



June 5, 2016

To whom it may concern:

This letter is in support of the grunt gallery's application for the preservation of the last squatters cabin located on Vancouver's North Shore. As one of the three organizations involved in both saving and now preserving the Blue Cabin, we are committed to re-purposing the "Blue Cabin" which, has such a rich historical, cultural and artistic significance to the Vancouver Metro area into a floating artist residency.

The Blue Cabin was located near Cates Park in the 1930's and was utilized as a workers' home. In the late 1960's, prominent artists Al Neil and Carole Itter used it to create art largely influenced by the cabin's location on the Burrard Inlet. Both Neil and Itter are known nationally and internationally for their contributions to both the visual arts and contemporary jazz.

Over the past year, our team successfully relocated the Blue Cabin to a temporary location and is in the process of developing a business plan for the floating artist residency. The floating artist residency will be moored at several different sights along the shores of Vancouver, Burnaby Richmond and North Vancouver and will provide artists with an opportunity to interpret our foreshore ecology from a unique perspective on the water.

Our three organizations are strongly committed to realizing this project and between us we have both the artistic and organizational ability to undertake this initiative. We are committed to partnering with municipalities, First Nation communities and arts organizations to develop this unique artist residency.

Currently, we are embarking on remediation work and have successfully secured some support through the District of North Vancouver. We hope that Metro Vancouver will also play a part in supporting our vision to re-purpose the Blue Cabin into a one-of-a-kind floating artist residency.

We sincerely hope you will support this valuable initiative for its' preservation.

Kind regards,

Esther Rausenberg & Richard Tetrault  
Co-artistic Directors  
Creative Cultural Collaborations Society  
E; [C3society@gmail.com](mailto:C3society@gmail.com) w: [creativeculturalcollaborations.com](http://creativeculturalcollaborations.com)  
T:604-215-4492

## Other Sights for Artists' Projects

3810 Commercial Street  
Vancouver, BC V5N 4G2  
othersights.ca, 604 254 5598  
[barbara@othersights.ca](mailto:barbara@othersights.ca)

June 3, 2016

To Whom it May Concern,

This letter is to confirm Other Sights' enthusiastic endorsement for the Blue Cabin project. As one of the three collaborating organizations that helped save the cabin from demolition, we remain deeply committed to ensuring the Blue Cabin has a lasting legacy as a space dedicated to artistic production.

For almost 50 years, the modest blue cabin was a productive hub of creativity for one of this region's foremost experimental artists, Al Neil. In the late 1970's, Neil's partner and noted sculptor Carole Itter, also began using the cabin as a generative space for making art. The cabin itself became an evolving artwork, it's interior and exterior surfaces painted and rubbed, and assemblages made from coastal detritus arranged, rearranged and hung from posts, trees, and all things offering some manner of support. As one of many foreshore dwellings of the time, it sat upon/above the intertidal zone between low and high tide marks. As one of the last dwellings to occupy this jurisdictional grey zone, the Blue Cabin has great cultural significance.

We envision the cabin returning to the foreshores to be used as a floating artist residency that is towed by tug to different locations along this region's waterways. Mounted to a floating platform, the Blue Cabin, along with a tiny house, will provide a unique, inspiring, and off-the-grid working situation for artists of all disciplines. With proposed moorage sites along the Burrard Inlet, Indian Arm, False Creek and the Fraser River, each site offers distinctly different environments for research and study – their histories of use as conduits of trade made all the more evident by the vessels that travel them. Our proposed artist residency is truly a Metro-Vancouver project, crossing municipal boundaries to provide benefit to audiences on the North Shore, Burnaby, Vancouver and Richmond.

As a next step, we are embarking on repairs to the cabin. A business plan is scheduled for completion this year, and design work for the tiny house and platform will follow. As seasoned art professionals, our team understands that in order to reach our goal, we will need to consult and collaborate with multiple partners ranging from municipal governments, First Nations, local communities, and arts organizations, each with their own set of interests and areas of expertise. We stand united in our belief that through collaboration, we will offer an artist residency that is unique to this region and global in its reach.

Best Regards



Barbara Cole  
Executive Director  
Other Sights for Artists' Projects



# NORTH SHORE HERITAGE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

2695 Nelson Avenue, West Vancouver, BC, V7V 2R8  
(604) 926-6096  
info@northshoreheritage.org

[www.northshoreheritage.org](http://www.northshoreheritage.org)

BC Society Registration No. S-49292

February 15, 2015

Mayor and Council,  
District of North Vancouver  
355 West Queens Rd.,  
North Vancouver, BC, V7N 4N5

Re: Last of the waterfront cabins

Dear Mayor Walton and Council:

Following the recent story in the North Shore News and messages of concern from Glen Alteen and others, I am pleased to write on behalf of our Board. We are in full support of their efforts to save the waterfront 'cottage' recently occupied by Al Neil and Carole Itter. It is the last extant example of the unique 'squatter' community which grew along the North Shore waterfront.

We also hope that means can be found both practical and financial to relocate the structure to a more accessible location such as Cates Park.

Ideally, a needed function can be found for it - could a local historical society run it as an interpretive centre for the former waterfront community and/or the history of the first nations band who inhabited this waterfront and named it Whey-Ah-Whichen.

