



Artists Welcome Package

Image: Evan Locke, *Immediacy Protracted*, 2019 Artist-In-Residence



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Design by
Megan KH Quigley

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Territorial Acknowledgment and Context

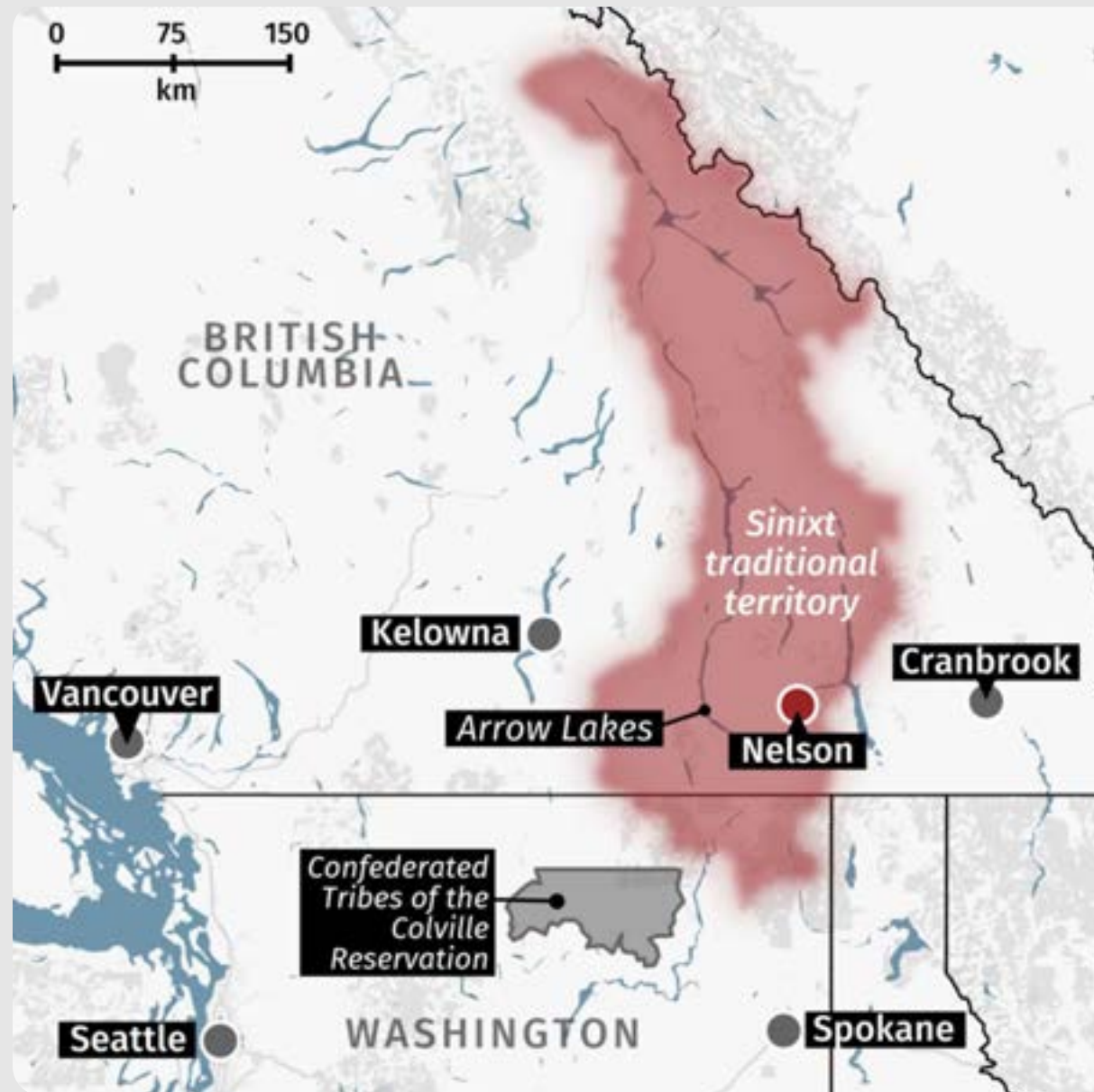
Oxygen Art Centre acknowledges with gratitude that we are located on the tum xula7xw/ traditional territory of the Sinixt People. As uninvited guests we honour their ongoing presence on this land. We recognize that the Sinixt Arrow Lakes, Sylx, Ktuxana, and Yaqan Nukij Lower Kootenay Band peoples are also connected with this land, as are Métis and many diverse Indigenous persons.

