Last updated: January 17th, 2024

Wonder'neath Access Guide

This guide provides information about Wonder'neath's space, so you know what to expect upon your first visit. We strive to provide an accessible space for all who come to Wonder'neath and welcome your feedback and suggestions. You can contact us at access@wonderneath.com.

Land Acknowledgement

Wonder'neath's work is based in Mi'kma'ki, the land of the Mi'kmaq People. This territory is covered by the "Treaties of Peace and Friendship" which Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) people first signed with the British Crown in 1725. The treaties did not deal with the surrender of lands and resources but recognized Mi'kmaq and Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) titles and established the rules for what was to be an ongoing relationship between nations. We, as treaty people, are responsible for upholding the fundamental rights of the Mi'kmaq as promised in the Peace and Friendship Treaties. We aim to listen to Indigenous voices and actively participate in the reconciliation process.

Wonder'neath Community Expectations

Wonder'neath aims to listen and welcome all people. We respect all expressions of identity and will not tolerate discrimination based on gender, sexuality, race, ability, or any form of harassment or violence. We will ask you to leave if you are causing harm.

What is in this document?

This guide has accessibility notes and other information about what to expect at Wonder'neath Art Society. This document can be found on the Wonder'neath website page.

How can I get in touch?

If you have any questions or access requests, please email us at access@wonderneath.com, leave a voicemail at 902-454-6860, or reach out anonymously through our Google Form.

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About Wonder'neath

Wonder'neath Art Society is an artist-led organization that brings professional artists and local residents together in dynamic art exploration. Wonder'neath encourages and promotes art as a tool for expression, connection and social transformation through neighbourhood-based arts programming where the public can gather and make art.

Wonder'neath believes in the transformative powers of art for individuals and communities. We create spaces for and prioritize art-making that allows artists to be visible and develop meaningful relationships. We aim to listen to and recognize many voices. We embrace collaborations that foster self-knowledge, a sense of belonging, and problem-solving through the arts.

How to Get to Wonder'neath

Wonder'neath is located at:
2482 Maynard Street
Kjipuktuk (Halifax), Nova Scotia
B3K 3V4



Our door is located on the right-hand side of the building. The image shows the front view of a large blue building with one entrance on the left, a large glass garage door to the right of the centre of the building and another entrance door on the right. There is an arrow pointing to the right-hand door as the entrance of Wonder'neath. There is a slight dip in front of the door, so please be careful.

Directions

By Bus:
The North End End can be reached via many Halifax Transit bus routes. Routes 2 and 3 run along North Street, and routes 7 and 8 along Robie Street with stops near Wonder'neath Art Society.

By Car:
Maynard Street is a one-way street that runs South East to North West. If you take any road south of Roberts Street, you can access the building by car.



Parking

Directly in front of the building is a large parking lot that visitors can use, with an accessible parking spot near the Wonder'neath front door closest to the building entrances. There is also a bike rack at the front of the building.

Know Before You Go

Below are details about the points of access that we have in place. We understand that Accessibility is about creating inviting spaces where people do not need to request inclusion. Wonder'neath is working towards creating a space where folx do not need to request inclusion. We are always looking to improve our accessibility and are happy to receive access questions, requests, and/or work through access conflicts. Your presence and well-being are important, and we will work with you to make your participation possible. You can reach out through email at access@wonderneath.com, by leaving a voicemail at 902-454-6860, or submit requests anonymously through this Google Form. We do not have regular hours open to the public. For the most up-to-date information, follow us on Instagram.

Social/Environmental Conditions

- Wonder'neath's programming space is a passageway to the accessibility lift and some artists may need to pass through to get to their studios or to the Eyelevel Bookstore during your event/booking.
- Programming may be happening in the gallery simultaneously to your scheduled time and may be visible through the glass door. We will provide advance notice if there are other events planned throughout the building.

Shared Access

Accessibility is something that people create together–it isn't up to a disabled individual to figure it out alone. There are several forms of access we are trying to develop that we would like your help with. Some kinds of access, like reducing Covid risk as well as low-stimulation and fragrance-free accessibility are only meaningful with the effort of everyone present.

COVID-19 Community Expectations

- At this time, masking is not currently required in Wonder'neath's Mainspace and shared areas. Masking is also not required during Wonder'neath's public programming, unless specified.
- We continue to provide masks at the main entrance for those who need them. We have adult and children's masks available.

- For any bookings that require masking, signage will be posted at the entrance of the Mainspace. In this case, wearing a mask covering your nose, mouth and chin is expected of all individuals within the space during times of mandatory masking.

