

Chilkoot Trail Artist Residency, 2014

Program Information



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada



Alaska Geographic



Skagway Arts Council

- **Make art while hiking the Chilkoot Trail!**
- **Be inspired by a spectacular mountain landscape steeped in Klondike Gold Rush history!**

Together, the Yukon Arts Centre, Parks Canada and the US National Park Service are seeking three visual artists – one from Canada, one from the United States and one regional (Yukon or Alaskan residents) to participate in a cross-border creative journey within Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park, Alaska and Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site in British Columbia. The partner organizations are thrilled to offer this one-of-a-kind residency once again in 2014, its fourth consecutive season.

Selected artists will follow the infamous Chilkoot Trail “once trod by Tlingit First Nation traders and Klondike Gold Rush stampeders” for two weeks. Average hikers take four to five days to complete the trek, whereas with support from Trail staff and a from a friend or family member of their choice, artists are able to take time to interact with hikers, make art, and soak in the natural and historic beauty of the Trail.

The residency program holds a joint goal for the US National Park Service and Parks Canada: to increase public awareness of the Chilkoot Trail, particularly in major cities. By creating art during and after the hike, and by leading workshops and/or art talks on the trail and in nearby communities, artists inspire Canadians and Americans to appreciate the legacy of the Chilkoot Trail.

For the Yukon Arts Centre, the residencies are a way of fostering the Yukon’s creative and cultural economy by developing ties with tourism, bringing new and broader audiences into contact with contemporary artists; providing a stimulating working experience for artists; and encouraging art making that explores and even challenges ideas and issues in landscape art.



2012 Artist in Residence Corrie Francis Parks near Chilkoot Pass. KlondikeLetters.com © Erica Francis

About the Chilkoot Trail

The Chilkoot Trail is a 53 kilometre / 33 mile trip through history and one of North America's most fabled treks. The trail crosses the international boundary between the United States and Canada and is cooperatively managed by Parks Canada and the US National Parks Service. The Chilkoot Trail starts at tide-water in Dyea, Alaska, climbs up steep coastal mountains and ends at Bennett Lake, the headwaters of the mighty Yukon River in northern British Columbia.



Canyon City Suspension Bridge. KlondikeLetters.com
© Corrie Francis Parks 2012

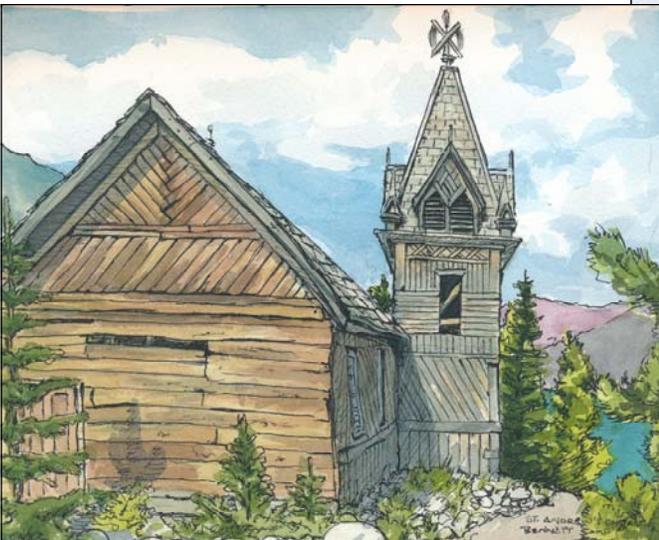


Snowfield © Nicole Bauberger 2013

As a traditional Aboriginal trade and travel route, the trail remains an important part of First Nations' history, but it was the Klondike Gold Rush of 1896–1899 that transformed the Chilkoot Trail into legend. Although many routes to the gold fields were available to the Stampeders, the Chilkoot Trail provided the shortest and cheapest way to the Klondike.



Crossing the Pass.
KlondikeLetters.com © Corrie Francis Parks 2012



Bennett Church © Cassandra Loomis 2013

Known as the poor man's route to the Klondike, it permitted an individual to transport their supplies over the trail by their own labour. Movement over the Chilkoot Trail peaked during the winter of 1897-98. After the completion of the railroad through the White Pass in 1899, the Chilkoot Trail was virtually abandoned as a route to the Klondike.

