

Mini Dog Blanket Métis Heritage Arts Mentorship

MNBC's Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language are pleased to present the Mini Dog Blanket Métis Heritage Arts Mentorship, facilitated by Cree-Métis artist Cynthia Boehm. Over 3 months of virtual workshops, participants will be taught how to create their own mini dog blanket/tuppie in a small group mentorship setting. Skilled Métis artists will have the choice to bead, tuft, embroider or quill their dog blankets. At the end of the mentorship, the dog blankets will be featured in a temporary exhibition at the Amelia Douglas Institute in Surrey.

The mentorship opportunity is open to 12 BC-based MNBC Citizens. The mentorship workshops will start in January 2025 and run until April 2025. All workshops will be held virtually.

Participants must commit to attending all workshops.

***Please make sure to carefully read and complete all 8 pages of this application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.**

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Cynthia Boehm, a Red-River based beadwork artist and designer, feels most at home when she picks up her needle.

As a child, she was surrounded by creative people such as her father, who sketched numerous drawings, and her mother, who enjoyed to knit, crochet, quilt and sew and taught the young artist to sew at an early age. But it was Cynthia's love and appreciation for historic Cree-Métis beadwork that compelled her to further explore the arts, in particular the historical art of her home community Norway House, Manitoba. This love and appreciation was only strengthened when Cynthia discovered her grandmother's art, which is housed at the Manitoba Museum. This discovery prompted her to extensively research the historical beadwork and embroidery patterns of her Cree-Métis ancestors, specifically the bold and vibrant designs from Norway House that were produced during the fur trade in the mid to late 19th century. Inspired by colourful silk embroidery that rendered graphic flowers and serpentine leaves in shades of red, pink, mauve, blues, greens, gold, orange, and various shades of purple, Cynthia sought to learn about the historical work of her community, namely the art of her ancestor grandmothers, who's silk embroidery and beadwork became world famous.

Cynthia has since become a well-known and much respected artist. Her works have been recognized in several art competitions. Furthermore, she was commissioned by the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre in 2020 to produce a "resilience mask", and in 2024 she received an award at the Santa Fe Indian Market for her dog blanket titled "Muskwa's Blanket", 2019 she was awarded the Barbara Cook Endres First Place Award for her stand-alone floral beaded piece, "My Journey Home — Honouring Our Grandmothers", which appeared in the competition at the Manitoba Society of Artists Provincial Open Juried Competition. In 2018, Cynthia was given an award for her beadwork at the Interlake Juried Art Show. Both competitions had rarely seen beadwork entered in the past.

Cynthia continues to learn and work in the medium of traditional Cree-Métis beadwork and art forms. She facilitates numerous workshops in both beadwork and moccasin making. When she is not in the process of creating, Cynthia often visits her home community where she feels grounded and connected to her ancestors and history. Her work is not only reflective of her desire to create beautiful pieces but to honour her grandmother, who's own work continues as a source of great pride and love.

WORKSHOP MATERIALS PROVIDED

Materials Provided:

- Paper pattern pieces for dog blanket
- Fringe making template
- Black wool for blanket 12x13 (finished 11x9)
- 2 sheets of iron on interfacing (light weight and heavy weight)
- Melton wool for bell strip
- Moose hide strip
- Bells
- Leather lace
- Fox braid
- Medium weight canvas
- Leather hole punch
- Masking tape
- Chalk pen
- Clips
- \$50 to offset the cost of adornment materials

The following required items will be the responsibility of the artist to provide:

- Scissors
- Beads or medium of choice
- Threads both beading and cotton (black cotton thread close match threads to fox braid and wool strip)
- Needles
- 100% yarn wool medium weight recommended

APPLY TO PARTICIPATE

If you are interested in joining the Mini Dog Blanket Métis Heritage Arts Mentorship, please review the eligibility criteria carefully.

