



Walking With Our Sisters K'ómoks
July 31st – August 15th, 2015
K'ómoks Band Hall

OPEN LETTER OF INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE

Walking With Our Sisters K'ómoks is honoured to be bringing from July 31 – August 15, 2015 the memorial installation, ***Walking With Our Sisters*** (WWOS) to our community on Vancouver Island. ***Walking With Our Sisters*** is currently scheduled to continue touring to over 22 locations over the five next years across North America, before the final closing ceremony in Batoche, Saskatchewan in September of 2019.

This touring memorial is made up of 1,810 pairs of moccasin tops that were created by over 1,400 caring and concerned individuals to honour and respect the lives and existence of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls across North America. The project is a collective act by all involved to affirm that every life matters and that the women and girls who have been murdered or who are still missing are worthy of respect and dignity. As a second goal, the installation serves to acknowledge the on-going grieving process that the family and friends of the missing women are going through. As a community we come together to offer our love and support to them. We stand with the families in solidarity and support in the quest for justice.

The Walking With Our Sisters K'ómoks organizing committee is reaching out to individuals, organizations and families throughout B.C. particularly those for whom this might resonate personally. We are extending this invitation so that all are aware that they are welcome to participate in whatever ways they may feel comfortable doing so. For families who wish to participate please contact Ramona Johnson at I-HOS Gallery: sales@ihosgallery.com or call **250-339-7702**.

This memorial is run solely by volunteers. WWOS is non-political and non-partisan.
If you'd like more information on Walking With Our Sisters, please visit the website at
www.walkingwithoursisters.ca Please also join our Facebook page at:
<https://www.facebook.com/WWOSComoxvalley>

Walking With Our Sisters K'ómoks

WALKING WITH OUR SISTERS K'OMOKS
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WWOS K'ómoks welcomes and honours families of missing and murdered women who may wish to attend. All cultures are respected and welcomed. We are working with Tsow Tun Le Lum, Comox Valley Transition Society, and Kwakiutl District Council Health to develop supports for family members at the memorial.

If you would like to stage an educational event or community conversation related to WWOS in your own community or organization, please let us know so we can support your event through our Facebook page Walking with Our Sisters Comox Valley. See the attached guidelines.

Schedule of the Memorial Installation

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	July 27th Installation	July 28th Installation	July 29th Installation	July 30th Installation	July 31st Opening Ceremony @1pm Hours 1-8	August 1st Hours 1-8pm
August 2nd Hours 1-8pm	August 3rd CLOSED	August 4th Hours 10am-4pm	August 5th Hours 1-8pm	August 6th Hours 10am-4pm	August 7th Hours 1-8pm	August 8th Hours 1-8pm
August 9th Hours 1-8pm	August 10th CLOSED	August 11th Hours 10am-4pm	August 12th Hours 1-8pm	August 13th Hours 10am-4pm	August 14th Hours 1-8pm	August 15th Closing Ceremony 10am-1pm
August.16th Take Down	August.17th Take Down	August 18th Take Down	August. 19th Take Down			

For more information on Walking With Our Sisters purchase merchandise to support

Purchase on line: **Comox Valley Transition Society** website at <http://cvts.ca/>

Purchase in person: I-Hos Gallery in Comox or Campbell River Art Gallery (cash only)

