

**Seeking T'Sou-ke Artist for Wetland Exhibit
at the Sooke Region Museum
23 September 2026**



Context:

The Sooke Region Museum is working with an exhibit designer to create a wetland exhibit inside the pavilion overlooking the wetland. The exhibit will focus on wetlands and be developed in one to three phases (depending on funding available).

We currently have secured funding for Phase 1 to include 2 double-sided movable panels and 2 panels mounted below the windows overlooking the wetland. When we have events in the space, we can move out the double-sided panels and flatten the window-mounted panels for more event space.

The planned content for these panels is:

- types of wetland (marsh, fen, bog, swamp)
 - wetland functions (carbon sink, water filtration)
 - habitat (birds, migration, pacific flyway) - plants
- some preliminary visuals below:



T'Sou-ke Artist

As this project is in partnership with the T'Sou-ke Nation and will be displayed in T'Sou-ke Territory, we would like to engage a T'Sou-ke artist to create line drawings that will feature prominently on the panels (as in the example on this page, *The Forest Around You*).

The content and writing of the Phase 1 panels will be about wetlands in general, while Phase 2 will focus on T'Sou-ke connections to wetlands, caring for plants as kin (potentially looking at tending, harvesting, processing, storage and trading and which plants were/are used for in terms of food, technology (baskets, nets, blankets, etc.), formal feasting medicines, spiritual/metaphysical. Phase 2 will be informed by T'Sou-ke ethnobotany, referring to the 2022 dissertation by Pamela Spalding, "Unsettling Landscapes: Applications of ethnobotanical research in defining Aboriginal rights and re-affirming Indigenous laws in T'Sou-ke Territory, Vancouver Island and beyond, 2022, University of Victoria.



We are specifically looking for original art depicting birds, plants, animals who live in wetlands that would visually support this exhibit. (Could be heron, skunk cabbage, cattails, hummingbirds). We are working with a local photographer to supply photographs of birds, plants and animals as well. Original art by a T'Sou-ke artist will reinforce the message that the exhibit and wetland are part of T'Sou-ke territory.

We hope that Phase 2 will happen in spring 2027 and will include more art.

Budget: To be determined in conversation with artist. Pre-existing art by a T'Sou-ke artist is acceptable.

Timeline: October 2026 – as we hope to install Phase 1 in November 2026 we would like to incorporate art into panels that are being designed in October and it would be best to do both at the same time.

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