



WALKING ALONGSIDE TRAUMA

participants information package



CCBC gratefully acknowledges that the land on which we work is the stolen & unceded shared traditional territories of the Coast Salish Peoples, including the territories of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwətaʔ/ Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.



The Craft Council of BC (CCBC) is a charitable arts service organization which supports all stages of artistic practice in the craft sector; creates opportunities for artists to exhibit, sell and produce art; provides an advocacy voice for artists and craft organizations; and aids in the development of active communities around craft.

project summary

[The Walking Alongside Trauma](#) (WAT) project, led by the Craft Council of BC (CCBC), is a material-based exploration of the vicarious traumatization of sexualized violence.

The WAT exhibition is an offshoot of the larger [iMPACTS SSHRC Grant “Define the Line.”](#) a multi-year project led by McGill University to address sexual violence on university campuses across Canada and internationally.

The role of the CCBC in this initiative is to develop and curate a material-based exhibition exploring the impact that “walking alongside trauma” has on society, particularly for those who interact directly with survivors’ trauma (e.g., crisis support workers, family members, health care workers, educators, peers, etc.), who we refer to as “Witnesses” .

Our intention is to create a space that can bring awareness to and potentially healing the effects of vicarious traumatization of sexualized violence (VTSV).

To do so, as the curator, I am inviting twelve material-based artists to produce two works of art that explore the emotional, physical, and/or social impact experienced by individuals dealing with VTSV.

Our hope is that by providing a creative opportunity for “Witnesses” to recount and express their experiences with VTSV, the resulting exhibition will create space for these stories to be shared and observed by others, so that collectively, we will be able to gain a deeper understanding of the impacts that VTSV has on society as a whole.

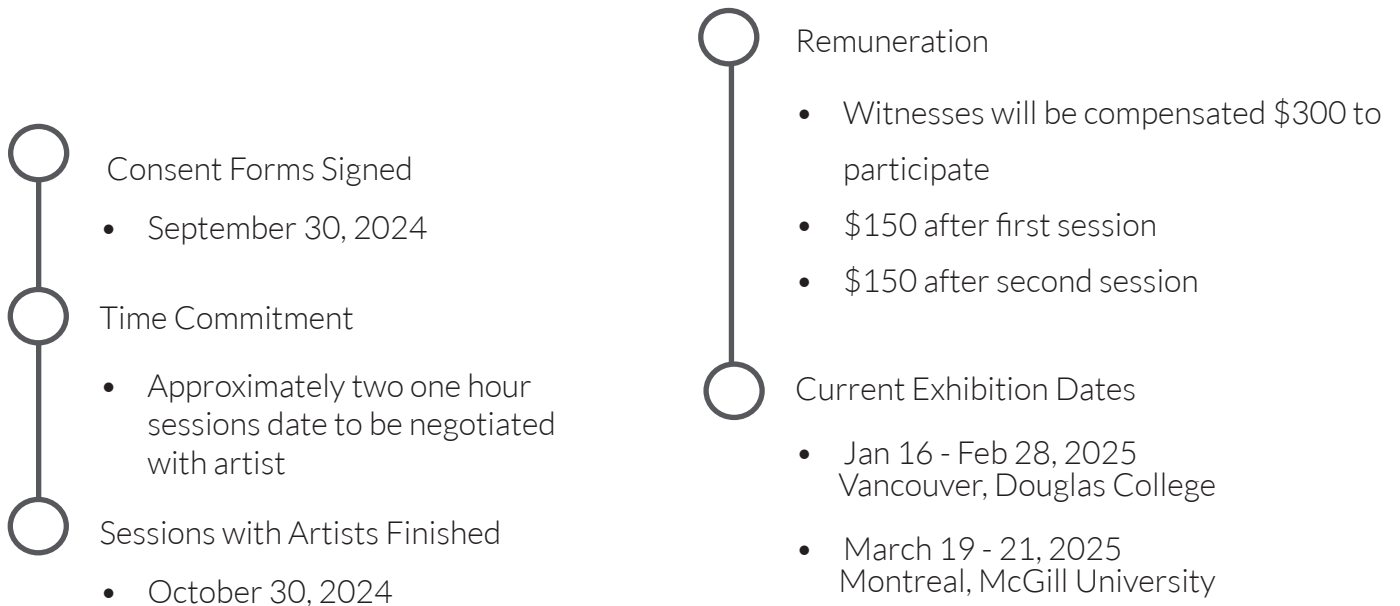
as participant

- you are one of twelve participants drawn from a volunteer population of individuals whose professions require them to interact with survivors of sexual abuse. The process for selection of participants is through associations, organizations, and institutions that represent individuals who deal with sexual abuse survivors (e.g., crisis support workers, family members, health care workers, educators, peers) and may experience VTSV.
- you have self-assessed that you are emotionally able to discuss your experience with the artists.
- in two in-person sessions with an artist, you will be asked to share your experience of VTSV with an individual artist, which will inform the artist's creation process. These sessions will be an hour long and will be audio-recorded. As a participant you will disclose as much information about your experience as you deem comfortable, enabling the artist to translate the experience into two material-based objects.
- to support your conversation with the artist we suggest using the following questions as guidelines :
 - how has VTSV impacted your ability to do your work?
 - how has VTSV impacted your understanding of the impact of VTSV within your profession?
- the audio- recorded sessions will be analyzed to explore the impact of vicarious trauma.
- the audio- recordings will be stored confidentially and analyzed by [Professor Shaheen Shariff, McGill University](#) the Primary Investigator of the [iMPACTS Project](#)

considerations

- should you experience some psychological discomfort throughout the process of discussing your experience with the artist, *cause things sometimes do come up*, you are offered up to three free and confidential online debriefing opportunities with a registered clinical psychologist who is kindly donating her expertise in dealing with VTSV to the initiative
- during the consent process you will be asked to decide whether you consent to:
 - being identified by name in exhibition catalogue
 - being identified by name on the online landing page for the project
 - being identified by name in the academic report
 - have your organization's name sited in the catalogue
 - have your organization's name sited on the online landing for the project
 - our organization's name cited in the academic report

important dates



thank you!

in collaboration with
mcgill university
douglas college



If you are interested in participating in or have questions about his project, please

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