We would urge you to take the lead in assisting all the parties involved in this matter to preserve this example of the Heritage of the North Shore for pleasure and education.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Miller  
President  
North Shore Heritage Preservation Society

North Shore Waterfront Liaison Committee  
c/o Frances Tang-Graham  
Port Metro Vancouver  
100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place  
Vancouver, BC V6C 3T4  
[nswlc@portmetrovancover.com](mailto:nswlc@portmetrovancover.com)

March 14, 2016

Glenn Alteen Program Director of grunt gallery  
c/o Unit 306 Society  
#116 – 350 East 2nd Avenue  
Vancouver V5T 4R8  
[glennalteen@icloud.com](mailto:glennalteen@icloud.com)

Dear Glenn:

**Re: Presentation to North Shore Waterfront Liaison Committee 10 March 2016**

Thank you for your recent presentation to the North Shore Waterfront Liaison Committee meeting to update us on the status of the Blue Cabin. We appreciate the efforts you and your colleagues have made thus far. We have received both the conservation and structural reports with interest. We understand that options are being explored, and that logistics and funding are important considerations. We note that tax-deductible donations for this project may be made via Canada Helps (<https://www.canadahelps.org/services/wa/dnm/en/#/page/7857>) or directly by mail. Duncan Wilson, Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility Port Metro Vancouver (PMV) also noted that grants via Heritage Canada might be an option, and that PMV would be happy to provide a reference/recommendation if such an application is pursued by the project team.

Although the committee is not a decision-making body, we were pleased to learn of the status of this waterfront-relevant project, and hope that your potential collaboration with Ian McMurdo on next steps (estimating) is productive.

Again, we thank you for taking the time to attend and make the committee aware of this project's status. We look forward to further updates.

Sincerely,



Jillian Cooke  
Chair, North Shore Waterfront Liaison Committee

Cc Barbara Cole Executive Director of Other Sights for Artists' Projects  
Ester Rausenberg Co-artistic Director of Creative Cultural Collaborations  
Michael Jackson Project Manager PM Volunteers

cc naomi.horsford@portmetrovanancouver.com  
Vancouver Port Authority  
Naomi Horsford (604-665-9075) Municipal Executive Liaison  
100 The Pointe, 999 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC, V6C 3T4

---

cc glennalteen@icloud.com  
Glenn Alteen, Grunt Gallery,  
116-350 East 2nd Ave., Vancouver, BC V5T 4R8

---

cc admin@culturecrawl.ca  
Esther Rauschenberg (778-960-7575)  
Executive Director of the Eastside Culture Crawl  
108-1000 Parker St., Vancouver, BC V6A 2H2

---

cc barbara@othersights.ca  
Barbra Cole, (604-254-5598)  
Director, Other Sights

**From:** Charles Campbell <[contactcjc@shaw.ca](mailto:contactcjc@shaw.ca)>

**Date:** Monday, April 11, 2016 at 10:20 AM

**To:** Kari Gundersen <[kari@grunt.ca](mailto:kari@grunt.ca)>

**Subject:** Re: The Blue Cabin Needs Your Voice

To whomever,

I just sent the following to the mayor and council through the link you provided. It's a little late and may not make it into the record. Feel free to use this letter as you see fit, and good luck tonight

Chas

To the mayor and council of the District of North Vancouver,

I was for a decade the editor of the Georgia Straight, and for five years a Vancouver Sun entertainment editor and editorial board member. I serve on the board of the Society to Bridge Arts and Community, and chair the jury on the Mayor's Arts Award for lifetime achievement. When we gave the award to longtime Blue Cabin resident Al Neil two years ago, it was because he exemplifies the sort of unheralded artistic genius that defines Vancouver's arts history as unique and provocative. His cabin is a critical physical symbol of Lower Mainland arts history. The Dollarton Flats was home to a remarkable community of artists at a remarkable time. We all know about Malcolm Lowry, but it's worth adding that Dollarton, through the making of Robert Altman's legendary film McCabe and Mrs. Miller and the advocacy of Dollarton connected TV producer and Granville Island visionary Al Clapp, became the crucible of the BC film industry. The house is also an irreplaceable symbol of the history of housing in Vancouver. Metro Vancouver wants to rid us of the cabins in Belcarra, is killing through inaction and neglect the cabins on Bowen and elsewhere in its jurisdiction, and as a consequence the last remnants of a way of living in Vancouver -- lightly, often seasonally, on the waterfront -- are being destroyed in favour of buildings that are out of reach for all but the ultra-rich. Our waterfront in all its aspects has great stories that we don't adequately know or appreciate. Michael Audain knows the cabin's value, and it's why he helped to save the Blue Cabin when it might otherwise have been destroyed. There is a strong community of support that will take this project forward, and a thoughtful plan for its use. The people involved are highly capable. The ask from council is modest, and it's right that the District of North Vancouver should play a role at this key juncture in supporting the cabin's new life. I urge you to approve the request for financial support to perpetuate a piece of living history -- the best kind we can have.

Best regards,

Charles Campbell

1618 East 13th Avenue

Vancouver, BC

V5N 2B8

Mayor Richard Walton and Council  
District of North Vancouver City Hall  
355 West Queens Road  
North Vancouver, BC  
V7N 4N5

April 6, 2016

Dear Mayor Walton and members of Council:

I'm writing in support of current efforts to preserve and sustain Al Neil and Carole Itter's "Blue Cabin" as an artist's retreat, and in support of a request to District of North Vancouver Council on April 11<sup>th</sup> toward this good work.

The Blue Cabin is one of, if not the last, foreshore cabin 'squats' that once proliferated on the intertidal zone of North Vancouver and Burrard Inlet. This history is an instrumental and vital part of our region, and the preservation of the Blue Cabin presents the last opportunity to save an especially important part of our shared past for our future generations.

Through the work of Vancouver's grunt gallery, a number of partners, including the North Vancouver Museum and Archives, have stepped forward in partnership to preserve the cabin in the near term, and to find a long term sustainable life as an artist's retreat and residency going forward.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Presentation House Gallery, we fully support this goal, and have pledged our assistance to further its progress.

We recommend District Council's approval of the request for funds to assist in stabilizing and remediating the cabin, and toward work to ensure the future life of the Blue Cabin.

Sincerely

Reid Shier  
Director