

News Release

For Immediate Release
5 January 2022

The Maritime Museum of BC Announces *Queer at Sea: Tales from the 2SLGBTQ+ Community* Exhibit and Postcard Art Contest

The Maritime Museum of BC is preparing for a new exhibit called “Queer at Sea: Tales from the 2SLGBTQ+ Community”. This exhibit will be open to the public 17 May 2022 and run for the duration of the summer.

Queer, trans, and two-spirit communities have long been a part of BC’s maritime history and culture. It is the goal of this exhibit to showcase those histories and culture, celebrate the roles and contributions queer, trans, and two-spirit people have made to BC’s maritime sectors, and to acknowledge work that remains to eliminate discrimination against the 2SLGBTQ+ community in the marine sectors.

The Museum also announced a Postcard Art Contest in anticipation of this exhibit opening. Three postcards will be printed that reflect the themes of the exhibit. These postcards will be part of an interactive display alongside stories from queer, trans, and two-spirit communities, and will be sold in the Museum gift shop. The Postcard Art Contest is open to all; three \$150 prizes will be awarded.



New exhibit planned by the Maritime Museum of BC.
Image courtesy of the Maritime Museum of BC



What Is the Museum Looking For?

“It is important for queer, trans, and two-spirit communities to speak for themselves and share their own stories,” said Brittany Vis, Executive Director of the Maritime Museum of BC, “we are seeking input from queer, trans, and two-spirit individuals who are willing to voluntarily share their stories for use in the exhibit.”

In keeping with the theme and the mandate of the Museum, stories are requested from 2SLGBTQ+ people who are connected to BC’s maritime history/culture/industries. This can include anything from working in the BC maritime field as a queer, trans, or two-spirit person, to being a queer, trans, or two-spirit member of a BC maritime-based community/culture, to partaking in maritime recreational activities as a queer, trans, or two-spirit person.

Stories can be shared in any of the following ways, at the discretion of those sharing them:

- A written story that will be presented as text
- Oral interview that will be presented as text
- Video interview that will be presented on digital screens with audio
- Photograph-based stories with added captions to contextualize them as needed
- Object-based stories with personal objects (tools, uniforms, etc.) loaned to the Museum for the exhibit
- Short quotes that speak to your experience
- Any combination of the above

How to Share Your Story

You can share your story in one of two ways:

1. Complete an online form on the Museum’s website. Please note that you can remain anonymous and provide as little or as much information as you would like.
 - a. <https://queeratsea.ca/>
2. Contact Maritime Museum of BC staff. Please be in touch with Brittany Vis, Executive Director, to discuss this further. You can email or call her at the information below.
 - a. bvis@mmbc.bc.ca
 - b. 250-385-4222 ext. 106

Deadline for sharing your story: **March 4, 2022**

Deadline for expressing intent of loaning personal objects or photographs: **March 4, 2022**



Postcard Art Contest

Submitted artwork must be original, printable on a postcard, digitally submitted, and relevant to the Museum's Mission and *Queer at Sea* exhibit purpose. Artwork will be selected by a committee, and three winning designs will be licensed for use on postcards.

Themes and design should interpret, reflect, or resonate with 2SLGBTQ+ BC maritime experiences and/or community. Artists must be residing in Canada. There is no age restriction, but minors must have a guardian sign for them. Full submissions details and entry form are found on our website at <http://www.queeratsea.ca/>.

Please email completed submission form with attached artwork to Anya Baker, Events and Development Coordinator, at abaker@mmbc.bc.ca.

Deadline for entering Postcard Art Contest: **11:59 PM on February 11, 2022.**

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For further information, please contact:

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