Sinixt

From the Blood of Life Collective: The Autonomous Sinixt are currently engaged in upholding their Indigenous rights and responsibilities in their unceded and ancestral tum xula7xw/ (traditional territory). In an act of bureaucratic genocide, the Sinixt were declared extinct for the purposes of Canada's Indian Act in 1956 to make way for the damming of the Columbia River. Sinixt, however, continue to live in diaspora in both Canada and the USA. In 1990, with their active return to the 80% of their territory which is north of the Canada-US border, they began the work of repatriating and reburying ancestral remains. They continue to uphold their traditional laws of whuplak'n and Smum iem by working to protect the land and water, cultural sites and language to pass onto future generations of Sinixt. In accord to their traditional governance system, Smum iem Matriarch, Marilyn James, was appointed by her elders to carry on this work.

Ktunaxa Nation

From the Ktunaxa Nation: Ktunaxa (pronounced 'k-too-nah-ha') people have occupied the lands adjacent to the Kootenay and Columbia Rivers and the Arrow Lakes of British Columbia, Canada for more than 10,000 years. The Traditional Territory of the Ktunaxa Nation covers approximately 70,000 square kilometres (27,000 square miles) within the Kootenay region of south-eastern British Columbia and historically included parts of Alberta, Montana, Washington and Idaho.



Map of Sinixt traditional territory. Image source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/supreme-court-of-canada-desautel-sinixt-ruling-1.5998062?fbclid=IwAR13IG9N8PkZi4FkljL8MM0iKxHuepgKQciKbfU0g6PaoA8ixxHzt1DcVtI>

Further Resources

Listen to Marilyn James (Sinixt Smum lem Matriach) speak about Sinixt dialect revitalization and counter mapping in the region:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GfxXtpZD0w8>

Read about the Metis Nation's demands for recognition by the BC government:

<https://www.nelsonstar.com/news/metis-nation-demands-recognition-by-b-c/>

Read about the Canadian Supreme Court's declaration of the Sinixt Nation and constitutionally protected rights:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/supreme-court-of-canada-desautel-sinixt-ruling-1.5998062?fbclid=IwAR13IG9N8PkZi4FkljL8MM0iKxHuepgKQciKbfU0g6PaoA8ixxHzt1DcVtI>



About Oxygen

Vision Statement

Fundamental to the regional cultural landscape, Oxygen Art Centre is a rural artist-run centre that nurtures contemporary professional practices while engaging the wider community through multi-disciplinary programming.

Mission Statement

Through education, residencies, exhibitions and events Oxygen advances rural cultural development and achieves experimental, accessible and inclusive programming.

History

Oxygen Art Centre was founded as the Nelson Fine Art Centre Society in 2002 by former writing and visual art faculty at the Kootenay School of the Arts. Oxygen spent its first two years establishing its educational focus and in January 2005, the Society opened the Oxygen Art Centre in downtown Nelson. The Oxygen Art Centre is a 900 sq ft. renovated warehouse studio and serves as a classroom, exhibition space and residency centre.

Our Story

Oxygen Art Centre is Located in South Eastern British Columbia, West Kootenays, in the town of Nelson. Nelson is a community of 10,000 people that also services around 70,000 people living in remote outlying areas. Oxygen is an integral and long-standing cultural hub for artists of all disciplines (including youth) in the West Kootenays and the Columbia Basin. Oxygen provides meaningful professional development opportunities to local artists and brings artists of national and international repute into our communities to produce new work.