Few trails of similar length offer more dramatic changes in climate, terrain and vegetation or more spectacular scenery. Amidst this rugged northern wilderness an overlay of artefacts and heritage landscape features tell of the story of the Klondike Gold Rush, giving a unique historic flavour to the legendary Chilkoot Trail.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who should apply for this residency?

- Visual artists who are citizens of Canada or the United States.
- The Chilkoot Trail should only be attempted by those who are **physically fit and experienced in hiking and backpacking**.



Nicole Bauberger dressed in accordance with her theme "100 Dresses for the Chilkoot Trail"
© Casey McLaughlin 2013

2. What happens on the Trail?

- Residencies will be two weeks in duration, providing an opportunity for visual artists to pursue their own work and interact with fellow hikers amidst history and nature on the Chilkoot Trail. During the residency, artists hike the entire Trail, stay in visitor campgrounds, and carry all their own gear. They are supported by Trail staff, for example through the provision of food/supply caches, daily radio check-ins and use of some staff facilities.
- Artists are expected to lead two campground programs during their residency (i.e. exploring with visitors their

art experience on the Chilkoot Trail through a talk or workshop), one program on the US and one on the Canadian section of the Trail.

- Each artist chosen will hike the entire trail during a separate two week period.
- National historic site regulations apply to everyone on the Trail, and artists and their support people must comply.

3. What will I need?

- Artists and their support people will be responsible for providing their own food, hiking/camping equipment and working materials.
 - Artists will be responsible for obtaining valid passports and the required international work permits and/or visas. Support through this process will provided by Parks staff.
 - All artists and support people are required to purchase and provide proof of travel medical insurance.

4. Can I bring a friend or family member?

- Each artist may bring one support person of their choice. Both artist and support person must have recent experience doing multi-day hikes in mountainous terrain.
- Bringing pets on the residency is not permitted.



Dress that only sees 18" in front of its boots
© Nicole Bauberger 2013

5. What happens after the residency?

- Each artist will present short Art Talks or workshops in Skagway and Whitehorse.



Jay White leading an art workshop at Lindeman City
© Parks Canada 2013



Detail: Jay White's installation at the Yukon Arts Centre Gallery © YAC 2013

- Each artist is expected to provide the rights to use a high resolution digital image of a finished piece of work that was initiated during the residency to Parks Canada and the Yukon Arts Centre and the US National Parks Service. This image will be used for information, display and publicity purposes, internal documents, program records and as a reference tool for future exhibitions. This digital image is to be received within one year of the residency.
- Artists must provide low resolution digital files of work produced during the residency for archival and promotional purposes (to be received within two months of the residency).
- Artists may also choose to donate artwork to Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park (optional).
- The partner organizations will provide wording and logos for artists to include in future exhibits, web pages, or other creative undertakings that result from the residency.

6. What else should I know?

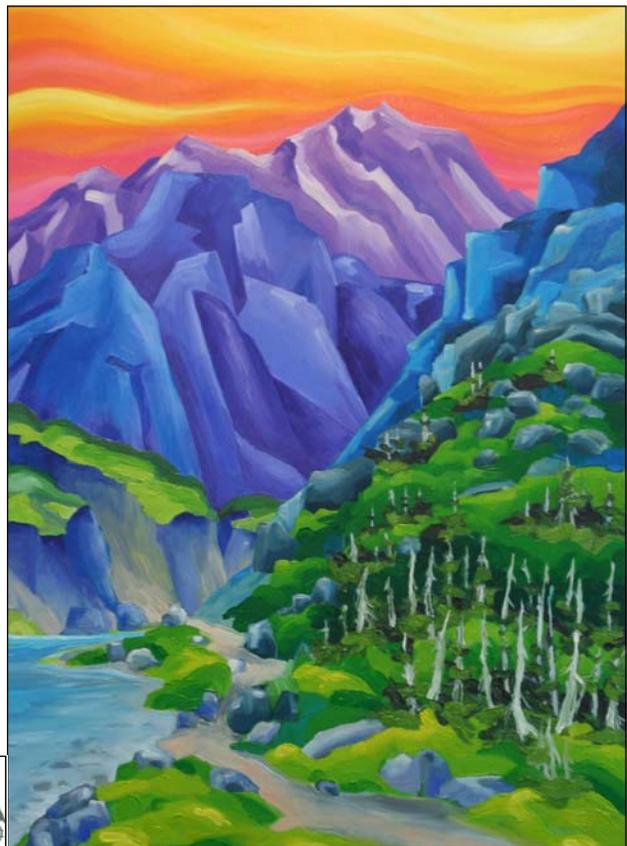
- Artists and support people will sign volunteer agreements with Parks Canada and the United States National Park Service and a contract with the Yukon



