

CURATED COMMUNITY

BC'S GUIDE TO ARTS & CULTURE



It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year to visit Nelson and Kootenay Lake

The holidays are nearly upon us. With the jingle of bells, the scent of peppermint in the air, and the nipping of Jack Frost at our fingertips, we know that soon we'll be nestled in the long, dark days of winter. What better time to plan a short getaway to another corner of the province: a place where history and adventure lie beneath a quiet dusting of the world's finest snow?

Welcome to the Kootenays, that southeastern pocket of British Columbia nestled in a valley surrounded by the Selkirk, Monashee, and Purcell mountain ranges. The Nelson and Kootenay Lake communities sprang up along the Kootenay river and lake over one hundred years ago. Today the region boasts beautifully restored heritage towns, thriving arts communities and gold rush boomtowns. Envision a visit filled with [nordic skiing](#), hot cider on historic town streets, or soaking the worries of the city away in the steaming waters of [Ainsworth Hot Springs](#).



The region consists of six unique communities stretching along a magnificent expanse of lakeshore, steep evergreen valleys and glacial snowfields: Nelson, Balfour, Kaslo, Ainsworth Hot Springs, Lardeau, and Meadow Creek. Along the highway in Balfour (half an hour from Nelson and Kaslo), a community of artisans live and work, with further renowned artisans over the Balfour ferry in Crawford Bay. Wherever you go, you will find a diverse, free-spirited and welcoming community.

The Kootenays are quietly famous for their trademark mix of culture, adventure, history, and spectacular places to stay and dine - a rare combination of metropolitan with mountain lifestyle. [Kicking Horse Mountain Resort](#) and [Farm Fresh Café](#), an extension of the up and coming [Savoy Hotel](#) in Nelson BC, launched by the team behind the world-renowned [Shambhala Music Festival](#), are not to be missed.

In this issue of The Curated Community we speak with ceramic artist [Kalika Bowlby](#) and Dianna Ducs, Executive Director of Nelson and Kootenay Lake Tourism, about their favourite local haunts and perfect Kootenay staycation.

Winter in this region is a skiing paradise. With soft, dry, powdery snow, and lots of it - the conditions are ideal for shredding, but never too cold. Spring draws hikers and mountain bikers to the endless criss-cross of forested trails. Summer brings long hot days perfect for the lakes and beaches or a relaxing round of golf, encircled by mountains.

Whatever the season, the Kootenays have something to offer.

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



Artist Spotlight | Kalika Bowlby



We caught up with Golden-based ceramic artist and designer, Kalika Bowlby. You can find her work exhibited locally at the Art Gallery of Golden.

Q. What we can get excited about in the Kootenays this winter?

With a full line up of Live Kicks performances coming up at the Golden Civic Centre there is lots to look forward to. The weekend of November 25 & 26 will be an exciting weekend in the community. Our annual Christmas Craft Fair is taking place Friday, November 25, noon-8pm and Saturday November 26, 10am-4pm at the Rec Plex. The Craft Fair is a great opportunity to see the full range of artistic talent in the community. Following the Craft Fair on Saturday night Hiromoto' Ida's A Birthday Present for Myself will be at the Golden Civic Centre. The show starts at 7:30pm. Locals can start getting into the Christmas spirit at the Civic Centre on Wednesday, December 7 with Ken Lavigne's Christmas Musical Roadshow.

Q. What do you love about your community?

Well, really, what's not to love. The people are friendly and the scenery is breathtaking. It's kind of the perfect small town, big enough to bring in great music and performance but small enough that a walk through town is full of waves and smiles. It is an incredibly supportive and engaged

community that makes so many sporting and cultural events happen. Sshhhh....don't tell too many people how good life is here in our Rocky Mountain playground, the hidden gem of Golden is our little secret.