Out of 21 artist-run-centres in BC, Oxygen is only one of two in a rural location, and the only artist-run-centre to offer a residency program. Oxygen has played a vital role in creating the vibrant arts sector that the region enjoys, and continues to contribute to its rich collective cultural identity and sense of place. The centre is open to all and provides affordable, accessible, and in many cases free or by-donation programming and membership. As an artist-run centre, it acts as catalyst and incubator for the development of the arts community and its audience.

Oxygen provides space and programming for artists and the public to engage in the creation, study, exhibition and performance of contemporary art in all disciplines. Our robust year-round Arts Education curriculum offers high-quality art instruction to children, youth and adults at a subsidized cost – a vitally important community service that is not offered at other local institutions. Oxygen is the only organization in Nelson and region with such a unique legacy. It has and continues to support professional development in the arts, as well as supporting the region's literary and academic community through readings, screenings events, and symposia. Oxygen Art Centre is a long-time advocate for arts-based community development and cultural programming. We belong to the Canadian network of Artist-Run Centres, which have a rich history of supporting and providing platforms for experimental arts practices, academic dialogues, and diverse artistic networks. We are proud to be continuing this legacy from our uniquely rural context..



Team

Staff

Executive Director

Education Coordinator

Literary Arts Coordinator

Research Assistant

Exhibition and Residency Coordinator

Julia Prudhomme

Natasha Smith

Greta Hamilton

Megan KH Quigley

Deborah Thompson

Board

Chair

Vice Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Director

Director

Director

Director

Director

Youth Chair

Anita Levesque

Brian Lye

Carol Wallace

Tyler Wright

prOphecy sun

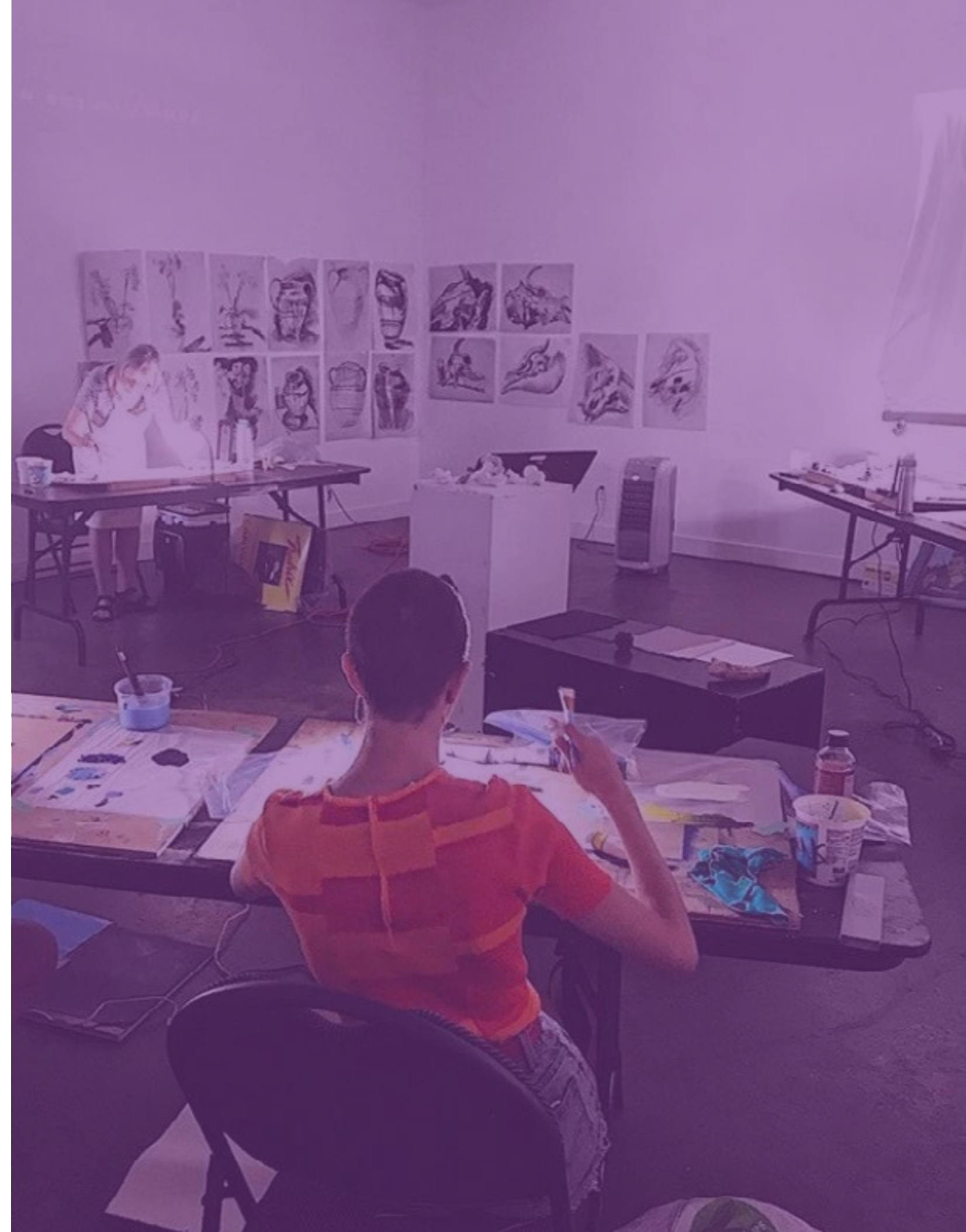
Samonte Cruz

Laurryn Asbell

Alison Talbot-Kelly

Chelsey Freyta

Gabby Asbell



Location and Contact Information



Contact Information

Executive Director

Julia Prudhomme
info@oxygenartcentre.org

Education Coordinator

Natasha Smith
education@oxygenartcentre.org

Emergency

911

Nelson-Police-Department

250-354-3919

Fire-Rescue-Services

250-352-3103

Ambulance Non-Emergency

250-352-2112



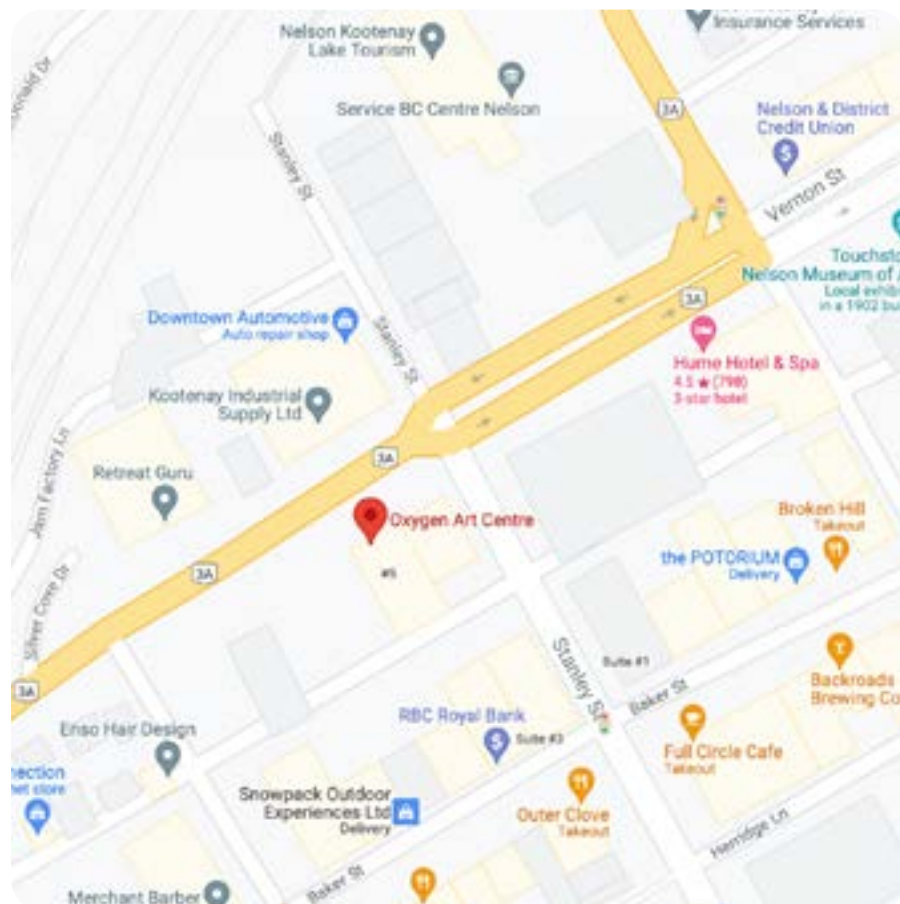
Location

Location: Oxygen Art Centre
#3-320 Vernon Street (alley entrance), Nelson, BC, V1L 4E4

Located with Lillie & Cohoe Millinery and beside Hemp Knit shop. Le Grand Fromage is located downstairs via staircase.

