

BLUE CABIN FLOATING ARTIST RESIDENCY OPEN CALL TO VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTISTS

INTRODUCTION

The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency Committee is calling for expressions of interest from professional local, national and international artists to undertake a 6-week long residency aboard the Blue Cabin in 2020 or 2021. Open to visual and media artists at all stages of practice, up to five, 6-week residency spaces will be filled as a result of this call. The residency is on the water on a small float which carries a remediated heritage cabin studio and a separate deckhouse living space.

Located on the Pacific Coast in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, within the shared, unceded and ancestral territories of the xwməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations, the Blue Cabin offers a vantage point from which to consider this region — its layered histories and speculative future — differently.

THE BLUE CABIN FLOATING ARTIST RESIDENCY

The Blue Cabin sat between the low and high tide lines at Cates Park in North Vancouver from 1932 to 2015. Resisting 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 to make way for new development, the Cabin was saved by a consortium of arts organizations and has since been transformed into a unique floating artist residency that moves from time to time to different moorage sites and situations.



The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency is currently moored at a dock in Vancouver's False Creek in the city's downtown core. This image shows the (light grey) deckhouse on the left and the historic blue cabin studio on the right. Both are housed on a floating concrete platform that will, from time to time, be moved to different waterfront locations in the region.

FACILITY AND CONDITIONS

This is a mobile, floating, on-the-water facility, a condition that brings a unique set of opportunities and challenges. The space consists of a floating concrete platform that houses a 350-square-foot, modern, purpose-built, 2-storey deckhouse as the artist's residence and beside it, the restored, 315-square-foot, historic Blue Cabin that is outfitted as a studio. A wheelchair accessible bathroom for the use of visitors attending public events is available at deck level. Also on deck is a covered flex-space that can be used for gatherings or as an outdoor work area.

The facility is designed with sustainability in mind and as such, has limitations and restrictions. The resident's private bathroom and the public bathroom both have composting toilets. There is an onboard grey water system and the residence and studio are operated primarily by solar power with shore power as back-up. In order for the Blue Cabin's sustainable systems to operate effectively, resident artists must be conscientious consumers of energy and water. Weekly laundry pick-up and delivery and house cleaning are among the services provided. Resident's must be self-reliant and independent or able to arrange for access supports in collaboration with the Blue Cabin team.

LOCATION

The residency is currently moored in False Creek in downtown Vancouver at a publicly accessible dock at the Plaza of Nations. The Blue Cabin Committee is working towards a move to a different waterfront location in the Fall of 2020.



The deckhouse living quarters features an open plan with a continuous band of windows providing a 360 degree view of the surrounding land + water. (The kitchen is to the back of the photographer.)

WHAT THE RESIDENCY PROVIDES

- Cost of travel to and from Vancouver (economy)
- A \$6,000 (CDN) residency fee for subsistence (food, local transportation, materials, etc.)
- Free accommodation and use of the Blue Cabin studio for a 6-week term
- Wifi

WHAT THE ARTIST PROVIDES

- Selected artists will work with the Blue Cabin's community engagement coordinator to develop and schedule a minimum of three public events and activities that speak to their particular areas of research and practice
- Artists must provide proof of medical insurance, travel insurance, and visas as necessary

SELECTION PROCESS

Three panelists will review submissions and independently assess the submissions according to stated selection criteria. The full selection panel will meet to discuss their assessments and will short-list up to 12 artists for interviews. As a result of this process, up to five artists will be selected for individual 6-week residency slots.

SELECTION PANEL

Three curators or artists, each representing one of the three partnering organizations.

<https://thebluecabin.ca>



Al Neil (circa 80s) sitting at the cabin's entrance in front of a series of ever-changing assemblages.