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the Mini Dog Blanket Métis Heritage Arts Mentorship, participants must:

- Be an MNBC citizen
- Be a resident of British Columbia
- Be able to source your own beads and other required materials not provided (see list on the workshop overview)
- Be able to commit 50-100 hours over a span of 3 months to constructing a mini dog blanket outside of the regular workshop hours
- Commit to attending all 6 virtual workshops on Thursday evenings starting at **4PM PST**
- Able and to learn and participate in a virtual setting*
- Intermediate to advanced skill level in beading, embroidery, quillwork and/or tufting with experience in hand sewing and finishing.
- Commit to completing a mini dog blanket by April 3, 2025.
- Agree to having their dog blanket displayed in an exhibition at the Amelia Douglas Institute in Surrey from April to June 2025.

*Active participation is required as this mentorship operate like a sharing circle. You will be expected to come off mute and have your camera on while sharing (unless excused due to illness or other circumstances). Being in circle on camera facilitates a safe space for sharing and brings us together. These workshops are intended for learning, community and connection!

APPLICATION

**Mandatory fields*

*Full Name:

*Full Shipping Address:

Socials (if applicable):

Website (If applicable):

*E-mail:

*Phone:

1. *Are you a resident of BC?

Yes or No

2. MNBC Citizenship Number:

3. *Please indicate your Métis heritage arts skill level:

This workshop requires intermediate to advanced skill, and novice and beginner applications will not be considered.

Novice

- *Has not completed any Métis heritage arts projects/No experience.*

Beginner

- *New artist – can do and finish basic small projects, individual flowers or earrings*

Intermediate

- *Experienced – has completed some intricate projects including larger compositions, some finishing skills including hand sewing and leatherwork*

Advanced

- *Very experienced – completed many large or intricate projects, large compositions, advanced finishing skills including hand sewing and leatherwork*

4. Describe the most recent intermediate to advanced Métis heritage arts project you have completed.

5. *Why do you want to make a mini dog blanket? (150 word limit)

5. *Do you have experience teaching Metis heritage art practices to other artists? Y/N

6. *Upon completing this class, would you be open to teaching others within your local Metis community how to create a mini dog blanket Y/N

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

In submitting this application, I acknowledge and agree that:

- I have reviewed and I meet the eligibility criteria. If chosen, I will be able to dedicate the time needed (50-100 hours) to complete my mini dog blanket by April 3, 2025.
- I am able to supply my own beads and other required materials for this project.
- I am able to successfully finish projects with virtual and written instructions.
- I will attend every workshop class. I will let the Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language know if I am unable to attend a class due to extenuating circumstances.
- If chosen as a participant, and my circumstances change so that I am no longer able to participate in the workshop before it begins, I will notify the Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language team so that they can offer my spot to someone else. I will also return any materials that may have been shipped to me, and \$50 honoraria at my own expense.
- If chosen, I agree to have my mini dog blanket featured in an exhibition at the Amelia Douglas Institute from April – June 2025.
- I understand that these workshop series receive a lot of applications and spaces are limited. I will be responsible for beading and sewing my own time outside of classes and holding myself accountable to meet the workshop series schedule.
- I am confident and can commit to dedicating the time required to complete this project and attend the workshops in the given time frame. I acknowledge that participants who drop out or do not finish the workshop during the workshop series may not be considered for future workshop series offered by the Ministry.
- I understand that the workshop will be delivered over Zoom. I agree to participate and learn in a virtual setting which includes participating in sharing circles which require me to be on-camera.



Please submit your Mini Dog Blanket Mentorship application and supporting documents by **December 9, 2024, at 12:00pm, PST**. Applications submitted after this deadline will not be considered. Successful applicants will be notified by December 13, 2024.

Include 3 photographs of recently completed beadwork, embroidery, quillwork and/or tufting projects that best showcase your Métis heritage arts skills. These pieces should highlight your commitment to the arts and ability to complete a time-intensive project which includes hand sewing and finishing work.

Please email your application and supporting documents to: chl@mnbca.ca

Signature:

Date: