



Kathryn Calder is Victoria's new Artist in Residence

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For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — Victoria-based musician, songwriter/recording artist and recording studio owner Kathryn Calder, has been selected as the City's new Artist in Residence.

The Artist in Residence program aims to 'keep art in mind', providing the opportunity for a professional artist to work collaboratively with City staff and the community to identify and develop a creative artwork/project to augment one or more capital projects annually over a two-year term.

"On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate and welcome Kathryn Calder," said Mayor Lisa Helps. "We are excited to have the opportunity to collaborate with Kathryn to further our *Create Victoria* goals, and look forward to the extensive music experience she will bring to enhance Victoria's public spaces and elevate performance arts."

The Artist in Residence is embedded in the City's planning process, providing a unique creative and collaborative approach to enhance the value and aesthetic appeal of upcoming capital projects in Victoria, while broadening the community's involvement in the arts.

Calder's professional experience in Victoria's music industry is well-aligned with the City's *Create Victoria Arts and Culture Master Plan*, which identifies the need to build on Victoria's diverse and active music scene by positioning Victoria as a "Music City."

Kathryn Calder's submission was one of 59 applications the City received in response to a Request for Expressions of Interest, which was open to artists and artist teams who are residents of British Columbia.

She was one of four artists shortlisted and was selected unanimously by the City's Art in Public Places Committee, based on her strong reputation as an artist who works collaboratively with other artists in a variety of disciplines, and for her proven track record working on community-based projects as an artistic lead.

"It was remarkable to see so many talented artists vying for the position, and absolutely incredible to be able to offer the position to such a brilliant and impressive artist as Kathryn Calder," said Scott Amos, Outgoing Chair of the Art in Public Places Committee and co-designer of the City's musical railing at Bastion Square Parkade. "Her limitless talent and industrious spirit will undoubtedly bring wonderful things to our city."

In addition to being a local musician, songwriter and recording artist, Calder is a record label and studio owner. For the past 15 years, she has been recording and touring as a vocalist/keyboardist with the Indie rock group The New Pornographers. She has also released three solo records, five albums with Immaculate Machine, and one album with her latest project, Frontperson.

Composing musical scores for feature films has been another focus of Calder in recent years, including 'A Matter of Time', a documentary about her mother's battle with ALS. She is the founder of Oscar St. Records, an artist-run boutique record label based on Vancouver Island. Calder also owns The Hive recording studio with her husband, producer/engineer Colin Stewart.

Calder is also the Chair of the City's Music Advisory Committee, tasked with researching and providing advice and direction to City Council and staff on the planning, development and implementation of a Victoria Music Strategy. To be developed in consultation with Victoria's music industry this year, the Strategy will be designed to enhance the local music scene by reviewing current music programs, policies and services, building on Victoria's strengths and removing barriers that inhibit growth.

"I am so honoured to have been chosen to represent music for the next couple of years as Artist in Residence," said Kathryn Calder. "Much of music is about collaboration, and so it is in that spirit that my hope is to bring together the many different musical and artistic communities in Victoria to create beautiful works of art together."

Meet and Greet

The public is invited to meet Kathryn Calder at a Meet and Greet event on Wednesday, July 17 from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Cameron Bandshell in Beacon Hill Park. The free event will feature a collaborative, musical instrument activity. All ages are welcome.

Quick Facts:

- The Request for Expressions of Interest was open to professional artists working in visual media (painting, print-making, drawing, sculpture, crafts, photography, film and video), and performance arts (theatre, music, dance). This broader definition of "artist" was approved by the City's Art in Public Places Committee, which is comprised of six members of the community with expertise in public art. The Committee is appointed by Council to advise Council and staff on public art matters.
- A capital project involves the construction, expansion, renovation, or replacement of City infrastructure. Some possible projects could include a City park/playground or street and sidewalk upgrade, or opportunities to enhance public spaces in Victoria neighbourhoods.
- Kathryn Calder is the City's second Artist in Residence. Her term will be July 2019 – June 2021. Mural artist Luke Ramsey served as Victoria's inaugural Artist in Residence. Indigenous visual/performance artist Lindsay Delaronde was the inaugural Indigenous Artist in Residence.
- The City's Call to Artists for the Indigenous Artist in Residence position will be announced later this year, after consultation with local Indigenous groups.

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca/publicart.

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