No parking available directly outside Oxygen. Loading and temporary parking alongside iron fencing. Parking available along Stanley Street or in nearby parking garages and parking lots.

Alley is located directly below Baker Street, behind Kootenay Bakery. Alley entrance is available along Stanley St. or Kootenay St.



About Nelson

Nelson is a small city located in the Selkirk Mountains on the extreme West Arm of Kootenay Lake in the Southern Interior of British Columbia, Canada.

Population: approx. 10,664 (from 2016)

Many amenities can be accessed on foot in and around Oxygen Art Centre. However, Nelson is located on the side of a mountain and consequently subject to inclines and declines throughout the town. Access to surrounding communities requires a car.

Oxygen's closest airport is located in Castlegar, BC, a 32 minute or 41 km drive. The closest international airports are located in Kelowna, BC, a 4 hour or 345 km drive, or Spokane, WA, U.S.A., a 3.5 hour or 252 km drive.

City of Nelson official website: <https://www.nelson.ca/>



Logistics and Facilities

Internet

Name: "OxygenAlley"
PWSD: oxygenartcentre

Accommodations

Artist will be billeted during their residency. Please contact Deb Thompson for more information about your accommodation.

Artist Fees

Oxygen pays CARFAC rate artist fees. Artist Fee Schedules will be outlined and discussed in the Contract, at least 6 – 4 months prior to Exhibition and Residency commencement.

Artist will be paid by cheque on the start date of their Residency and Exhibition, respectively.

Locks

You will be given a key to Oxygen. You will be able to access the space 24/7 throughout your residency duration. Please make arrangements with the Executive Director and/or Exhibition & Residency Coordinator if you would like assistance and/or solitude at any time during your residency.

If you lose your key and cannot reach the Exhibition & Residency Coordinator or the Executive Director, an extra key is available at Lillie & Cohoe Millinery with our landlord, Liz Cohoe.

Oxygen does not utilize a security system. Please ensure that all windows are closed and locked, lights are off, and door is locked prior to leaving the facilities.

Please return your key at the end of your residency or project.

Facilities

Oxygen is equipped with a small kitchenette, washroom, storage area, and office.

Kitchenette

Coffee maker, electric kettle, utensils, mugs, and refrigerator are available for your use. We will ensure that coffee and tea are stocked prior to your residency.

Storage and Tools

Please feel free to utilize tools, materials, and supplies in the storage area. If you have any questions or need specific tools or materials for your project please notify the Executive Director and/or Exhibition and Residency Coordinator.

Heat

Oxygen is heated by two radiators. The controls are located to the left of the bathroom door, beside the air conditioning remote control.

Air Conditioning

Oxygen is air conditioned by one unit located above the storage door. The remote control is located to the left of the bathroom door, to the right of the heating controls.

Lighting

Fluorescent and overhead lighting can be turned off and on at the front door. Track lighting is located over top the tall filing cabinet and can be switched off and on with the long painting stir stick. Additional track lights and alternative lighting can be found in the storage area and installed by Oxygen staff, if preferred.



Accessibility

Accessibility at Oxygen

Oxygen Art Centre's mandate is to act as a catalyst and incubator for the development of the arts community and its audience(s). Oxygen Art Centre is an artist-run centre that considers accessibility at all levels of our organization, one that continues to learn and shape how our facility and programs serve diverse communities. This practice is based in reflexivity, dialogue, policy development, and ongoing research to create accessible public spaces to engage with contemporary art practices. This work is ongoing and rooted in feminist, disability, gender expansive, harm-reduction, and activist strategies that are central to Oxygen's mandate. These commitments extend to all aspects of our programming, including in person and online experiences, materials, and events. This includes the provision of accessible opportunities for artists and audiences of diverse backgrounds, practices, and experiences. Our goal is not only to build an accessible and inclusive environment at Oxygen, but also to work toward a more inclusive and accessible arts and culture sector more broadly.

