

CURATED COMMUNITY

BC'S GUIDE TO ARTS & CULTURE



Sailing into the Sunshine Coast in time for Festival Season

What draws me out to the coast is the water. The anticipation of sitting outside on the BC ferry deck cross-legged with a journal in my lap. What draws me out is the wind whipping by my face, peeling the fatigue of mainland life into the folds of the whitecaps. What draws me out to the coast is my brother in Roberts Creek. Him showing me the mandala the community gathers around and repaints in vibrant colour year after year. What draws me out to the coast is the dangerous wonder of the Skookumchuk Narrows and the warm meal awaiting me at the [Backeddy Pub](#).

October is the month to visit the Sunshine Coast. The **13th Annual Sechelt Arts Festival** kicks off October 13th and runs through the 23rd, the **Sunshine Coast Art Crawl** weekend falls on October 21-23 and the **8th Annual Mushroom Festival**, presented by the Society For The Hunting, Recognition and Observation of Mushrooms (Yes, you heard that right) takes place October 14-16.

In this issue of The Curated Community, we speak with Diana Robertson, Associate Producer of the Sechelt Arts Festival, and Ann Nelson of The Patricia Theatre and Powell River Council for Arts, to tap the pulse of the Coast.

"People often think we are on an island," says Robertson. "But the truth is, the Sunshine Coast is part of the Lower Mainland, but only accessible by water or plane."

The south Sunshine Coast is only 40 minutes by BC ferry, 30 minutes by Pacific Ferries, or a hop, skip and jump on Harbour Air (regular flights departing from downtown, YVR, Victoria and Nanaimo) to

Sechelt.

This Fall's for "festivaling" on the Coast. Get to it.

*Christina Crook, Editor
BC's Guide to Arts and Culture*



SUNSHINE COAST ART CRAWL OCTOBER 21-23 2016

"In a world gone mad, the arts matter more than ever."

- Marsha Lederman, Western Arts Correspondent for the *Globe and Mail*

[Read her full column](#) exploring how, in the midst of upheaval, arts can bring us back to the heart of the matter.



**Sechelt Arts Festival
Honours the Shíshálh Nation**

This year the Sechelt Arts Festival is honouring the 30th Anniversary of the shíshálh Nation's self governance with dance, music, school workshops and a heritage exhibit. The festival has been instrumental in nurturing collaborative arts exhibitions and events with the shíshálh Nation performing and visual artists.

This year's theme is the Art of Water, featuring 10 days of innovative visual art, performance art, engagement art and heritage events that tell the community's collective story.

2016 highlights include: Powerhouse singer songwriter **Kinnie Star**, Vancouver dance company **Dancers of Damelahamid**, and over two dozen multi-genre coast artists participating in WATERWORKS art exhibition.

"Through arts and cultural events like this we hope to bring together the aboriginal and non-aboriginal community in harmony and mutual respect as well as creating exciting and informative stories all of the Sunshine Coast can share and appreciate," says Diana Robertson, Associate Producer of Sechelt Arts Festival.



#SuperCulturalBC

Tell us about a local artist we should know about.

We have more artists per capita than any other region in BC, so it is very hard to feature one. Local artist [Gordon Halloran](#) is a good example. He is well known for his international work creating ice paining for the Turin, Italy and Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics. Last year at the Sechelt Arts Festival, he created an emotional community connection to his burnt out sculptural trees, pieces left from the Sechelt fire, summer of 2015. The provocative art installation titled "Regeneration" was purchased by the District of Sechelt as a permanent piece of public art and a tribute to the firefighters who fought the 2015 summer, including a tree-faller who died.

Describe your perfect staycation.

A weekend at [Painted Boat Resort](#) (Pender Harbour) and Spa combined with a Talasay Tours kayaking tour up through Sechelt Inlet via Porpoise Bay or Jervis Inlet. Talasay also offers unique forest trail tours led by a shíshálh Elder who explains and identifies natural plants that have unique medicinal

properties. Combine this with the Sechelt Arts Festival weekend (Oct. 13-24) or the Sunshine Coast Art Crawl (21-23) and you have wonderful way to experience the pristine natural environment and the arts and culture of the region in a one weekend stay.

And, don't forget that a visit here is not complete without a coffee and desert from Strait Coffee in Wilson Creek, or the Gumboot Restaurant in Roberts Creek!

- Diana Robertson, Creative Project Consultant, Associate Producer Sechelt Arts Festival and Past President of the Sunshine Coast Dance Society.



Artist Spotlight

"Former Toronto ad agency creative director/editorial cartoonist Wendy Brown now focuses on personal art in addition to her multiple award winning editorial cartoons and book collections. She explores microcosms within nature in our coastal setting." - Ann Nelson, Owner of the [Historic Patricia Theatre](#)

www.wendybrown.ca



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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.

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