



The Indigenous Youth, Art, and Water Initiative

Vines Art Festival

Organization description:

Vines is an arts organization that is responsive to and nurturing of artists that are working toward land, water, and relational justice. We support marginalized artists in developing their work, host an annual festival and year-round events. Vines brings imagination into everyday spaces by presenting work for free in populated public spaces in Vancouver and throughout the province. We advocate for artists' well-being and center anti-oppressive community care without bureaucracy.

Location:

Vancouver, British Columbia

Young Indigenous Ambassador (YIA):

Jaz Whitford

Project Proposal:

Vines Art Festival will create a mural project after taking part in a water ceremony and listening to ancestral water teaching from community members. The project will involve multiple communities which are all impacted by industry harming their water sources.

Art type:

Photography/mural

Community Water Issues:

Everything comes back to clean water for future generations. Water is our life source, and its health directly affects the quality of the food that sustains us. No amount of profit is worth jeopardizing the integrity of our water. While many Indigenous youth inherently grasp this understanding, providing them with the time and space to absorb ancestral teachings and stories of water protectors who have fought for its preservation cultivates strength and unity within our community. All communities are connected through waterways. We are all connected in our duty to take care of clean water. By advocating for water, we are also advocating for the well-being of our salmon relatives, our berry relatives, and all other beings that depend on clean water for their existence.”