

Jessie Demers

jessie.demers@gmail.com

Art educator, arts administrator and independent curator.

EXPERIENCE

District of Saanich, Victoria BC *Programmer I - Arts*

JANUARY 2016 - PRESENT

- Hiring and supervision of 15 staff and 12 contractors
- Developing and implementing annual programming schedule
- Managing an average of 30 visual and performing arts classes per week for all ages
- Co-developing community arts events and partnership programs
- Managing program budget including studio supplies

University of Victoria Legacy Art Galleries, Victoria BC *Guest Curator, Still Standing: Ancient Forest Futures*

SUMMER 2021-SUMMER 2022

- Curated a group exhibition with 12 professional artists, supported by Curator of Indigenous Arts and Engagement at Legacy Gallery
- Wrote all exhibition text and educational materials
- Organized and delivered a panel discussion
- Exhibition based on artist in residence I curated on Pacheedaht territory in relation to old growth logging and protection

Nelson Museum, Art Gallery & Archives, Nelson BC *Curator and Education Programmer*

FALL 2010 - WINTER 2015

- Curated 15 exhibitions in two gallery spaces, 43.3 sq metres and 14.3 sq metres
- Worked with regional and internationally renowned artists
- Directed the docent program, creating tours and training volunteers
- Organized family fairs, workshops, panels and other programs
- Managed curatorial and education program budgets, wrote grants

SelfDesign Learning Foundation, Nelson BC *Learning Consultant and Art Instructor*

WINTER 2010 - WINTER 2015

- Supported homelearning families and online
- Provided resources and track learning outcomes for all subject areas based on BC curriculum
- Developed and delivered youth art intensive summer program
- Mentored youth through online art courses, marked work

Oxygen Art Centre, Nelson BC *Art Instructor*

SUMMER 2010

- Taught week long art camps for ages 6-8
- Education and Curatorial Committee member duties

COMMUNITY SERVICE

University of Victoria
Graduate Thesis Defense
Committee Member

AUGUST 2023

Arc.Hive Artist Run Centre,
Victoria BC

Exhibition Jury Member

SEPTEMBER 2018

Makeshift Contemporary
Textiles Festival, Victoria BC

Curatorial Committee Member

MAY - NOVEMBER 2018

Oxygen Arts Centre, Nelson
BC

Educational Committee and

Exhibition Panel Member

2010 - 2011

Vancouver Art Gallery,
Vancouver BC

SuperSunday Volunteer

SPRING 2008

Xchanges Gallery, Victoria BC
Gallery Coordinator

2005 - 2006

Art Gallery of Greater
Victoria, Victoria BC

Gallery in the Schools Volunteer

2005

The Whole School, Winlaw BC
Teachers, Grades K-3

FALL 2009 (CONTRACT)

- Taught all subjects to a mixed group of students from kindergarten to grade three

Arts Umbrella, Vancouver BC
Assistant Instructor and Receptionist

SUMMER 2007 - SUMMER 2008

- Receptionist duties
- Assistant teaching with a variety of arts classes including
 - Theatre for early childhood and school age children
 - Early childhood dance
 - Architecture for school age children
 - Art for early childhood, school age children and youth

Island Mountain Arts, Wells BC
Children and Youth Programming Coordinator

SUMMER 2006 - SPRING 2007 (CONTRACT)

- Assisted with the coordination and management of the ArtsWells Festival of All Things Art
- Coordinated summer school arts programs for children, youth and adults

EDUCATION

University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC
Bachelor of Education, Secondary Art

2009

NSCAD University, Halifax, NS
Bachelor of Fine Art

2004

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Node Centre for Curatorial Studies Online, Berlin, Germany
— *Socially Engaged Art: Curating for Empowerment and Disruption*

SEPTEMBER 11-OCTOBER 16, 2023

Centre for Sustainable Practices in the Arts, Kananaskis Park, AB — *Creative Climate Leadership Training*

AUGUST 2022

AWARDS

Witness Legacy Award for Social Purpose and Responsibility, Greater Victoria Regional Arts Awards
SEPTEMBER 2022

Outstanding Practicum Award, UBC Teacher Education Program
JULY 2009

SELECTED PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

Concordia University, Montreal QC - Westcoast Rainforest Activist Movements: Current Moments and Reflections on Decades of Activism
MARCH 14, 2023

Victoria Arts Council - Creative Mornings - Wilderness
JUNE 2022

University of Victoria, Visiting Artist Series - Eden Grove Artist in Residence in Program (panel)
SEPTEMBER 2021

PROJECTS

Eden Grove Artist in Residence Program (curator)
Pacheedaht Territory
SPRING 2021

Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, Forest Breath: A Portrait in Progress (field visit panel participant)
SUMMER 2018

University of Victoria, Victoria BC - Exhibition Planning and Design (Cultural Resource Management Program)

JULY 2022

Open Space, Victoria BC - *Sche'chulth: Decolonizing the Arts in Victoria*

MARCH 2019

University of British Columbia and Museum of Anthropology (online) - *Reconciliation Through First Nations Education*

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2015

Power of Hope and Youth Empowerment Global, Portland OR and Seattle WA - *Heart of Facilitation Training*

FALL 2010 - SPRING 2011

Citizen's Counselling Centre, Victoria BC - *Volunteer Counsellor Training*

FALL 2005 - SPRING 2006

Earthwatch Institute, Darrington, WA - *Artist in Residence Program*

SUMMER 2005

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST