

## How to Find Us

The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency is located at the Aquabus dock at Plaza of Nations in Vancouver's False Creek. The site is accessible by foot or bicycle via the Northeast False Creek Seawall. Pay parking is available at the Plaza of Nations Parking Lot (770 Pacific Blvd).

Public access to the site is prohibited except during scheduled public events.

For accessibility details please visit [thebluecabin.ca](http://thebluecabin.ca).

Our first call for applications for resident artists will be launched November 15th, 2019 at [thebluecabin.ca](http://thebluecabin.ca).

For contact information please visit [thebluecabin.ca](http://thebluecabin.ca)

## Welcome to the Blue Cabin

Floating into Vancouver's False Creek this summer, the Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency is launching its inaugural program of artist residencies, open houses, talks and workshops. Situated in the unceded lands and waters of the **xwməθkwəy̓əm** (Musqueam), **Skwxwú7mesh** (Squamish) and **Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh** (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, the Blue Cabin offers a vantage point from which to consider the city differently. International in scope but deeply rooted in the histories and narratives of this place, the Blue Cabin offers a unique opportunity to learn, explore and engage with the foreshore.

The Blue Cabin sat between the low and high tide lines at Cates Park in North Vancouver since 1932, and has resisted ownership for nearly 100 years. It was home to maritime labourers and families—and since the late '60s was a place of creative respite and subsistence for Vancouver artists Al Neil and Carole Itter. Slated for demolition in 2014, the Cabin was saved by a consortium of arts organizations and has since been transformed into a unique, floating artist residency that offers artists and the public a unique, shifting view of the region and the ideas and histories that inform it.

The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency is grateful for the visionary support of Vancouver Foundation, the City of Vancouver, Heritage Canada's Cultural Spaces Program, British Columbia Arts Council, BC Museums Association Canada 150 Program, BC Collaborative Spaces Program, District of North Vancouver, Wayne Saunders, Fred McMaster and Larry Carrier of Vancouver Pile Driving Ltd., Carole Itter, Marko Simcic of Simcic + Ulrich Architects, Australia Council for the Arts, Canadian Metropolitan Properties Corporation, Maplewood Farm, Polygon Homes, Canexus Corporation, PM-Volunteers, Harold Kalmaan, Andrew Todd Conservators Ltd, Ian McMurdo, Wayne Poole, Lisa Muri, Clint Low of Bush Bohlman & Partners, Carlo Elholm of Advisian Engineers, Jeremy and Sus Borsos, Germaine Koh Studio Ltd., The Audain Foundation, Lehigh Hanson, Harris Steel, Native Shoes, K. Joseph Spears and Monica Ahlroos of Horseshoe Bay Marine Group, European Touch Hardwoods, Rick Erickson and Donna Partridge, Heritage BC, San Cedar, Faststeel, Standard Building Supplies, ShapeMeasure, Fine Art Framing, Vancouver Renewable Energy Cooperative, Australian High Commission, The Hamber Foundation, Port of Vancouver North Shore Waterfront Liaison Committee and our other generous supporters and donors.

The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency is a collaborative project of **grunt** gallery, Other Sights for Artists' Project and C3 Creative Cultural Collaborations.

*Skeins: Weaving on the Foreshore* has been assisted by Vancouver Foundation, the City of Vancouver Public Art Program, and the Australian Government through the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body.



All events are free and open to the public. Visit us at [thebluecabin.ca](http://thebluecabin.ca)





## Inaugural Program

### *Skeins: Weaving on the Foreshore*

The Blue Cabin has always occupied a position on the landscape that highlighted the edges of the built environment—spaces on the foreshore that were, for many reasons, outside the realm of what was generally understood to be ‘the city’. The residency was envisioned as one that circulates on the water, and encourages a vantage point that allows artists and the public to appreciate the many complex histories that make up this region. Our first priority has been to acknowledge and pay respect to the Coast

Salish peoples, and the thousands of years they have lived on and cared for the lands and waters that are now referred to as the Lower Mainland. It is important for us to begin as we mean to continue—in conversation with colleagues whose practices tell stories that come from a fundamental connection to this place.

As expressed by master weaver Buddy George, weaving can be the catalyst that entwines language, storytelling, tradition and ceremony through the actions of gathering, preparing, creating, gifting, and using.

Weaving can enact or bring something into being that serves functional purposes beyond that of a well crafted object. As a foundational practice, the woven object can operate in numerous ways that include honouring and affirming positions of families and individuals, documenting history and constitutions, and conveying knowledge about the lands of which Indigenous people are caretakers. As both practice and metaphor, weaving provides a ground for exploration into the stories of this region, and provides a jumping off point for programs that address relations and histories

that are complex and intertwined. Likewise, the idea of “the weave” addresses our desire to bring together multiple communities and publics in the expression of this program.



Photo by John Ward

The Blue Cabin was built as a houseboat in 1927 by a Norwegian shipbuilder and originally moored in Coal Harbor. In 1932, when

the shipbuilder began working for McKenzie Barge & Derrick Co., he towed the cabin to the foreshore on Tsileil-Waututh Territory



