



1840 Nicola Ave
PO Box 2762
Merritt, BC V1K 1B8
Tel: 250.378.6515
nicolavalleyartscouncil@gmail.com
nicolavalleyartsgallery@gmail.com
www.nicolavalleyartscouncil.com

Public Art Collaboration Initiative

Street Art and Mural Beautification Project

City of Merritt and NVCAC

Aug 14/20

Mischelle Pierce and Jano Howarth of NVCAC

Project Purpose - Community Promotion and Beautification

July, August NVCAC Newsletter Submission:

The Nicola Valley Community Arts Council is pleased to collaborate with the City of Merritt on an exciting new community art project.

As part of the [COVID-19 Economic Recovery Initiative](#), the City of Merritt is looking for local artists interested in providing artwork for our local buildings. They will be providing some mural guidelines and community locations in the next few weeks.

Those interested in being a part of this mural creation project, around the theme of nature, local plants and animals, are invited to reach out to communications@merritt.ca

Artist Reach Out

Mischelle and I have been discussing this project with our artists and volunteers. We have several artists who are interested in creating designs that they can paint, or others could paint, using their design as a template.

Some artists we have approached or will contact directly Janelle Gage, Joel Reid, Gale Simpson, Jean Kiegerl, Nancy Ellingsen, Sharon Pawliuk, Bev Veale, Kim Leclair, Robert Moretti, and more. We are also in touch with the CMHA group, and the Smart Step youth initiative.

We are working with Kathleen Kinasewich of Soul Circle Mandalas to create designs with several artists.

And **we have an agreement from Leonard George, a well known Indigenous artist** in our community, to create a significant mural on one of our downtown buildings.

We are happy to say that Leonard George received an approval through the Vancouver Foundation Neighbourhood Small Grant for \$500 for the creation of this mural!

Proudly supported by:



BRITISH COLUMBIA
ARTS COUNCIL
An agency of the Province of British Columbia



Request for Financial Support

We would like to request financial help from the City to make this a successful community endeavour.

At the Arts Council we have artists, musicians, and supporters who volunteer their work, time and money to our events, projects, and exhibitions.

But one of our goals is to find ways to support all this work and dedication by finding funding through grants, donations, etc.

We believe that the arts need to be seen as a viable lifestyle and career. We work with our few local professional to provide strategies for a career in the arts. We encourage an entrepreneurial spirit in those artists who would like to take it further than a hobby.

Certainly our Gallery Artisan Shop initiative, with work from over sixteen artists and artisans, is one of our ways to promote this belief. We also show work and links from artists on our website.

For any artist wanting to be a career artist, having work that has been purchased through direct sales or commissions, is good to show on their Curriculum Vitae.

We hope that the City would contribute to the support we are offering our artists through this City Beautification Project with some **funding to help promote creative entrepreneurial initiatives** in the area of the Fine Arts.

Also, we hope to receive some **funding for materials**-paint, etc.

Mischelle Pierce has been able to secure some donations of materials from the community already. Kudos, Mischelle!

To these ends, we would like to request the small amount of \$5000, to beautify our town.

We will be able to say the work is being done by local professional artists, aspiring artist businesses, and hobby artists, and the City practically supports these creative artists. And that we have significant work and materials donated by committed community members who want to see their town liven up and attract visitors, new businesses and home owners.

...Because we all know and understand that a lively arts community, on obvious display, is a huge attraction to the economic development of a community.

This Beautification Project, along with other similar initiatives the City is supporting, could help put this town of Merritt on the map. In a good way!

The NVCAC provides a variety of programs and activities
for the community of Merritt and the Nicola Valley.

Our Nicola Valley Arts Gallery is located at 1840 Nicola Ave, in the old Courthouse.

Open Thurs to Sat, 12-6pm.

Covid 19 Protocols in place.