I-Hos Gallery

3310 Comox Road, Courtenay, BC

email at: sales@ihosgallery.com or call 250-339-770

Campbell River Art Gallery

1235 Shoppers Row, Campbell River, BC

Email at: contact@crartgallery.ca or call 250-287-2261

WALKING WITH *Our* SISTERS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 26	July 27 Install 8 am to 8 pm	July 28 Install 8 am to 8 pm	July 29 Install 8 am to 8 pm	July 30 Install 8 am to 8 pm	July 31 Opening ceremony Hours 1-8 pm	August 1 Hours 1- 8 pm
August 2 Hours 1- 8 pm	August 3 CLOSED	August 4 Hours 10am - 4 pm	August 5 Hours 1pm-8pm	August 6 Hours 10am - 4 pm	August 7 Hours 1 -8 pm	August 8 Hours 1- 8 pm
August 9 Hours 1- 8 pm	August 10 CLOSED	August 11 Hours 10am - 4 pm	August 12 Hours 1pm-8pm	August 13 Hours 10am - 4 pm	August 14 Hours 1 – 8pm	August 15 Closing Ceremony 10am - 1pm
August 16 Dismantle 8am-8pm	August 17 Dismantle 8am-8pm	August 18 Dismantle 8am-8pm	August 19 Dismantle 8am-8pm			

K'ómoks Volunteers

Installers: The installers will help install the Memorial and this may require lifting and physical activity. One of the most amazing ways in which people connected to each other and to the project is through the vamps. As people hold them, place them and move them volunteers become connected to the Memorial and to other people around them. It is ceremony. We also encourage Elders to be present during the entire 3-4 days of install to provide direction if needed on protocols.

Greeters (entrance) - Greeters welcome visitors when they first walk in (to sign the guest book, differentiate between the family & friends guestbook and the other guest book), to talk to them about taking off their shoes and the offer of putting on a skirt to walk through. Show guests the pamphlets or any other information gathered pertaining to our missing and/or murdered sisters.

Merchandising - The donation box will be clearly visible and no words needed there. The volunteers keep track of the sales & keep the records / inventory of items sold. Any merchandise (The WWOS T-shirt, buttons and postcards for sale) need to be accounted for.

Attendants- Volunteers sit or stand by the entrance to the Memorial and talk to people about the sage/cedar on the floor, why the moccasins were set up the way they are, the eagle staffs, walking in the same direction as the moccasins, the tobacco etc. Attendants are also on hand to watch if anyone enters in a heightened emotional state and needs support. We mention to the visitor that WWOS can offer smudging, to talk to an Elder, to a support person or just to have tea and sit in a quiet space. They can answer questions about the Memorial.

Photographers - Photographers can photograph the Opening of the Memorial. However, once the Opening Ceremony is complete. **NO Photos are allowed in the Memorial NO exceptions.** Photographers are permitted during take down of the Memorial. Please note, All Photos will be shared on social media.

Big House Attendant - Bighouse Attendant/s must know Big House protocol. Tend to a small fire, be attentive to guests coming in and out, and keep area clean and tidy.

Parking Attendant - One person will direct traffic and one person will direct vehicles where to park. This is required for open/closing and long weekend only. Each parking attendant will have an assistant.

Food - Kitchen volunteers will be required to shop/prepare/serve/clean-up kitchen and tent area. Kitchen Volunteers are serving the many volunteers that are giving of their time to the Memorial.

Plus, Opening and Closing Ceremony beverages and light food items, such as fruit and baked items.

Also, if **anyone** needs time to sit, have tea and be reflective, the tent is always open, so we must be flexible.

Please note, more areas to volunteer will be added as we move forward. Please stay in contact via our facebook page for updates. <https://www.facebook.com/WWOSComoxValley>

For more info email I-HOs Gallery sales@ihosgallery.com

Thank you for your time and kindness....

The world is hugged by the faithful arms of volunteers. - Terri Guillemets

Walking With Our Sisters Memorial is a space that is viewed as a space where traditional ceremonies (from Different Nations) can be held and welcomed. It's the Sister's Lodge, and they come from many backgrounds and teachings and ceremonies. So we respect everybody's ways of doing things and no one owns or controls the space aside from our Elders and Attendants monitoring it and caring for the sacred items.

Four principals of WWOS. 1. Kindness and Gentleness 2. Everyone is welcome (to participate or attend in whatever capacity they want). 3. Everyone volunteers no one makes any money 4. This is an Indigenous led memorial, so we look to the ceremonial people and Elders for guidance so that we are following protocols.

Regards from the volunteer co-ordinators:

Nancy, Colleen, Sheila and Dea.