the creative exploration of nature intertwined with territory-specific

environmentally-educational content. We aim to support local artists in sharing their craft with the community, and to engage participants with eco-oriented making.

As such, we are seeking both Demonstration Artists (DAs; classic C@C style) as well as Creative Workshop Leaders (CWLs) to be part of C@C this year. See Application Form below.

DAs will create original artwork in the Kwanlin (Miles Canyon) area live over the course of the 2-days while interacting with the public. DAs will not be required to provide materials or activities for the public.

CWLs will offer members of the public the opportunity to participate in creating at the canyon themselves. This could be through: a collaborative piece that visitors can contribute to (such as a mural, sewn piece or sculpture), introducing mediums, processes or how-to guides to participants that they can utilize in the future, providing materials and instructions for a short activity that support folks in making a take-home creation on site, or anything else you can dream up!!

Event Logistics

Dates, Times and Hours

C@C will be open to the public on Friday, July 14th (1:00 PM - 7:00 PM) and Saturday, July 15th (10:00 AM - 4:00 PM). DAs and CWLs will set up and take down their stations for half an hour before open and after close, meaning they will be expected on site at Kwanlin 7 hours each day, totalling 14 hours over the course of the 2-day event.

Compensation

Demonstration Artists will be paid an honorarium of \$30/hour for 14 hours with \$100 for material costs. Creative Workshop Leaders will be paid an honorarium of \$45/hour for 14 hours with \$200 for material costs. Snacks, lunch and beverages will be provided by YCS.

After Event

Works must be completed by DAs and CWLs by the end of July. The art will be exhibited throughout the month of August at TBD location. A member of the YCS team will photo-document the event and all artist stations. Photographs will be offered to accompany completed works by DAs and CWLs.

Application & Selection Process

To Apply

Prospective DAs and CWLs must apply by Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 11:59 PM. Applicants must provide a portfolio demonstrating inspiration by nature, local culture, and/or history and an explanation of why they want to be part of this project (See Questionnaire below for more details). If applying as a CWL, a plan for their publicly-engaging art activity and a draft of instructions for participants to practice creating an aspect of their particular craft in the future. For example, this component could be physical or a scannable QR code such that attendees can re-visit, further explore, adopt and/or share the eco-wise making method moving forward.

Selection

Successful applicants will be contacted by Friday, June 30th and receive a detailed information package with next steps. They will receive contracts and paperwork to sign and return as well as be requested to submit an artist biography and headshot by Monday, July 3rd (for promotional purposes).

Eligibility

Due to the high volume of applications and to give other artists a chance to take part, preference will be given to artists who have not previously participated. Artists must be aged 16 or over on July 14th, 2023 to take part.

Accessibility, Health and Safety

Please note that the site location has stairs and some uneven terrain with rocks and roots and is not wheelchair-accessible. Volunteers will be on hand to help artists carry materials and set up their work area. All safety protocols recommended by the Yukon Government concerning COVID-19 will be in place.

About the Area

Kwanlin (Miles Canyon) is part of the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation. The trails along Kwanlin (Miles Canyon) are traditionally part of the hunting, fishing and gathering trail networks of Indigenous Peoples. Since the time of the canyon's formation thousands of years ago, families would travel, following the migration of chinook salmon, to a summer fishing camp location along the river to what is currently known as Canyon City. The surrounding area provided a bounty of food and shelter for Indigenous peoples to thrive. The river brought communities together and offered connection between Nations.

The Klondike Gold Rush starting in 1898, brought tens of thousands of stampedeers down the river and through Kwanlin on their journey North in search of gold. Naturally, the river's depth was much lower then, only 3m deep in some places, which created a relentless flow of water through the narrow canyon. The white wash curled and swept through the deep canyon walls like the manes of stampeding white horses. After raft travel down river was deemed unsafe, tramways were built on either side of the canyon by rival entrepreneurs following the ancient walking trails. The land was cleared as Canyon City grew into a major landing location for goldseekers, with a wharf, police station, saloon, stables and cabins being erected. Small boats and freight could be hauled on these carts, bypassing the Canyon and White Horse rapids. Impacts on this area can still be seen today.

When the Whitehorse dam was built in 1958, the river depth rose 10m to what it is now. The raging rapids have calmed but the name Whitehorse lives on, providing a gathering place for all peoples along the river. The trails of Kwanlin are now popular among locals and visitors alike for outdoor recreational activities.

About YCS

The Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) is a grassroots environmental non-profit organization, established in 1968. Our mandate is to pursue ecosystem well-being throughout the Yukon and beyond, recognizing that human well-being is ultimately dependent upon fully functioning healthy ecosystems. We pursue this through research, education, and advocacy. Our guided hikes, fun interpretive programming and art events are helping connect locals and visitors with Yukon heritage and nature.

YCS offers free guided hikes from Kwanlin (Miles Canyon) to Canyon City and back (two-hour round trip) from June 13th - August 26th, 2023. The hikes run from Tuesday through Saturday, twice-daily at 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM, leaving from the Suspension Bridge that crosses over the Yukon River.

Thank you to our current funders



Arts Fund

Funding for this project is made possible through the assistance of Arts Fund, Department of Tourism and Culture

Canada

Yukon

YCS interpretation programming is made possible through the assistance of the Government of Yukon and Government of Canada.

Application Form

All applications must be received by Wednesday, June 28th to hikes@yukonconservation.ca or dropped off at YCS office, located at 302 Hawkins Street, Whitehorse (open Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM).

Please only include pages 5 & 6 when submitting your application. Please use as much space as needed to answer each question. Feel free to add extra sheets. Thank you!

Questionnaire

1. Would you like to apply for position as:

Demonstration Artist (DA)

Creative Workshop Leader (CWL)

2. Name, email and telephone number:

3. Artistic experience and background information:

4. How familiar are you with Kwanlin/Miles Canyon and Canyon City?

5. How does nature, sustainability, culture, and/or history inspire your art?

6. Please describe why you hope to be part of this project.

7. Please tell us about previous pieces that you have created outside and/or work created with an audience.

8. What is your idea for creating art in the Canyon? How will you display your art during the post Created at the Canyon exhibit? (Your ideas can change over the course of the project!)

9. A \$500 travel subsidy is available each for 1 artist based outside of Whitehorse. If you are based outside Whitehorse and would like to be considered for the subsidy, please indicate where you are located.

10. How will you plan to offer members of the public the opportunity to participate in creating at the canyon themselves by passing on skills and providing materials for a collaborative piece or by providing a piece visitors can contribute to? (For CWL applicants)

11. If you have any comments and/or concerns for this project, please identify them below.

Portfolio

*Please attach photos, videos, or a link to your website that demonstrates how the natural world, culture and history inspire you in your art.

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Aiyana at hikes@yukonconservation.ca or 867-334-8131. We may also contact you to ask you questions as well.