



THE LONGHOUSE LABS

Imagine an Arts and Culture sector enriched by Indigenous Leadership

- ... where Indigenous students learn from accomplished mentors who share their culture.
- ... where the celebration of Indigenous knowledge fuels a stronger society.
- ... where Indigenous artists hold leadership roles in post-secondary institutions across Canada.

This is our moment to inspire change

WE CAN CREATE NEW WAYS OF TEACHING FINE ARTS THAT WILL RIPPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The Longhouse Labs at Waterloo will be a model of inclusive community building by providing Indigenous artists the space and time to develop their creative practices as they support student growth through mentorship. This new initiative will expand Indigenous practices at Waterloo and provide opportunities for people of all backgrounds to explore Indigenous histories and perspectives. As visiting Indigenous artists infuse their ideas into Waterloo's programs, they will also prepare the next generation of Indigenous artists and leaders to enrich Canada's cultural institutions.

We're ready to bring this vision to life. With your partnership, we can start today.

Let's foster a spirit of connection

TOGETHER, WE WILL CREATE THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDIGENOUS ARTISTS IN CANADA AND BUILD A DESTINATION FOR INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE AND CREATIVE PRACTICE

The Longhouse Labs Fellowships

The Longhouse Labs will invite three Indigenous artists and/or curators to campus each year to participate in immersive eight-month placements. Candidates will come from local, national, and international Indigenous communities, and will ideally include artists working at mid- and mature-career levels. Known as the Longhouse Fellows, these creative professionals will act as role models for Indigenous students by providing culturally relevant mentorship and guidance.

To our knowledge, no other positions of this prominence exist in Canada. The Longhouse Labs Fellowships will provide unique credentials that will support the artists' ongoing career success.

Collaboration and outreach

Engaging with the Longhouse Fellows will enrich student experiences across academic disciplines and deepen the experience for the Fellows. We look forward to building collaborations across campus, including the Departments of History, Anthropology, the School of Architecture, and the Faculty of Environment to name just a few. Research, art-making and cultural exchange will occur in a new gallery that will provide the Fellows with an artistic base and dedicated space for exhibitions and events.

Creativity and learning will also be situated on the land. Longhouse Fellows and other Indigenous leaders will share and teach plant-based knowledge, hide tanning, and building items like canoes and drums in a garden that will extend from the gallery. The garden will include small plots to cultivate Indigenous plants and an open area for community members to engage with materials.

Loans from museums and other cultural institutions will further advance knowledge of Indigenous histories and creative techniques. Unique in Canada, a state-of-the-art, museum grade, archival lab will give artists and students direct access to materials for in-situ study. Training in the safe handling and storage of items will equip students to work in archival roles at cultural organizations across the country. With access to a wider range of career opportunities, these future leaders will make meaningful and lasting impacts in Canada's arts and culture sector.

Together, we can create a better world

THROUGH THE LONGHOUSE LABS, WE WILL EMBRACE AND CELEBRATE INDIGENOUS CULTURES

With Waterloo's strength for combining knowledge, practice and experience, the Longhouse Labs will empower Indigenous artists and prepare Indigenous students for careers in artistic fields. The Longhouse Labs will serve as a model for universities and other institutions across the country. And most importantly, we will build a stronger, vibrant cultural sector that welcomes the many voices of Indigenous artists in Canada.

Please join us today.

For information, please contact:
Kim Bardwell
Director, Arts Advancement
kim.bardwell@uwaterloo.ca
519-888-4567 ext. 47310