Our approach to accessibility is community-informed and continues to develop in consultation and collaboration. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding accessibility, please be in touch.

Facets of OAC's approach to accessibility:

- Public programming and events are free
- Information on physical accessibility is made available to audiences and participating artists
- Online events include live captioning in English
- Educational discounts for volunteers, high school and college students
- Educational bursary program for youth and persons living outside City limits
- Gallery Host tuition program to subsidize educational fees
- Sliding scale organizational memberships
- Staff and board are continuously engaged in discussion on issues of anti-oppression, accessibility, decolonization
- Equity-based hiring and recruitment practices are continuously engaged in discussions at Board, Staff, and Policy meetings regarding our commitment to BIPOC, 2SLGBTQ+, disabled, neurodivergent, and historically marginalized candidates
- Transparency around compensation for artists, collaborators, and staff
- Harm reduction approach to events including a Naloxone kit available on site



Visibility

Finding Oxygen

Oxygen has three (3) sandwich boards that are typically located on Baker St. & Stanley Ave; Stanley Ave. & Alleyway; and, in front of Oxygen's facility. We also have a red sign with white Oxygen logo hanging at the south east corner of our building, which can be viewed from both directions of the alleyway.

The centre has vinyl signage on the front window beside the front door with logo, website, phone number, and email address (contact info). The front door also features a mailbox for folks to leave letters/etc. We also have a sign in the upper window of our entrance that features a black background featuring Oxygen's logo in white and red that can be viewed more easily from the alleyway street.



Getting to Oxygen

Car

There is no parking available directly outside Oxygen. Loading and temporary parking alongside iron fencing. Parking available along Stanley Street or in nearby parking garages and parking lots.

Bus

Route #3: schedule linked below; however, it is scheduled to be changed as the city is changing some routes and adding a new downtown terminal two blocks from our facility.

Bus schedule: <https://www.bctransit.com/west-kootenay/schedules-and-maps>
(There is a pdf map and downloadable app on this page.)

Bike

Folks can lock their bikes to the metal fencing immediately outside of Oxygen. Otherwise, there are multiple locations to lock bikes along Baker St.

Moving Around Oxygen

Front Door

There are five steps required to reach the front door. An adjacent metal ramp can be accessed from alleyway level. No. The door has one turn handle that requires a pulling motion to enter. The door is light, features a window, and is often open during hours of operation (weather permitting).

Dimensions:

Entrance 35" x 79.5" high with 1" lip

Stairs 5 total, 60" x 6.5" high

Ramp 45.5" wide approx 28 feet from entrance

Foyer

There are no steps to access the foyer but, there is a slight lip at the doorway (wood trim).

