



10 Ways Nanaimo Art Gallery Supports Local Artists

At Nanaimo Art Gallery, this place—the land, our stories, our histories, cultures and communities —is at the very heart of our work, and we consider the needs of the diverse audiences we serve, our relationships with artists, and our role as a public art museum every step of the way.

In short, here are the top ten ways Nanaimo Art Gallery supports local artists...

1. Artists from our region regularly participate in exhibitions alongside diverse artists from across Canada, the United States and abroad – our program sets local practices and perspectives in global dialogue. From 2020 to present, exhibitions have featured works by cultural leaders and artists with deep connections to our place including Sheri Bakes, John Charnetski, Peter Culley, Steven Thomas Davies, Tiwuxiwulh Tyrone Elliott, Jonathan Forrest, Sonnet L'abbe, lessLIE, Xulsi'malt Gary Manson and Adam Manson, C-tasi:a Geraldine Manson, Anne Ramsden, Sarah Robichaud, Willie Thrasher and Linda Saddleback, Heather Kai Smith, Brendan Tang, Nancy Turner, Gari Whelon, Eliot White-Hill Kwulasultun, Isabel Ford and Jeremy Van Wyck (CROTCH), and Charlotte Zhang.
2. Our programs inspire and empower the next generation of artists and ignite a life-long love of art. In pre-pandemic years, the Gallery served over 14,000 children and youth across three school districts through TD Artists in the Schools program. We offer children's art classes and day camps for kids ages 5 to 12 and a variety of art programs for teens throughout the year. Our Art Lab Sundays encourage everyone to drop in for a hands-on art experience twice monthly and adult workshops provide opportunities for self-expression and learning new skills. For

learners at all levels, programs introduce participants to a variety of artists and media, connections with fellow artists, and provide valuable opportunities to express themselves through art.

3. Over 25 local artists are hired annually as instructors for TD Artists in the Schools and facilitate art classes and workshops at the Gallery.
4. The Gallery participates in local community events every year, including the Downtown Nanaimo Artwalk, Rock VIU, National Indigenous Peoples Day, South End Community Days, the Nanaimo Pride Festival, and the Commercial Street Night Market. We support many local initiatives to celebrate and promote artists and the role of art in our lives.
5. We hire local musicians, photographers and other creative professionals who contribute to our programs and exhibitions in many ways. Artists are paid for exhibitions, talks, and workshops, and often for costs associated with the production, shipping and installation of their artwork. The Gallery follows CARFAC fee guidelines - CARFAC is important for artists—learn about it at www.carfac.ca.
6. The Gallery Store features work for sale by over 138 Vancouver Island artists and makers. Proceeds from The Gallery Store support the livelihood of these artists and fund Gallery programs and exhibitions.
7. Nanaimo Art Gallery offers weekly lunch-time exhibition tours introducing the public to contemporary artists and engaging the community in discussions about art and ideas. The Gallery routinely organizes free artist talks and hosts opening receptions for new exhibitions quarterly, creating opportunities for local artists to meet and learn first-hand from diverse professional artists from all over.
8. Our Curator, Jesse Birch, regularly visits artist's studios in Nanaimo and across Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands to look, learn, share ideas and give feedback. If you are interested in a studio visit, contact the Gallery.

9. Our team is continually mentoring, hiring and training emerging arts professionals —we are fortunate to work with university students and recent graduates, who serve in a number of different paid roles, year-round at the Gallery. Every year, we recognize an art student from Vancouver Island University with the Nanaimo Art Gallery Award for Artistic Achievement, which includes a cash prize.

10. The Gallery shares unique stories from Nanaimo with the world; our exhibitions and programs draw visitors from all over, and through publications, professional networks, presentations, our online presence and press coverage we're raising the profile of our community and creating a buzz about art and ideas in Nanaimo.