<a href="#">Resident Artists 2019-20</a>		<a href="#">Angela George</a>		<a href="#">Debra Sparrow</a>		<a href="#">Calendar</a>	
Our inaugural program of residencies invites artists to create work and do research in the context of the Blue Cabin and the foreshore of False Creek. Local artists Angela George, Janice George + Buddy Joseph and Debra Sparrow will begin with an 8-week research term, followed by a 6-8 week residency at the Blue Cabin. International artist Vicki Couzens will be in residence for a 6-week term.		Angela George carries two ancestral names, <i>sits'sáts'tenat</i> and <i>q'wənat</i> . Her late mother is <i>slatwx</i> , Cookie Thomas (Cole/Discon/Billy family) from Skwxwú7mesh and her father is from the Baker family from Skwxwú7mesh and the Jones and Peter family on Vancouver Island. She was raised by her late Dad, wika, Alexander Paul of Sts'ailes in the Fraser Valley. Angela is married to Gabriel George, grandson of late Chief Dan George and lives and works in the Tsleil-Waututh Nation in North Vancouver. This Coast Salish mother of 4 has dedicated her career to the betterment of First Nations people and		Debra Sparrow was born and raised on the Musqueam Indian Reserve and is self-taught in Salish design and jewellery-making. Her contemporary work combines textile and Salish design into geometric, hand spun blankets and hangings and can be seen in various museums and institutions, including the Vancouver Airport, Museum of Civilizations in Ottawa and the University of British Columbia. Debra designed the logo for the Canadian Men's Hockey Team for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Vancouver, B.C. She also continues to work on pieces close to her heart at her home in Musqueam. It is		Additional events will be added to our calendar at thebluecabin.ca.	
This first series of residencies will emphasize engaged programming, both on the Cabin and through various community partners. Owing to the emphasis on teaching and learning and intergenerational knowledge exchange, the program will include workshops, classes and presentations around weaving, language and design—and other opportunities for adults, elders and youth to engage in the history and stories of the region.		communities. Traditionally groomed, she has a strong understanding of her culture and spiritual teachings and the impacts of colonization and barriers that plague First Nations communities. She has a strong passion for traditional canoe racing, weaving and cultural singing and dancing, and believes that practicing traditions and havinag a strong sense of identity and connection to our ancestors is vital to community wellness, development and sustainability. Angela is currently working on her EMBA in Indigenous Business Leadership at SFU.		Debra's hope to educate others about the beauty and integrity of her people's history through her art. Debra is a highly accomplished weaver, and for over 20 years has played a pivotal role in the ongoing revival of Musqueam weaving.		Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency: Public Launch & Welcome	
<a href="#">Skwetsimeltxw Willard 'Buddy' Joseph &amp; Chepximiya Siyam' Janice George</a>		<a href="#">Vicki Couzens</a>		<a href="#">—Debra Sparrow</a> (courtesy of Storyhive: Woven Together)		Location: Blue Cabin (Plaza of Nations Aquabus dock)	
"The weavings that we create are the foundation of the culture; when we get a name, when we get married, when we get a Chieftainship, every way we move forward in life starts out with standing on a blanket in the Longhouse."		"It was a call from the Ancestors to re-awaken the songlines of Possum Cloak Story, to return the cloaks to our People, to reclaim, regenerate, revitalize and remember—that is the Old Peoples' story and our journey is to carry this vision forward."		—Angela George		Tours every 15 minutes from 11:30 am–5:30 pm 20 people per tour on a first come, first served basis	
—Chief Janice George (courtesy of Portland Art Museum)		—Vicki Couzens (courtesy of the Australian Council for the Arts)		Thursday, Sept. 26th, 6 pm		Meet the artist/welcome reception: Vicki Couzens	
from prominent Squamish families and have numerous ceremonial and cultural responsibilities in their community. Joseph is the former director of the Squamish Housing and Capital Projects and currently consults on capital projects for First Nations communities. Together they co-founded L'hen Awtxw Weaving House to share the teachings and practice of traditional Coast Salish wool weaving.		teaching—and is widely known for her central role in the revival of the possum skin cloak making tradition which began in Victoria and is now established across south-eastern Australia. Vicki is a Vice Chancellors Indigenous Research Fellow at Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University.		Location: Blue Cabin (Plaza of Nations Aquabus dock)		Meet the artist: Angela George	
Skwetsimeltxw Willard 'Buddy' Joseph and Chepximiya Siyam' Janice George are accomplished weavers and teachers from the Squamish Nation. Chief Janice George graduated from Capilano University, North Vancouver, BC, and the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM, USA. She feels her education at these schools helped her excel as a teacher, adding to her most important traditional teachings. She is a hereditary chief, trained museum curator and educator. George also co-organized the 1st Canada Northwest Coast Weavers Gathering, with other Squamish Nation Weavers. George and Joseph are		Vicki Couzens is a Gunditjmara citizen from the Western Districts of Victoria, Australia. Vicki acknowledges her Ancestors and Elders who guide her work. She has worked in Aboriginal community affairs for almost 40 years and is Senior Knowledge Custodian for Possum Cloak Story and Language Reclamation in her Keerray Woorroong Mother Tongue. Vicki has distinguished herself with her interdisciplinary artwork, or as she prefers, "creative cultural expression" - painting, installation, visual arts, print-making, mixed media, performing arts, language revitalization, ceremony and		Thursday, Oct. 24th, 6 pm		Meet the artist: Janice George & Buddy Joseph	
				Location: Native Education College (237 East 5th Ave, Vancouver)		Meet the artist: Debra Sparrow	
				Saturday, Oct. 26th, 11 am–4 pm		Open Studio: Vicki Couzens	
				Location: Blue Cabin (Plaza of Nations Aquabus dock)		Meet the artist: Angela George	
				Thursday, Nov. 21st, 6 pm		Open Studio: Debra Sparrow	
				Location: Native Education College (237 East 5th Ave, Vancouver)		Meet the artist: Janice George & Buddy Joseph	
				Saturday, Jan. 11th, 11 am–4 pm		Open Studio: Vicki Couzens	
				Location: Blue Cabin (Plaza of Nations Aquabus dock)		Meet the artist: Debra Sparrow	