



## Calling All Indigenous Creatives

**Deadline:** April 20, 2018, 11:59PM PST

**More Information:** [yehawshow.com](http://yehawshow.com)

*yəhaw'* is an open call exhibition celebrating the depth and diversity of Indigenous art made in the Pacific Northwest. All Indigenous creatives living in our region are invited to participate, and everyone who applies will have work included in the exhibition.

The title of the show, *yəhaw'*, is drawn from the Coast Salish story of Native people from all tribes uniting around a common cause and lifting up the sky together. In the spirit of the story, this exhibition will be a collective portrait of Native America, including creatives of all ages and stages in their careers, from Urban and Reservation communities, working in contemporary and traditional materials, and in ways that may or may not be widely recognized as Native. And just as, historically, Indigenous makers seamlessly imbued utilitarian objects with spiritual and artistic meaning, we seek to challenge the false divide between craft and fine art, as well as high and low art, by equally valuing all objects as part of our cultural continuum.

The exhibition will also be accompanied by mentorship opportunities to support continued artistic development in the Indigenous community, and we hope that all exhibition participants will gain experience and exposure, and create sustaining relationships.

We are giving up curatorial control through the open call process to empower Native artisans to retake ownership of their representation. By creating an opportunity for the community to speak for itself through a wide range of individual and sometimes conflicting perspectives, we aim to unsettle assumptions and begin a critical new dialogue about what Native American art is and can be. We hope *yəhaw'* will reflect a nuanced, inclusive, and community-driven narrative that firmly establishes Native creatives as belonging in the here and now.

*-Tracy Rector (Seminole/Choctaw), Asia Tail (Cherokee Nation), and Satpreet Kahlon*

### **About King Street Station**

This show will be held in the newly renovated King Street Station in downtown Seattle. It is only appropriate that the inaugural exhibition in the newly minted community arts space honor and acknowledge the Indigenous communities on whose stolen land the building sits. Learn more at [www.seattle.gov/arts](http://www.seattle.gov/arts).

### **Eligibility**

This call is open to all Indigenous people living in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Alaska, and British Columbia. This includes residents of those states belonging to Native communities outside of the Pacific Northwest, and outside of what is currently the United States. Everyone is encouraged to participate regardless of age, professional experience, media, or tribal affiliation.

### **Artwork Guidelines**

Every applicant will have at least one piece included in the exhibition.

We welcome any visual art media, including contemporary and traditional works, painting, drawing, design, photography, digital, film, sculpture, beadwork, leatherwork, ceramics, weaving, carving, regalia, clothing design, jewelry, cultural objects, utilitarian objects, tools, installation, performance, and anything else applicants consider their artform.

Submitted images should give us an idea of your work, but do not have to be completed pieces ready for exhibition. The curatorial team is available to help make final selections closer to the installation of the show.

Applicants are encouraged to consider how their work relates to the Coast Salish story *Lifting the Sky* when selecting final works for exhibition. The story will be used as a guiding theme for the show as a whole. Vi Hilbert's telling can be viewed online here: <http://bela.music.washington.edu/ethno/hilbert/voicesVideo.html>

Works may be exhibited in large groupings to ensure an inclusive exhibition, and to highlight the breadth of the Indigenous community in the Northwest.

Participants should be prepared to deliver artworks to the exhibition space in Seattle's International District in October 2018, and to pick up artwork after the exhibition closes in March 2019. Special arrangements will be available for out-of-state participants and those who are unable to travel to Seattle to deliver their work for any reason.

Modest honorariums to help with transportation and/or creation costs will also be provided on a limited basis.

### **Mentorship**

As part of the exhibition at King Street Station, there will be a free mentorship program for a cohort of 10-15 emerging creatives.

The mentorship program will provide:

- Guidance from established artists and leaders in the Native community
- Assistance developing new or existing works for the exhibition, including attendance-based honorariums for art materials
- Studio visits with in depth discussion about individual participants' works in a supportive critique environment
- Professional development workshops that will cover topics like writing an artist statement, developing a portfolio for future applications, and other subjects as requested by participants
- The opportunity to work alongside, and be nurtured and challenged by peers
- Lasting networks and contacts in the local arts community

Applicants may indicate their interest in the mentorship section of the Submittable form.

The Curatorial Team will select participants based on their submitted materials, the perceived impact of the program on their practice, and the diversity of perspectives in the cohort as a whole.

Participants who are accepted into the mentorship program will be notified in May 2018, and the program will run from July through October 2018.

### **Submission Workshops**

Workshops will be held to help interested exhibitors with their application and to answer questions about this opportunity. Attendees should bring one artwork to photograph or existing digital images, and proof of Indigenous ancestry as outlined in the How to Submit section, if they would like assistance completing the online submission form on-site during the workshop. Refreshments will be served.

- Thursday, April 5, 6-8pm, Chief Seattle Club, 410 2nd Ave Ext S, Seattle, WA 98104
- Friday, April 6, 1-3pm, Eighth Generation Store, 93 Pike St #103, Seattle, WA 98101
- Sunday, April 8, 1-3pm, WA State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402

Free bus passes or transportation assistance to workshops is available upon request.

### **Timeline**

Applications due: April 20, 2018, 11:59PM PST

Participation confirmation: May 2018

Piece drop-off: October 2018

Exhibition opening: tentatively planned for November 2018

Exhibition closing: February 2019

Piece pick-up: March 2019

\*Specific exhibition, drop-off, and pick-up dates will be communicated closer to the opening. Dates are approximate and subject to change.

### **How to Submit**

Please submit at least 1, and up to 10, images of past work at [yehawshow.submittable.com/submit](http://yehawshow.submittable.com/submit).

Exhibitors are encouraged to provide documentation of social and familial ties to an Indigenous community, which will be used to determine artist eligibility. Examples of documentation include: Certificate of Indian Blood card, tribal enrollment card, letter from a federally recognized Alaska Native village or tribe identifying the applicant as a member, a letter from a federally recognized tribal enrollment office identifying the applicant as a descendant, documentation from a tribe denied federal recognition but socially and historically acknowledged, or self-attestation with verification in another form.

We know this is a complicated issue, so please feel welcome to contact the curatorial team about alternative ways to verify Native ancestry.

### **Additional Opportunities**

Applicants will automatically be considered for free studio space, or additional programming, funding, and exhibiting opportunities as they become available through our growing list of partners. Let us know if you have specific needs and we will do our best to connect you with resources.

If you are not a visual artist, but you have events that you would like to host in the exhibition space during the run of the show, or if you need a space to host a meeting or a community gathering, please reach out to us.

### **Questions?**

Email [info@yehawshow.com](mailto:info@yehawshow.com), call or text 253-336-6477, or use the contact form on our website at [yehawshow.com](http://yehawshow.com).

The curatorial team (consisting of Tracy Rector, Asia Tail, and Satpreet Kahlon) is available to answer any questions and will assist participants throughout the exhibition process. Please contact us with your ideas, we would love to hear from you!

