

Smithers Art Gallery 2-week Artists Residency 2025

Criteria and information sheet

1. Program Vision and Goals:

- The primary vision or mission of the Smithers Gallery Association (SGA) visual arts residency program is a two week, compensated, artist residency program for marginalized or under-represented artists or art forms with guaranteed exhibition within 2 years if artist is inclined.
- The specific goals we hope to achieve with this residency program are to establish opportunities for underrepresented artists to access artist residencies and exhibition space. Gallery space is lacking in our industry and in Northern BC specifically. This project is intended to build a paid, ongoing residency program with an exhibition component for underrepresented artists (BIPOC, LGBTQ+, disabled and marginalized) and art forms in rural, remote Smithers, BC.
- This residency program will contribute to the local art community and beyond by removing some of the barriers to furthering artistic practice, accessing residencies and exhibitions that are integral with living in our northern community. These barriers include living in a non-urban location, financial barriers, being part of a marginalized or under-represented community, non-commercial or underrepresented media, and physical accessibility to workspaces/galleries.

2. Residency Structure:

- The duration of the residency period is 2 weeks, with the residency commencing in the Spring/Summer of 2025. The date of the residence needs to be established through consultation with the artist. The SGA will provide artists with accommodations, workshop space, an opportunity for community engagement (through workshop or alternate process identified by the artist), the residency will be paid at \$193/day, an additional stipend for artists who are primary caregivers is available.
- The artist is invited to have an exhibition in the Smithers Art Gallery within a two-year window. This is optional and negotiable. If the artist chooses to do an

exhibit in the gallery they will receive a CARFAC payment \$650 for exhibition, (or less if not in the full gallery space.)

- We will host one artist at a time. If family members are by necessity required to stay with the artist a stipend (of \$700) will be provided for a caretaker, but ideally the artist will be free and unencumbered by daily care for others.

- The Artist-in-Residence is expected to commit to work a minimum of 6 hrs per day in-studio, 6 days per week during residency. In addition they will engage in public outreach, including at least one public workshop or demonstration that the art gallery will help organize.

- The residency is open to artists at all stages of their careers.

3. Selection Process:

- The SGA will build an impartial 'creative team' that understands the guiding principles for our association and works with our diverse selection committee to develop protocols that are vital to ensuring this project is successful. All knowledge keepers who are participating in this project will be financially compensated for their time and participation in creating criteria and advising on policies developed through this process. The creative team will help determine the specifics of the criteria for selecting artists for the residency.

- The creative team may include the gallery manager Nicole Chernish, Alyssa Lebiadowski, Mark Tworow, Roderick Leighton, and Nikki Skuce. Nicole is the gallery manager, Alyssa is a local artist and the program coordinator at the gallery, Mark is a local artist who has done an artist in residency program, Rod is an artist and identifies as a person with disabilities, Nikki is a member of the BV Arts Council. The selection process is aimed to be fair and unbiased by engaging members of the community that have an interest in assisting and promoting art and artists in our area.

4. Facilities and Resources:

- The studio space for the artist will be at our workshop space. It is an accessible space with washrooms, kitchen, and a well-lit studio that is 300 sq ft with

movable tables and walls that have a hanging system for art. The artist will have access to the space 24 hours a day. Artists need to bring their own supplies and materials but we can supply easels, both table top and stand alone, and additional lighting if needed. Artists will be responsible for cleaning the space as they work.

- The artist will be housed at the Smither Guesthouse *smithersguesthouse.com* which has an accessible room and a mini kitchen. Or comparable accommodations if the Guesthouse is unavailable during the artists preferred time frame. Accommodations will be funded by the residency program.

5. Funding and Support:

- The residency will be funded by the BC Arts Council.

- Will artists receive a stipend of \$193 per day or \$2,660. If they choose to do an exhibit in the gallery they will receive a CARFAC payment \$650 for exhibition, (or less if not in the full gallery space.)

- An additional stipend (of \$700) will be provided for a caretaker if necessary.

- One half of the stipend \$1,330 will be paid at the start of residency, \$1,330 to be paid after exit interview or summary report is submitted.