Fragrance-free Access

Some people experience harm from scented products, essential oils, smoke, and chemicals that are in many popular products. This includes natural scents as well. At present a member of our facilitation staff has a **severe Patchouli allergy**, please avoid wearing products containing patchouli scents. At times there will be cultural practices and ceremonies, such as smudging, inside the building. We will inform visitors when these scents will be present in the space.

Low-stimulation Access

Some people thrive in quiet, calm spaces without a lot of sound, light, scents, or other forms of stimulation. The Wonder'neath space can tend to be echoey and reverberate sound, we also use LED lights. We have an allocated room, the Library which is a small enclosed space that can offer dimmable lights and a quieter environment. We also can offer earplugs and noise-cancelling headphones for those who need or would like them.

d/Deaf Access

We are working towards providing ASL interpretation at all of our events. At this time we will advertise when we are holding events that will have ASL interpretation. If you want to attend an event at Wonder'neath that doesn't have ASL interpretation please reach out and we will work to include interpretation, you can reach us at access@wonderneath.com.

Guide Animals

If you are bringing a guide dog please try to inform us so we can set up a comfortable station for your guide.

Resources

Vital Practices Online
Accessibility Toolkit

Wonder’neath’s Spaces

Front Entrance

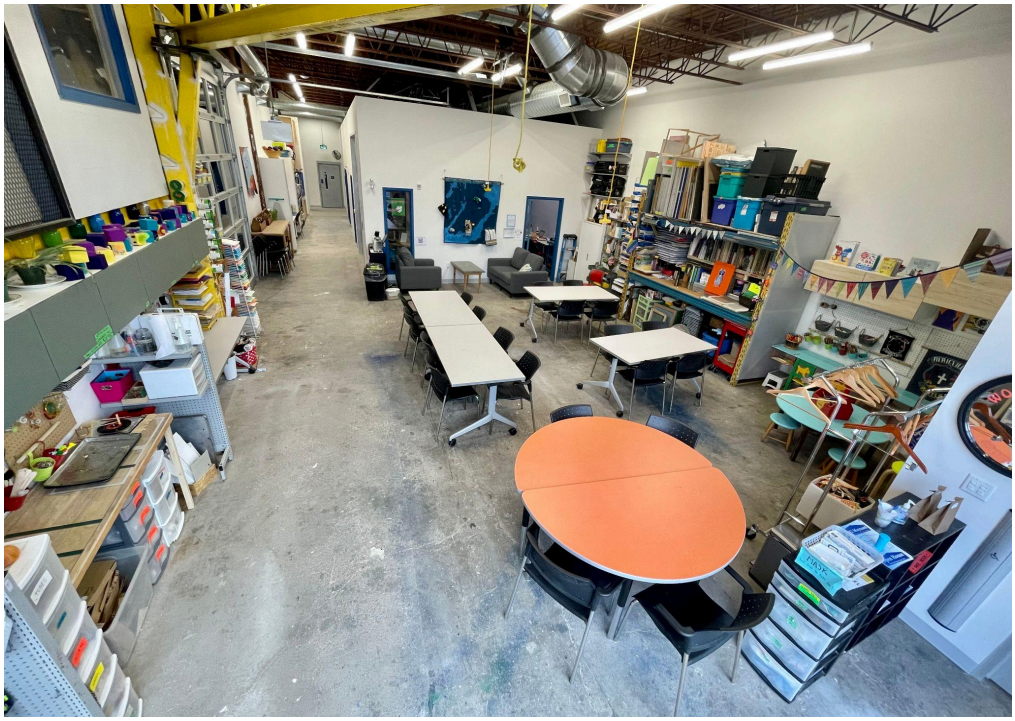
The main door is automated and equipped with a bang bar automatic door opener to the left of the door, which leads to an interior vestibule, followed by a second bang bar door opener located on the right-hand side of the wall. This second door leads to the main Wonder’neath’s studio space. The door will be open for your visit or someone at Wonder’neath will have a code to unlock the door.

