

Summer doesn't get much better than sitting on the open lawn next to the sparkling Salish Sea.

# CURATED COMMUNITY

BC'S GUIDE TO ARTS & CULTURE



## Small in size but big in heart, Sidney, British Columbia,

situated on Vancouver Island's southern tip, is filled with oceanside charm. A town rich in performing arts and literature (Sidney is the only Booktown in Canada) it's well-known for attracting artists from around the world. Jesse Cook, Jan Arden, Natalie McMaster and others with international reputations often say how satisfying and fun it is to perform in Sidney.

Located on the Salish Sea, much of Sidney's cultural footprint stems from the shifting light, colour and forms that for millennia have influenced the way people view and interact with the natural world. **(Learn more about Sidney and Oak Bay** in our interview with Sidney BIA President, Susan Simosko below.)

Locals know that Sidney is surrounded by outstanding wineries, breweries, and a lovely cidery. It is also only five minutes from Victoria International Airport and the BC Ferry and Washington State Ferry terminals, giving mainland visitors easy access. With free outdoor concerts every Sunday in July and August, summer doesn't get much better.

Sitting on the open lawn right next to the sparkling Salish Sea, listening to great music, with Mt. Baker and the Gulf and San Juan islands the distance. Spectacular.

Get packing and Happy Summering,

*From the team at BC's Guide to Arts and Culture*

**"If I could make Canadians understand how important and how good their culture is, I could die happy."**



- Jillian Keiley, Artistic Fraud of Newfoundland founder-National Arts Centre English Theatre artistic director

Gain insights from Jillian and [meet some more of Canada's finest over at KickassCanadians.ca](https://www.kickasscanadians.ca).



**10 Things to Know about Spectacular Sidney**

- **Free outdoor concerts every Sunday** in July and August. Summer doesn't get much better than sitting on the open lawn right next to the sparkling Salish Sea, listening to great music, with Mt. Baker and the Gulf and San Juan islands the distance. Spectacular.
- Every Thursday evening from mid May to September people from near and far flock to **Sidney's vibrant Street Market**. The main street is closed to traffic and local artisans and farmers offer their "made, grown or baked locally" goods. The market is alive with music, art and people!
- All through the summer, the **Community Arts Council presents multiple art shows featuring the best of local artists at Tulista Park**. It's recently been calculated that Sidney has more artists per capita than anywhere in Canada!
- Another summer highlight is the **First Nations, Inuit and Metis Art Show**, presented at the Mary Winspear Centre (MWC) during the month of August. This show features up and coming artists as well as the well-established. The MWC permanent collection of First Nation's art from across Canada is nothing short of iconic and a must for any culture buff!
- And mentioning the MWC, Sidney's cultural hub: **this summer will feature concerts by Colin James, Buffy St. Marie** and a wide range of other artists. There is always something interesting and inspiring at the MWC.
- The **Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea (SCSS) and the Sidney Historical Museum are top-notch attractions** that inform, inspire, and excite kids of all ages.
- With **more than a 150 different species of creatures** from the Salish Sea, the SCSS has literally thousands of animals to observe; and an interactive "wet lab," offers a great way for children to view the living ocean up close and personal.
- The Museum tells the story of local history story and also offers fascinating temporary exhibits. **This summer the Museum feature "Dolls 'R' Us" showcasing more than 400 dolls**, from 18<sup>th</sup> century Chinese dolls to the latest in Barbies.
- From downtown Sidney, visitors can **enjoy a short ferry trip to Sidney Spit, an idyllic island perfect** for camping, hiking, bird watching or simply hanging out on stunning beaches. Accessible only by water, Sidney Spit is part of the Gulf Islands National Park Reserve.
- **New to Sidney is Victoria Distillers, the only seaside distillery on the West Coast**. The art of the cocktail is alive and well and is a wonderful addition to Sidney's waterfront!

Sidney is also the place be for outstanding whale watching tours, kayaking and cycling. And with its seaside sculpture walk, Sidney is an ideal place for art lovers and adventure seekers alike! And on hot summer days, the splash park in Iroquois Park is a must for kids while parents take in the beautiful views of the Salish Sea and the creative public gardens. Teenagers make the most of Sidney's skate park and the town also offers family fun in the form of five-pin bowling and lawn bowling.



## #SuperCulturalBC

### What do I love most about Sidney?

"Our community is located in a magical setting. The environment is both beautiful and safe-ideal for walking and taking in all the town has to offer. It is clean and accessible. It has a vibrant marine and café culture and offers exciting boutique shopping. Most shops are owned and operated by locals. At different times of the year, Sidney and the surrounding area offer great bird watching. It's also has some of the friendlies people in Canada! And yes, it is dog-friendly too!"

"Sidney has way too many fine artists to select only one. Visitors and residents enjoy all the various art-focused events Sidney has to offer including the **well-respected adjudicated Sidney Fine Arts Show**, **the ArtSea Fest**, and the **preponderance of art** found in the local galleries and coffee shops."

### My perfect staycation would be:

"Being an outdoor type who loves music and art, I would begin my stay by reserving a room at one of Sidney outstanding hotels or B&B's. I would take early morning walks along the water front and chat with the locals who fish and crab from the Sidney Pier. I might also catch a yoga class or exercise class. I'd then head to a café or restaurant to enjoy local fare and delicious baked goods, stopping to pick up some locally-made chocolate to take back to my room. No doubt I'd window shop--at least--and perhaps go out whale watching, but leave enough time at the end of the day for a massage or other spa treatment. If I'd timed my visit right, I'd have an early dinner so I could enjoy a live performance at the MWC or see the latest movie at Star Cinema. I'd close out the day with a favourite libation at one of Sidney's lively pubs."

- Susan Simosko, President, Sidney Business Improvement Area Society.



## How to Host an InstaMeet and #ExploreBC on BC Day

Last year over 30 communities around the province hosted a series of community-led InstaMeets. This year Destination BC is hosting this popular event again to encourage locals, visitors and industry partners to join together for a day of sharing on social media.

Are you interested in hosting an InstaMeet? [Find out more here.](#)

### Are you enjoying The Curated Community newsletter?

If so, please forward this email to a friend and suggest they sign up for monthly dose! As always, please let us know your requests and suggestions on Twitter. Which bullet above is your favourite? What do you want more or less of? Let us know!

[Send a tweet to @Art\\_BC.](#)

### Want to be featured in The Curated Community?

Please send us your stories, photos, events and creative projects. We want to hear about them! [Email christina@art-bc.com.](mailto:christina@art-bc.com)

Thanks for reading and have an inspiring week.



### Who and what is BC's Guide to Arts & Culture?

Believing that arts and culture is an industry working hand-in-glove with tourism, **Trudy Van Dop** founded the Guide in 1999 and continues to wear pretty much every hat imaginable. Inspired by a supercultural province, back-dropped by unmatched beauty, BC's Guide to Arts and Culture exists to promote the rich cultural uniqueness of British Columbia.

Through vibrant partnerships with over 1,000 community-based arts and cultural destinations, we aim to maximize the economic impact of cultural tourism throughout British Columbia by inspiring residents and

drawing tourists from around the world.

**Join over 30K cultural enthusiasts and follow**

