

October 18/21

Valemount Community Art Walk Project Report (April 2019-September 2021)

The Valemount Arts and Cultural Society gratefully thank the Valemount Community Forest for accepting our 2021 application. The Art Walk project was started two years ago and has been a slow process through the Covid19 pandemic. We are very happy with the way the project has come together. It has made it possible for the Society to continue its mandate in the community and has ticked all the boxes for the reasons to have public art in a community.

The Art Walk project was initiated in 2019, and would renew the original Art Walk established in 2015. Between the Valemount Arts and Cultural Society, funding from the Columbia Kootaney Cultural Alliance and the Valemount Community Forest the project was able to contact artists and gather supplies both locally and online. We were able to research and buy a professional clear coat which should add more years to the outdoor life of the panels. In the second year we were able to include one of the communities' professional artists and also have a local application process to include artists who may not have been aware of the project. These were both added plusses for the project. A Society member with the skills needed for the installation on so many different surfaces was able to install all the panels. The Society was also able to work on an accompanying brochure to attract locals and visitors to take time to enjoy the walk. With the art panels now in place the brochure will be completed in the next few weeks and conclude the project.

The Society was hoping to contribute to a healthy community while supporting art in the community, which has become even more prevalent during the pandemic. The feedback has all been positive and has given us confidence that this project is fitting well with the community. Building owners have also been very supportive and the project would not have been possible without them. The tourism factor is still an unknown because of the restricted travel and the project only now completed.

In conclusion the Society feels the project has been completed well and has fit the community well. We have had contact from other artists in the community and there is definitely interest in continuing the Art Walk with additional art panels in the future.

Thank you

Neysa Weatherbee

VACS Art Walk