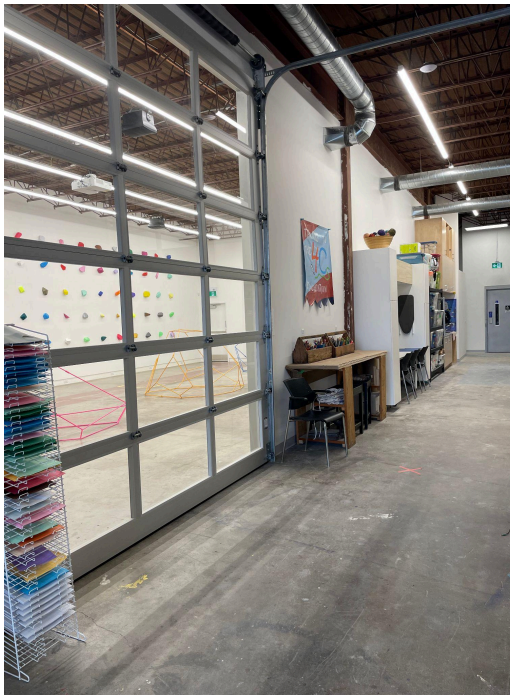




Main Programming Space

The main programming space has a variety of sitting areas including tables and chairs, couches and a children's area. The overhead lights have a dimmer switch that allows you to adjust the brightness to your preference. The tables are able to be moved to accommodate any needs and the walkway toward the lift is kept clear.





On the left side of the building is **The Blue Building Gallery**. This gallery shares a large glass garage door in the middle of the space making the gallery and Wonder'neath visible from both sides.

In the main programming area on the right side of the hallway is **Eyelevel Book Store**, open to the public Wednesday to Friday 12:00-5:00 pm.



Lift

There is an accessibility lift to the second floor which can be accessed through the entrance on the right as you face the building. While Wonder'neath is often a busy environment, all studio facilitators and staff will ensure that passages through the space are maintained and kept clear to the accessibility lift at the end of the main floor hallway.





The lift requires that you hold the bottom consistently to call it to your floor. It takes about one minute for the lift to reach you. The door will open and close automatically. Once on the lift, to move in between floors you need to press the button of the number for the entirety of the ride. If you stop pressing the bottom the lift will stop. There is an emergency line within the lift that is active 24/7.



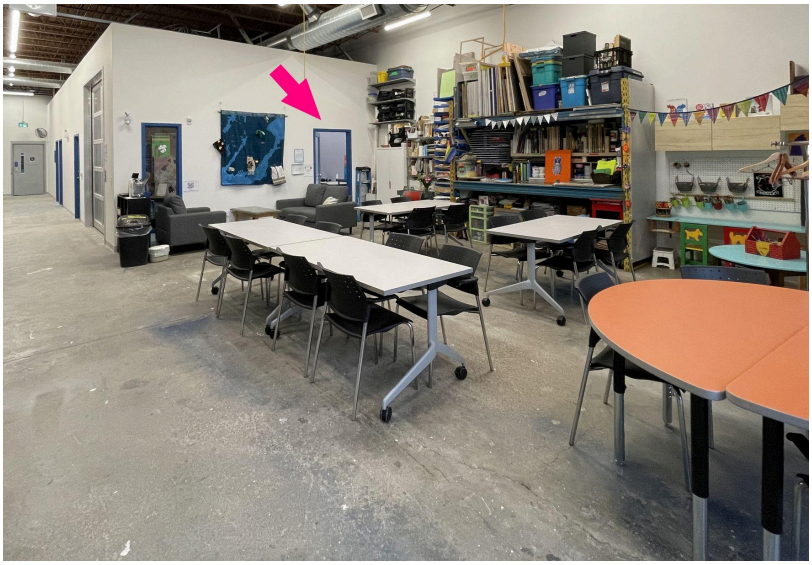
We understand that this may not be suitable for all and suggest that each person have someone join them on the lift to assist in pressing the button.

While you are riding the lift you will see the wall between the two floors as you move up or down.



Library

We have a side room available in the back right corner of the main programming space. This is a designated room for anyone that is wanting less stimulation. With high ceilings in the building and a variety of programs going on, the space can be loud and overstimulating for some guests. In the Library room, there are a pair of noise-reduction headphones available for children and adults. An additional pair of headphones are available in the main space.





Washrooms

On each level, there are two all-gender washrooms. Each floor has a wheelchair-accessible washroom. On the first floor, one of the washrooms has a child changing table. The bathrooms have a manual door and light switches, grab bars in the accessible washrooms, and menstrual products and sharps bins available.

First Floor Bathrooms are located down the hallway left to the lift:





Second Floor Bathrooms are located across from the kitchen table. Facing the bathrooms the one on the left is smaller and the one on the right is wheelchair accessible:







Second Floor and Kitchen

The second floor is not open to the public except for special events and is normally locked with keypad entry. The second floor houses a variety of artist studios, offices, a darkroom and a kitchen. The kitchen is located at the end of the hall to the right and is communally used by all in the building.