ChilkootComics.com © Kara Sievewright, 2013

Arts Centre. These agreements lay out the terms of the residency and provide a degree of insurance coverage.

- Artists are expected to recognize the program partners during and after their residency. The partner organizations will provide the necessary tools to facilitate this.
- Artists may be asked to give media interviews, and to be photographed. Assistance, such as background information on the program and its partners, will be provided.
- Artists and their support people will sign a photo release form allowing images taken of them during the residency to be used in promotional materials for the program.



Happy Camp Sunset © Emma Barr 2012

7. What support do artists get from the program organizers?

Yukon Arts Centre

- \$1000.00 CAD honorarium per artist
- Management of application and selection process
- Future exhibition/publication opportunities pending funding.
- Shopping support in Whitehorse to reduce cost of shipping food (if required)

US National Park Service

- One or two nights' accommodation in Skagway as needed to facilitate their Art Talk.
- Hiking permits for the artist and support person
- Chilkoot Trail Orientation – at the Trail Centre in Skagway
- Contact with US National Park Service staff prior to and during the residency including radio training and bear safety



A participant in Kara Sievewright's Whitehorse Comic Jam adds some finishing touches to a collaborative cartoon map ©Parks Canada 2013

- Advertising for public programs and logistical support for presentations if required
- Setting up food/supply cache at Sheep Camp in May, provided package is received in time for the flight

Skagway Arts Council

- Assistance with application and selection process
- Future exhibition/publication opportunities pending funding.
- Providing up to \$100 US per artist for art supplies

Alaska Geographic Association

- \$400.00 USD for each artist for travel



Crossing the Chilkoot © Ava Christl 2011

Parks Canada

- Registration (campsite bookings and detailed trail info) for all artists and helpers.
- Contact with Parks Canada staff for orientation and support prior to and during the residency
- Provision of transportation between the Trail, Skagway and Whitehorse.
- Loan of bear sprays
- Loan of a Parks Canada radio and radio communication training
- Advertising for public programs and logistical support for presentations if required
- Placement of food/supplies in cache at Lindeman City camp in May, provided package is received in time for the flight

- One or two night's accommodation for the artist and support person in Whitehorse after the residency (to facilitate their Art Talk in Whitehorse)

Chilkoot Trail Hiker Preparation Guide: Introduction for Potential Artists in Residence



"Soapy Skeeter" KlondikeLetters.com
© Corrie Francis Parks 2012

Use the **Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site Hiker Preparation Guide** (which follows) as a primary reference for understanding the hiking experience on the Chilkoot Trail. The information it contains will help you decide whether this residency is right for you.

The Chilkoot Trail should only be attempted by persons who are physically fit and experienced in hiking and backpacking in mountainous terrain. The Chilkoot Trail is a challenging hike. Artists' and helpers' packs will be heavier than those of average hikers on the trail.

The Guide explains what to expect, equipment required, potential weather and trail conditions, terrain, access to the trail, and so on. (Note: several sections do not apply to the Chilkoot Trail Artist Residency, as the guide is written for regular visitors planning to hike the trail.)

Please also refer to the Parks Canada and US National Parks web sites:

- Chilkoot Trail National Historic Site:** www.parkscanada.gc.ca/chilkoot (Check out the gallery of previous artists' work)
- Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park:** www.nps.gov/klgo (Contains an excellent video about preparing to hike the trail.)