



Created at the Canyon – July 5th & 6th, 2019

Event Description

Created at the Canyon is an outdoors art event celebrating artistic perspectives on nature and history in the Yukon, hosted by the Yukon Conservation Society (YCS). Since 1980, YCS has provided free interpretive natural and historical hikes in the Whitehorse area to both visitors and residents. YCS believes that 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 has hosted an “art on the trails” event at Miles Canyon since 2012. These events give local artists an opportunity to reflect and create art outdoors while sharing their process and inspiration with the public. Artists at all stages of their careers and many types of artistic media have taken part over the years, creating a variety of 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 music, poetry, storytelling, dance, installation, mixed media, painting, photography, and sculpture, to apply by Monday June 3, 2019. The chosen six artists will create original artwork in the Miles Canyon area on Friday July 5th (2pm - 8pm) and Saturday July 6th (10am - 4pm). Artists will be paid an honorarium of \$35/hr for their time on site at Miles Canyon (\$420 per artist). The art will be exhibited for the month of August at the Yukon Arts Centre Community Gallery. YCS and the Yukon Arts Centre do not take a commission of sales.

Eligibility: 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 (2018). Artists must be age 16 or over on July 5, 2019 to take part.

Access: Please note that the site location has stairs and some uneven terrain with rocks and roots and is not wheelchair-accessible. Volunteers will be on hand to help artists carry materials and set up their work area.



Arts Fund

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Department of Tourism and Culture, Jeanie Dendys, Minister*



*YCS interpretation programming is made possible through the assistance of the Government of Yukon and
Government of Canada.*

About the Area

Originally, the trails along Miles Canyon to Canyon City were part of the trail system of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. 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 8th - August 17th, 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 connect with Yukon nature and heritage.



Application Form

Questionnaire

Please use as much space as you require to answer each question. Feel free to add extra sheets.

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.

