

Summer 2023

Mobile Arts Trailer



Mobile Arts Coordinator: Tia

Wednesday Night Crew: Kari, Brooklyn

Literacy Crew: Collette

Interactive Volunteers: Collette, Abby

Directors: Mischelle, Jano, Kathy, Barb

Area Served: Nicola Valley, City of Merritt, and Nlakapamux and Syilx Nation

No. of Events Attended: 34

No. of Locations: 13 sites

List of Locations: Rotary Park, Diamond Vale Elementary, Central Elementary, Nooiatch, Coldwater, Cook's Ferry, Antko, Airport, Spirit Square, Garlic Fest, Rodeo, Farmers Market

List of Collaborations: Literacy BC (Kelly), City of Merritt (Dave, Ryan, Skye, Mayor)

TEAM COORDINATION

What an incredible summer, and what a crew! Thanks for creating a memorable experience for this community by the various ways you participated with the Mobile Arts Trailer. As Mobile Arts Coordinator, I feel blown away by how much we accomplished!

Our successful summer program owes a great deal to the enormous amount of pre-planning orchestrated by Mischelle and Jano. Thank you to Barb for your financial support for our initiatives and handling all the tax requirements for the students. Thank you to Kathy for helping the forms for the various programs and showing me the ropes!

Thank you to Kari, Brooklyn, Collette and Abby for your work to make the program special for the individuals curious about the art and craft activity hosted throughout the summer—you made it fun for everyone!

COLLABS + PARTNERSHIPS

During the months of July and August, we collaborated with Literacy BC, the City of Merritt, Merritt Airport Authority, Community Policing, Antko & Cook's Ferry Band, Farmer's Market, Street Market, and Rodeo Association. Creating new and ongoing connections with leaders in the community.

The best news is that all of these partnerships enjoyed working with us and are happy for us to continue into the Fall months if capacity to undertake!

LITERACY BC

Kelly with Literacy BC was instrumental in connecting us to the Nooaitch and Coldwater Bands allowing us to reach between 20-25 students from 6-15 years of age. She also connected us to Central Elementary School where 8-10 children aged 3-5 years old participated with their parents/guardians. The activities ranged from Button and Puppet Making to Snake Knitting and Owl Painting. Students loved seeing the trailer pull in and were eager to help set up to get started immediately!



INTERACTIVE ART IN THE PARK

The project was created to allow for people in parks to have access to art opportunities

and to highlight the events we had going on in the community over the summer months. Signage on the chalk walls showcased the weekly events and welcomed people to explore what was on offer.

We hosted 7 weekly events, 6 were held at Rotary Park and 1 at Diamond Vale School. On Average 12 youth attended with an older family member nearby.

RECOMMENDATION: Future events be planned in parks all around Merritt, Trailer Schedule posted one month in advance for larger participation. Outreach is Ideal for families who are less mobile or prefer to stay close to their neighborhoods.

INDIGENOUS DAY

Leonard George created wonderful activities for the students, with volunteers working with over 200 students that day! He provided stencils of fish (skiaden), and mini paint projects. Mischelle stated it was a hopping day with everyone working a solid 5 hours. Hosted June 21 by the First Nations community.

CANADA DAY

Leonard George was also featured as our local Artist with a beautiful satellite mural created as a paint-by-numbers for the community to participate as a group. Copies of his work were created into beautiful coloring pages for children on another table. A Bike Parade was hosted with 5 children and the Mayor participating, handing out prizes for the most bedazzled bikes! We had

the Book Nook out for readers to find new books, and it was a festive day. Around 80-100 people came to explore the space with 25-30 brave enough to paint on the community mural, although over 400+ people were in attendance.

RECOMMENDATION: Plan Bike Parade with City up to 1-2 months in advance for advertising prizes and plan. Provide alternate activity than “bike” decor, as youth without bikes decided to make crafts out of what we had. Create a hot glue gun station or add puppet making supplies to round out the Makers Station.

AIRPORT DAY

Airport Day was a fun windy day for kids (and adults) to fly their paper airplanes! Creating a tournament and setting the stage with hoops and various challenges, we served approximately 120 people of all ages, sitting under the shady tents, coloring and crafting their unique planes.

The Mayor also officially announced the winners. We also collabed with a new youth group in town called Motion Church which provided extra tents, tables, chairs, and volunteers to help with it all! Thanks also to Brooklyn, we had kids laughing throughout the day.

RECOMMENDATION: Collab with another group next year to help the little ones with making paper airplanes, 4-6 people.



ANTKO + COOK'S FERRY BAND

Mandy and her team connected with us early on. We planned out a full summer schedule hosting bi-weekly events with Antko, and planning for an additional mini festival at Spences Bridge (Cook's Ferry). She provided the snacks, and we provided the arts, crafts, and books. We also had a Drum Maker, Kevin, come to share his stories and expertise with the small community.

At Antko we had between 3-13 people take part in the 2 hour session. Both adults and kids loved the activities. Unfortunately the smoky skies meant we had to move indoors for the final 3 sessions. At Cook's Ferry we were hosted inside their Gym and created drums, buttons, and bracelets!

RECOMMENDATION: Plan alternative transport and location in case of future heat or smoke warnings. Trial a change in time from 3-5 pm to a morning or lunch program to see if it will increase attendance. Collab with a pow-wow or other event for greater visibility early on in summer.



NIGHT STREET MARKET

Bringing in between 150-200 people on a warm night, or 60-90 people on a hazy or cold night, the Night Street Market was hopping and brought a great cross section of the community to Spirit Square! This Weekly Market held every Wednesday, made a lasting impression on people listening to musicians, dancing, trying out new art forms, and getting face painted by our professional artist Kari Kroeker!

With 10 consecutive events, Volunteers, staff and young artists bustled about with activities such as rock or hexagon painting, watercolors, felts, stamping, buttons, cd art, jelly fishes, as well as hula hooping and scoping out new books from the Red Book Shelves!

FARMER'S MARKET

Starting throughout June, we set up the Mobile Gift Shop and showcased our wares for the public and provided Art on Saturdays. Well attended with 80-150 people weekly.

RODEO DAYS

Mischelle mentioned there were many people in attendance loving the Cowboy Hat Fascinator station that was shared during the 2-day event. Community paint-a-square Turtle was created by Kari for the event.

RECOMMENDATION: 4+ people to support future events due to the busy nature of the venue. 1 person unable to handle alone, therefore washroom or lunch breaks are not easily available.

DRIVERS' SHOUTOUT

A big thank you to the incredible driving team of volunteers: Mischelle and Bill, Ron, Greg, Kevin, Fred, and Dave (City of Merritt). The hustle was impressive and made it so we could reach the outlying communities of Nooaitch, Coldwater, and Antko.

RECOMMENDATION: Line up a list of potential drivers in May/June so we know which weeks availability is possible and who would be their backup driver.

HIGHLIGHT REEL

The Mobile Arts Trailer program served over 2000 people combined over the course of the summer's events and activities. It outreached to 4 neighboring communities, and 3 parks/schools. A total of 34 events and 13 partnerships.

Thank you for all the work behind the scenes and anyone I missed, it was a joint effort to create a memorable Summer 2023!

Cheers, Tia Delaney

