

Kookum Lounge Opens in the Kelowna Art Gallery Courtyard

*Anishinaabe curator and interdisciplinary artist Jaimie Isaac transforms the Gallery's inner courtyard into a sail-covered tipi of light, sound, and refuge
September 19, 2026, to September 2027*

September 16, 2026 – Kelowna, BC: This fall, the Kelowna Art Gallery's inner courtyard becomes something else entirely. *Kookum Lounge* is an immersive installation by interdisciplinary artist and curator **Jaimie Isaac**, who is a member of Sagkeeng First Nation and of British heritage. It opens on September 19, 2026.

Jaimie Isaac builds spaces that ask viewers to slow down. *Kookum Lounge* presents visitors with an interactive space of light, sound, and refuge to enter. It is a gathering place of comfort and shelter where storytellers and daydreamers alike are invited to rest, listen to one another, and reflect.

Kookum Lounge takes the architectural form of a tipi, but instead of hide or canvas, its covering is made of upcycled water-resistant sails that have been sewn together. These materials symbolize the migrations of settlers who came to Turtle Island from across the waters. Inside, insulated tarps are patchworked into flooring that referenced the shelters of tent cities. Layered on top is a floral Kookum-scarf fabric, which resembles the blankets of matriarchal comfort.

Jaimie Isaac considers the tipi a form of "Indigenous femme architecture," a space built to share and pass down knowledge, stories, and language across generations. It is no coincidence that *Kookum* is the Anishinaabe word for "Grandmother," and the space is built in that spirit.

Kookum Lounge can be seen in the Gallery's Courtyard from September 19, 2026 to September 2027. An Opening Reception will be held at the Kelowna Art Gallery on Saturday, September 19, from 2 to 4 pm. It is free and open for the public to attend.

Kookum Lounge was previously presented as part of *Illuminate the Night* at *Nuit Blanche* Winnipeg in 2023, drawing crowds along the city's waterfront. For Kelowna, the work finds a new home in the Gallery's courtyard, encouraging the same kind of intercultural exchange it sparked on the shores of the Red River.

The Kelowna Art Gallery is located at 1315 Water Street. For more information, visit kelownaartgallery.com or call 250-762-2226.

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