



Created at the Canyon – July 13 & 14, 2018

Event Description

For more than thirty-five years, the Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) has provided free interpretive natural and cultural historical hikes in the Whitehorse area, and predominantly at Miles Canyon to both visitors and residents. YCS believes our trail guiding program is of vital importance to our conservation goals. When people have an understanding of and relationship with the natural environment, they are likely to make better decisions about its conservation. We strive to connect communities, people, and individuals to the environment.

YCS hosted “Painting the Trails” in August 2012, “Inspired by the Canyon” in August 2013, “Miles Canyon in Art” in July 2014, and “Created at the Canyon” in 2015 - 2017. These events gave local artists an opportunity to create in the Miles Canyon area while interacting with the public. We had great success each year with over 300 people attending each two-day art-making event. YCS received rave reviews about the artists’ varied and unique interpretations of the natural and historic values of the area, and the interesting interactions between artists and the public. The events are opportunities for artists at all stages of their careers to network with each other and share their work with the public. Previous events have led to artwork sales and have inspired subsequent solo exhibitions for participating artists.

Building upon the success of these events, we are hosting “Created at the Canyon” this year to encourage multi-media interpretations of the rich history, culture, and natural beauty of the area. We invite artists and performers in all media, including but not limited to dance, poetry, installation, mixed media, painting, photography, and sculpture. Invited artists are asked to create original pieces of art in the Miles Canyon area on Friday July 13th between 2pm and 8pm, and on Saturday July 14th between 10am and 4pm. An honorarium of \$30/hr (to a maximum of \$360 per artist) will be paid to artists after the event. We are committed to working with each artist or performer to ensure that their pieces are able to be viewed in some form at the open exhibit in August at The Northern Front Studio.

Note: Due to the high volume of applications and to give other artists a chance to take part, we are not accepting applications from artists who participated in last year’s event (2017).



Arts Fund

*Funding for this project is made possible through the assistance of Arts Fund,
Department of Tourism and Culture, Jeanie Dendys, Minister*

About the Area

Originally, the trails along Miles Canyon to Canyon City were part of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation's and the Ta'an Kwach'an's migratory route system. Periodically throughout the year, First Nations peoples would travel from their camp located near present day Riverdale to catch fish in the canyon. Migrating Chinook salmon and other fish in the Yukon River made the Canyon City site an ideal place for a fishing camp. This route system continues south of Canyon City to Marsh Lake and to other fishing and hunting camps.

During the Klondike Gold Rush starting in 1897, tens of thousands of stampedeers stopped at the tents and log cabins of Canyon City at the head of the tramway on their way up to Dawson City. It has been said that up to two hundred people lost their lives to the canyon's roaring waters. Two rival entrepreneurs from Victoria, BC - Norman Macaulay and John Hepburn - built tramways on either side of the river for horse-drawn carts, following the ancient trails. For a fee, small boats and freight could be hauled on these carts, bypassing the Miles Canyon and White Horse rapids, while certified pilots could be hired to take larger boats and barges through the dangerous waters.

Today, the trails are popular among locals and visitors for hiking, running, biking, skiing, fishing, canoeing and snowshoeing. People also come to the area to learn about the local history and natural surroundings through the heritage interpretive signs and YCS summer trail guide interpreters. From June 9th-August 18th, YCS offers free guided hikes from Miles Canyon to Canyon City and back, a two-hour round trip. The hikes run twice daily 10 am and 2pm Tuesday-Saturday, leaving from Miles Canyon Bridge.

About YCS

The Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) is a grassroots environmental non-profit organization, established in 1968. Our mandate is to pursue ecosystem well-being throughout the Yukon and beyond, recognizing that human well-being is ultimately dependent upon fully functioning healthy ecosystems. We pursue this through research, education, and advocacy. Our hikes, Kids' Ed-Ventures, and art events help locals and visitors learn about Yukon nature and heritage while exploring the outdoors in a new way.



Application Form

Questionnaire

Please use as much space as you require to answer each question.

1. Name, email, and telephone number:
2. Artistic experience or background information:
3. How familiar are you with Miles Canyon and Canyon City?
4. How do nature, culture, and/or history inspire your art?
5. Please describe why you hope to be part of this project.
6. Can you tell us about previous pieces that you have created outside and/or work created with an audience?
7. What is your idea for the creating art in the Canyon? How will you display your art during the month-long exhibit? (Your ideas can change over the course of the project!)
8. A \$500 travel subsidy is available for 1 artist based outside Whitehorse. If you are based outside Whitehorse, please indicate where you are located, if you would like to be considered for the subsidy, and if your participation depends on receiving the subsidy.
9. If you have any comments and/or concerns for this project, please identify them below.

Portfolio

*Please attach photos, videos, or a link to your website that demonstrates how the natural world, culture and history inspire you in your art.

Due Date

All applications must be received by **Monday, June 18th** to **hikes@yukonconservation.org** or dropped off at **Yukon Conservation Society, 302 Hawkins St., Whitehorse** (office – open Monday through Friday, 9am-5pm).

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Max at hikes@yukonconservation.org or (867)668-5678.