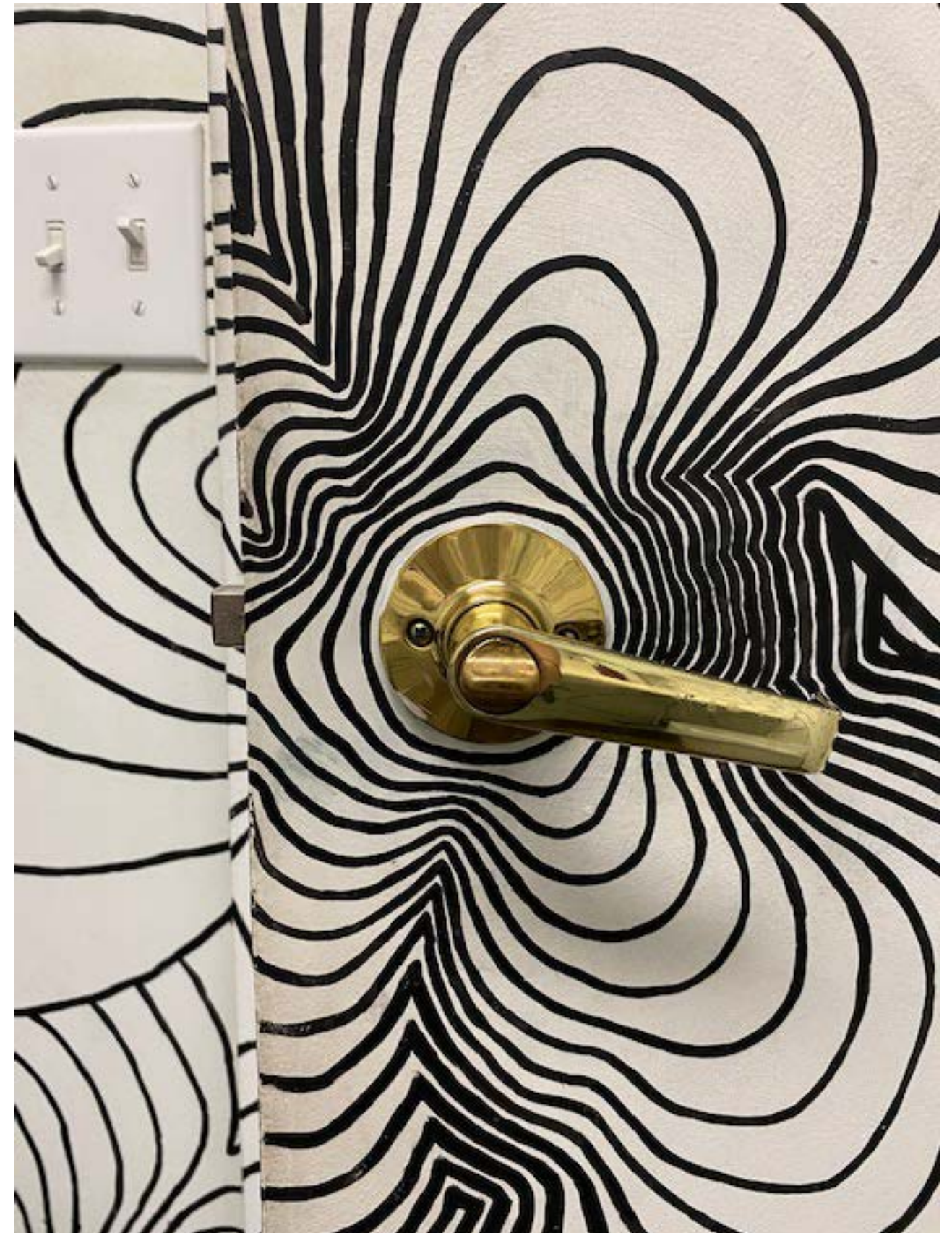
Gallery

Once in the foyer, the space is entirely one level, concrete.

Bathrooms

There is one bathroom at Oxygen. During the pandemic the bathroom has been closed to the public, only for staff, artists volunteers, students. The bathroom is gender-inclusive.

The room is accessed by a door with a turn handle. The bathroom is accessible and is wide enough for a wheelchair or walker. There are grab bars by the toilet.







In the Gallery

Lighting

The space features both fluorescent and track lighting.

Seating

The space features three wooden benches in the entrance, as well as chairs and bean bag chairs when appropriate for exhibitions. Oxygen's classes feature standardized folding tables and cushioned folding chairs.

Information and Assistance

If staff are not on site the space will host a gallery sitter volunteer. For exhibitions all volunteers are invited to an exhibition tour prior to opening to learn more about the exhibition, artists, curatorial vision, etc. to assist with any questions, as well as opening/closing protocol





Around Nelson

Arts and Culture

Nelson

Touchstones Nelson Museum: <https://touchstonesnelson.ca/>
Nelson and District Arts Council: <https://www.ndac.ca/>
Mural Festival (Map, throughout downtown Nelson)
The Capitol Theatre
The Civic Theatre
Nelson Public Library
Reo's Video
Nelson Farmer's Market (Wednesdays & Saturday)

Nearby

Kootenay Gallery of Art (Castlegar)
Empire of Dirt (Creston)
Langham Cultural Centre (Kaslo)

Hardware Stores

Closest

Hipperson's Hardware: 395 Baker Street
Leaving Oxygen turn Left and head up-hill to Baker Street, Hipperson's is directly to your Right.

