

**Media Release**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 23, 2020**

## **Esquimalt Showcases Local Creativity with Two New Art Spaces**

*Set to open in the fall, Esquimalt welcomes The Clay Box Gallery and Studio, and the Esquimalt Community Arts Hub.*

ESQUIMALT – Some might think of Esquimalt as a sleepy backwater town, but entrepreneurs Gillian Turner and Laura-Beth Keane see the Township as fertile territory for artists and creatives.

Steeped in naval history and with stunning waterfront views, Esquimalt has much to offer painters, photographers and potters alike.

Gillian Turner is a professional fine art ceramicist from the Comox Valley and owner of the Clay Box Gallery and Studio. Her business is set to open in the fall and will offer hands-on instruction in pottery. In addition to studio space, the Clay Box is accepting submissions of quality ceramics for consignment and display.

Like Gillian Turner, Laura-Beth Keane sees the region as having tremendous potential as an arts and culture hub. Keane is working with a Board of Directors to open the Esquimalt Community Arts Hub (ECAH); a non-profit art gallery, classroom and gift shop.

“Esquimalt shares many similarities with established arts destinations like Chemainus and Nelson. We have a relatively small population and Esquimalt Road creates a walkable corridor that just screams out for galleries and funky shops,” says Keane.

“I absolutely see Esquimalt growing into a cool neighbourhood like Granville Island in Vancouver. We have so many really talented individuals that are just waiting for a space to display and showcase their work.”

Mayor Barb Desjardins also supports the arts in Esquimalt.

“It is exciting to see arts and culture unfold in Esquimalt. We are a stronger and better community with the arts and I know Esquimalt will embrace this emerging sector,” says Mayor Desjardins.

While many in the community are excited to see these new arts organizations opening in town, the path to get to this point has been challenging for both women. COVID-19 has presented a unique set of problems and both organizations are navigating WorkSafe BC guidelines to open to the public.

Overall, Turner and Keane are excited to open shop in Esquimalt and provide a creative refuge for artists.

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## **Images for Distribution**

None at this time.

## **Editorial Notes**

Please feel free to edit for clarity and length.

## **Media Contacts**

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## **About ECAH – Esquimalt Community Arts Hub**

901 Esquimalt Road, Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 3M7  
[www.ecah.ca](http://www.ecah.ca)

At ECAH, we believe that the arts are a foundational piece of a thriving community. Art enhances public space, it offers transformative experiences and can serve as a unifier of diverse populations.

We want to contribute to the thriving arts community in the Township of Esquimalt by building a public art gallery and creative arts hub. We will be opening our doors to the public at 901 Esquimalt Road in late October, 2020.

## **About the Clay Box Gallery and Studio**

829-C Admirals Road, Esquimalt, B.C. V9A 2P1  
[www.clayboxgallery.com](http://www.clayboxgallery.com)

One of the main mandates of the Clay Box Gallery studio is to provide a safe and creative space for students of all ages and skill level. To provide a positive and gentle introduction into the exciting world of clay, building confidence in making by supportive continuing education and freedom within artistic exploration.