



**Open Sky Creative Society (OSCS)**  
**OSC Gallery – Information Document**  
*An Artist Run Centre Located in Fort Simpson, NWT*

***About***

The Open Sky Creative Society (OSCS) / OSC Gallery is based in Ft. Simpson / Liidlii kue, NWT & primarily serves the artistic community & audiences of the Dehcho, a multicultural region in the NWT composed of a dozen or so villages & aboriginal settlements. The OSCS was formed in 1999 by local artists & arts supporters who saw a need for an arts & cultural service organization as well as presentation & artist outreach opportunities in the Dehcho. The society's presence in our region is vital as extreme distances to the nearest urban centres, result in few opportunities for audiences & artist alike.

The OSCS fulfills a unique role in the community & the Dehcho as the only active non-profit, non-governmental, artist, & cultural supporter run organization. The volunteer-based society provides artists & audiences with an informed professional forum for research, production, presentation, promotion & dissemination of new works in contemporary visual arts & traditional Dene crafts as well as networking & educational opportunities, & a general resource centre.

***OSC Gallery Facilities***

The OSCS currently operates out of the Village of Fort Simpson Administration Building; where it maintains an office & artist resource centre open all year to the public. In June 2008 the OSCS will begin operating the space as the first & only artist-run, year round public exhibition venue for contemporary art in the NWT (OSC Gallery).

In 2009 the Society will move into the Fort Simpson Heritage Centre which will house an office, resource centre, a new permanent exhibition space, as well as artist in residence & workshop facilities.

***OSC Gallery Programming***

The OSC Gallery will present six, six week exhibitions per year featuring works by contemporary visual artists from across Canada (with minimum one exhibition per year guaranteed to an NWT artist), with a additional annual Dehcho members exhibition.

## ***Artistic Direction***

Goal: To present innovative programming in all artistic disciplines, relevant to the rural, mainly aboriginal audience of the Dehcho in order to create a dialogue between artists & audiences in our region & those from across the NWT & Canada

## ***Artistic Objectives***

### **The OSCS holds *Core Values* which guide & shape its activities:**

- Personal expression that can be both spiritual and healing for the artist & can be a vehicle for self reliance.
- Support for personal and professional development through knowledge sharing and communication inside and outside the arts community.
- Art is an important part of a healthy, balanced and dynamic cultures and societies
- Respect traditions while taking into account current cultural realities.
- Integrity in our members, communities, & activities – (social, historical, personal, and artistic integrity).
- Art records and preserves culture.
- Through programs, initiatives and acquisitions, we celebrate and emphasize the cultural richness and diversity of our region
- Access to culture and the arts are necessary for a rich and fulfilling quality of life.
- Responsibility to perpetuate and encourage the culture and arts of indigenous artists and practitioners.
- Support for the appreciation and practice of the arts by people throughout their lives.

