

NEWS RELEASE

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City of Nanaimo unveils intriguing sculpture by the sea in Pipers Lagoon Park

Amber Morrison and Matthew Fox's temporary public art sculpture, Moon Snail House, invites interaction and reflection on home, environment and housing

Summary

The City of Nanaimo invites the public to experience Moon Snail House, a newly installed temporary public art project by Nanaimo artists Amber Morrison and Matthew Fox. Located on the bluff in Pipers Lagoon Park with a view of the sea, Moon Snail House is inspired by the shell of a Lewis's moon snail, one of the largest marine mollusks found in our local intertidal areas. In Hul'qumi'num, this creature is called Qume:ne', pronounced KUH-may-nay (with a hard 'k' sound, a long 'may,' and a sharp 'nay', as credited to Eliot White-Hill, Kwulasultun).

This large-scale artwork invites visitors to become active participants, allowing them to enter the sculpture to experience the environment from a new perspective. The two artists aim to connect small structures like the artwork to the topic of housing, encouraging reflection on who has the opportunity to live by the sea and access it. As the moon snail naturally grows its shell—a house-like structure—it prompts us to ask: What essential lessons can we learn about housing from this creature?

Moon Snail House also raises awareness about the natural habitat of moon snails. These creatures are found along the Pacific coastline and lay their eggs in sand collars, which can sometimes be mistaken for trash by beachgoers. Respecting the natural environment is crucial for preserving our shoreline and the habitats of local wildlife.

A free public unveiling event for the artwork will take place at 11:30am on Saturday, August 24th at the site of the sculpture in Pipers Lagoon Park, where there will be live music by Elise Boulanger and an opportunity to meet the artists. Moon Snail House will be on display through 2027. Information on the City of Nanaimo's Temporary Art Program can be found on [the City's website](#).

Strategic Link: The Temporary Public Art Program supports the goals of Nanaimo City Council and City Plan by making art visible and accessible throughout the City and promoting the role that culture and the creative sector play in enhancing both community identity and quality of life.

Key Points

- The City of Nanaimo invites the public to experience Moon Snail House, a newly installed temporary public art project by local artists Amber Morrison and Matthew Fox.
- Perched on the bluff in Pipers Lagoon Park with a view of the sea, Moon Snail House draws inspiration from the shell of a Lewis's moon snail, one of the largest marine mollusks in our local intertidal areas.
- In Hul'qumi'num, Qume:ne' means moon snail. It is pronounced KUH-may-nay (with a hard 'k' sound, a long 'may,' and a sharp 'nay'), as credited to Eliot White-Hill, Kwulasultun.
- A free public unveiling event for the artwork will take place at 11:30am on Saturday, August 24th at the site of the sculpture in Pipers Lagoon Park, where there will be live music by Elise Boulanger and an opportunity to meet the artists.

Quotes

"We are thrilled to welcome this exciting new addition to our city's public art program. Moon Snail House is a work of art that is sure to spark curiosity and fuel the imagination. I encourage visitors to explore the sculpture while enjoying one of our most beautiful public parks!"

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

"We've designed this public artwork to be visually interesting and inviting, conceptually intriguing, site-specific, educational and playful. But more than anything, it is intended to be a gift to the community and a marker of our shared space."

Amber Morrison and Matthew Fox
Artists

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