HOW SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ASSESSED

The Selection Panel will build upon the following selection criteria:
Letter [60]:

- Degree of consideration and reflection
- Compatibility of interests and research

Past Work [40]:

- Artistic excellence, creativity, vision
- Research, areas of interest, rigor
- Potential impact the residency will have on their career
- Potential for engaging diverse audiences

HOW TO APPLY

Please send the following material in the form of one compressed PDF (4 MB maximum). Your submission materials will not be printed; therefore we recommend a horizontal format for optimal viewing on both computer and projection screens.

Please title your file “Last Name_First Name.pdf” and include the following:

1. Your contact information: Mailing address, email address, daytime phone number
2. A 1-pager that addresses:
 - a. Your approach to research and production and how you would like to further this during the residency
 - b. How you expect the residency will benefit your artistic inquiry and practice
 - c. How you approach public/community engagement
 - d. Your interest in the residency being located on the water, this region’s histories of the foreshore, and how these conditions might relate to your practice
3. Current CV, maximum 3 pages.
4. Up to 10 images of recent artwork (may include multiple viewpoints of one artwork) with brief descriptions including title, date, etc. Alternatively, you may embed links within your PDF that direct us to specific pages of your website.
5. Feature one of your projects – maximum of 5 images and 300 word description. This feature provides an opportunity to elaborate on a selected project that you wish to bring to the attention of the selection panel.

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE ON OR BEFORE 3:00 P.M. PACIFIC STANDARD TIME, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2020.

In fairness to all applicants, please know that our deadlines are fixed. Please email your submission to: submissions@thebluecabin.ca.

We welcome questions prior to **February 21, 2020**. These can be directed via email to: anthony@thebluecabin.ca.

Answers to questions will be posted weekly on our website for the review of all who are interested in applying.

See: <https://thebluecabin.ca/current-residency-call/>

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT DATES, 2020

Jan 6	Posting
Feb 21	Deadline for questions
Feb 24	Submissions due
Feb 27	Distribution to panelists for preview
Mar 9	Panel meets, short-listing
Mar 23 - 27	Artist interviews
Mar 31	Residency artists selected, contacted, and interest confirmed

BLUE CABIN MISSION

- To provide a unique residency experience for professional artists from multiple disciplines, generations, backgrounds, and locations.
- To create a hub for research, engagement, and production that reflects the Blue Cabin's links to artistic practice and the various visible and invisible histories of the foreshore, and to provide access to these histories through public programming.
- To strengthen the contemporary art community by facilitating and opening conversations and cross-cultural exchanges on the environment, foreshore histories, present-day issues, and the crisis of space in the urban metropolis.
- To build partnerships connecting education, preservation, and creative thinking with diverse communities and publics in a manner that encourages and supports alternative ideas.

BLUE CABIN HISTORY

For more information about the Blue Cabin, visit: thebluecabin.ca

The Blue Cabin Floating Artist Residency is a collaborative project of [grunt gallery](#), [Other Sights for Artists' Projects](#), and [C3 Creative Cultural Collaborations](#).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I'm a writer, may I apply?

No, not in this round, but there may be opportunities in the future. This call is open to visual and media artists from emerging to established.

Can I specify which 6-week residency slot I'm interested in?

Not at this phase in the selection process. We will discuss the residency schedule during the interview phase.

Can I bring my partner?

The living quarters are quite small but yes, partners are welcome. They will need to cover their own costs for travel, subsistence etc.

I am part of a collaborative team; does the fee change to accommodate other members in our group?

Costs for travel and the subsistence fee remains the same. Please note the facility can only accommodate a single person or couple sharing the same bed.

Will I be alone on the vessel?

Yes, the resident artist is primarily on their own with visits from the residency coordinator as needed. The coordinator is on call 24 hours a day. The public will be invited on board for scheduled events and activities that will be developed by the artist and community engagement coordinator.

How is security handled?

The residence has a security system, lights, and alarms.

When will information about the moorage location be available?

We anticipate the residency will continue to be moored in Vancouver's False Creek until November 2020 and hope to have confirmation of the subsequent location by Summer 2020. We will post information about the moorage on our website as it becomes available.