Extensive

Nelson Home Hardware Building Centre: 101 McDonald Drive
Close by car with more extensive selection of tools, lumber, and paint supplies.

Art Supply Store

Cowan's Office Supply: 517 Victoria Street
Nelson's only art supply store other than materials available at WalMart (1000 Lakeside Drive in Chahko-Mika Mall) or the Dollar store (644 Baker Street).
A short walk uphill.

Groceries

Kootenay Co-op Grocery Store: 777 Baker Street
Walkable from Oxygen along alleys or Baker Street

Save-On-Foods: 1200 Lakeside Drive (Chahko-Mika Mall)
Close drive from Oxygen, near the lake

Wings Grocery: 371 Baker Street
Convenience store, very close to Oxygen

Coffee Shops

Listed from closest to farthest from Oxygen Art Centre

Dominion Café: 334 Baker Street
John Ward: 503 Baker Street
Oso Negro Café: 604 Ward Street
Empire Coffee: 616 Vernon Street
Sidewinders: 696 Baker Street

Restaurants

Kootenay Tamil Kitchen: 660 Baker Street
Yum Son: 522 Victoria Street
Baba's Indian Cuisine: 445 Baker Street
Cantina Del Centro: 565 Baker Street
Main Street Diner: 616 Baker Street
El Taco: 306 Victoria Street

Community Organizations

ANKORS: HIV/AIDS Network, Outreach & Support Society: 101 Baker Street
Provides harm reduction supplies and individual support for
Nelson Cares Society: 100-205 Hall Street, Nelson, BC
Free legal advocacy, sexual assault response team
Nelson Community Food Centre: 602 Silica Street
Food security, justice, and resources



COVID-19 Protocols

In effect as of 23 March 2022, until further notice.

Indoor programs at the Centre will adhere to the following protocols:

- Maximum capacity of 10 persons at all times

- Masks are recommended indoors

- Participants must be seated when possible, at a distance (6 feet or 2 meters)

- Health Declaration at entrance, including hand sanitizer

- Utilization of air purifier throughout the duration of in person programming

- Utilization of disinfecting wipes and washing hands frequently

- If you or a person in your home are feeling ill we ask that you do not attend programs at the Centre and seek testing if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms

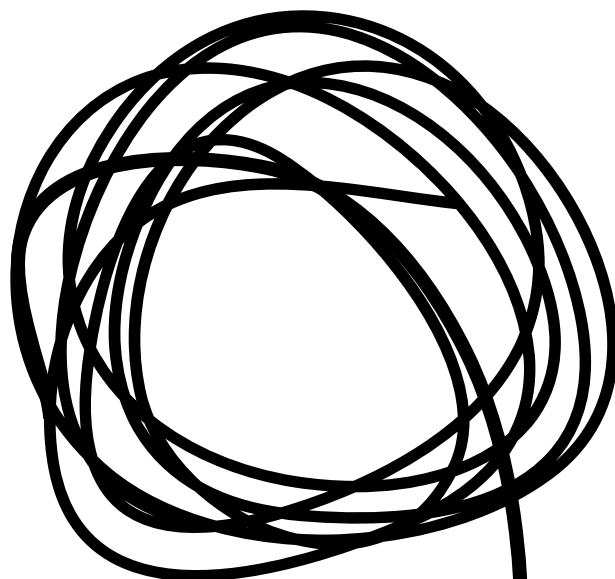
It is possible that programs taking place in the Centre will be cancelled or postponed at any time. Updates will be made to participants and/or students via email. While we will attempt to offer 24-hour notice, provincial and regional changes to protocols may occur at any time.

Resources

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

<https://www.actsafe.ca/covid-19-resources-for-the-arts-and-entertainment-industries/>





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ART CENTRE