Q. Tell us about a local artist we should know about.

Jane Tevelein Doel has been an artist working and living in the Golden area since the early 1980's. She has a varied artistic career and is also a vital and active member of the Golden artistic community and the recipient of several CKCA grants. Originally she began as a print maker but her interest was quickly drawn to clay. Jane built two Raku kilns on her property south of Golden in which she fires most of her work. Jane draws inspiration from the landscape of the Columbia Wetlands and particularly rock textures of the mountain landscape which is evident in her Raku wall tile pieces. Jane has also worked as a youth care worker and counsellor and at the Golden Alternate school. Jane says " I have found that practising any of the arts is very valuable and effective for people in whatever way they choose to do it." Jane also teaches clay and raku workshops at her house for both adults and children. You can see some of Jane's work at the Art Gallery of Golden.

Q. Explain what makes your community's cultural footprint unique.

The cultural footprint of Golden is unique in it's reflection of true Rocky Mountain culture. So many of the artists in the region draw inspiration from the landscape and it is also the one thing that is shared by every member of the community. It is something we can all relate to and celebrate.

Q. Describe your perfect staycation.

I think everyone who lives in Golden can agree that we are lucky to live in a place that most people only get to experience while on vacation. A perfect winter staycation would include a day skiing either at Kicking Horse Mountain or the Nordic centre, followed by dinner at local restaurant, Eleven 22, and a show at the Golden Civic Centre.

Golden is a kind and inviting community. If you are in town, don't hesitate to stop and ask a local where to find a good coffee or great restaurant. There are lots of great places to check out off the main street, including picking up great sushi in the back of the Fas Gas station, really, it's true. Another much loved winter activity is sledding. I think Golden may have one of the best sledding hills around, ask a local how to get to snake hill where you will find families and kids of all ages flying down the hill or warming up around a bonfire. www.kalika.ca

**Don't tell too many people how good life is
in our Rocky Mountain Playground**



Gorham Lake Trail. Photo courtesy of Kailka Bowly

Post your photos from the Kootenays and beyond
with

#SuperCulturalBC

**"Free-spirited,
welcoming, and diverse.
There's always
something to do."**

Dianna Ducs, Executive Director of
Nelson and Kootenay Lake Tourism

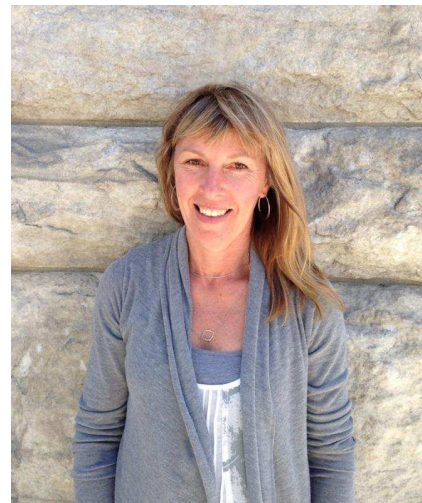
Q. What do you love about your community?

It's free-spirited, welcoming, diverse and there's always something to do, whether it be art or an outdoor activity.

Q. Tell us about a local artist we should know about. What's their story?

This is tough. There are so many. There are so many different kinds of artists here. Two of my favourites are Louis Bockner, an aspiring local photographer shooting people in the area but who also has an inventive travelling photo booth, and Gary McCandlish, an artisanal wood turner who creates beautiful bowls from birch, box elm, maple, acacia, cherry and oak.

Q. What makes Nelson's cultural footprint unique?



Diversity, unique, refined and talented!

Q. Describe your perfect staycation.

A day of road riding in the summer, or cross-country skiing in the winter, dinner at a cozy, flavourful highend restaurant, or even a pub like Mikes, followed by a movie at our historic community-run theatre, or live music at one of our local venues.



**"There is something inspiring to do all year round:
arts, culture, heritage, attractions and activities.
We are pretty blessed living 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? Send your stories, photos, events and creative projects to christina@art-bc.com. We want to hear about them!

Thanks for reading and have an inspiring week.

Join over 35K cultural enthusiasts and follow



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.

To Participate or for more information please call **1.888.981.9886** or email publisher@art-bc.com

VAN DOP
ARTS & CULTURAL GUIDE
TO BRITISH COLUMBIA

