



Letter of Interest for Quirk-e

Introduction to Quirk-e

The Queer Imaging & Riting Kollektive for Elders (Quirk-e) was formed in 2006. They meet Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. year around. Quirk-e can accommodate up to twenty-five older adults as members. The group focuses on producing written words and images.

Since 2020 Quirk-e has been meeting on Zoom. Weekly meetings offer a round robin check in, writing/imaging activities, and peer feedback. Generally, the first Wednesday of the month is reserved for work on an annual group project. The second and third Wednesdays of the month they work in small groups, focusing on different genres and products. And the last Wednesday is a time for the whole group to share and receive feedback on current work.

Quirk-e members also do readings and performances regularly at public events. The group collectively decides on artistic direction for each year under the leadership of a 7-member Coordinating Committee. Members work hard to achieve outcomes, which have included anthologies, magazines, plays, art, graphics, videos, and readings.

The group defines its mission as follows:

Quirk-e works to change the world with its stories, while providing a safe place to nurture a vibrant, entertaining voice for the LGBTQA2S+ senior citizens of Vancouver. Because we see the group as a vehicle for performance, art, and activism, members commit to showing up regularly and on time, and to contributing wholeheartedly to projects.

Quirk-e is not just a 'drop-in social group', though we do support each other and have fun. The group originated as one of the founding projects in Vancouver's Arts & Health Project, and we still have a strong focus on wellbeing of all kinds – physical, mental, emotional and cognitive.

Space is limited. Applicants will be contacted by a member of the Quirk-e Coordinating Committee.

Wednesdays 11:00am-1:00pm

On Zoom and the 55+ Centre at Britannia Community Services Centre.

Successful applicants will be notified when they can start attending meetings.

Please provide the following information to the Adult 55+ Program staff at Britannia:
anne.cowan@vancouver.ca | kya.prince@vancouver.ca.

Name	
Telephone #	
Email	

Please let us know why you would like to be part of this group:

January 2022
QUIRK-E AGREEMENT

Over the years members of Quirk-e have found the following collectively owned ways of working together a very helpful set of guidelines

I agree to:

- Produce images, writing, and performances as an artist-activist
- Allow one person to speak at a time
- Use “I” statements and take responsibility for what I say
- Communicate respectfully with my words and body language
- Provide my own brief check-in and not comment on the check-ins of other members
- Practice self-care for my physical and emotional needs
- Turn off or silence my personal electronic devices

- Include my voice and let others speak
- Respect the choices, experiences, feelings, and emotions of other members and be open to learning from them
- Listen carefully and assume the best intent in the comments of others
- Speak up when I need clarification
- Avoid gossip and triangulation

- Respect confidentiality—what is said in confidence in the group stays in the group
- Respect artistic ownership and share the work of others only with their permission

- Encourage diversity of culture and opinion
- Educate myself about, and challenge discrimination and stigmatization based on race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, gender-identity, age, health status, disability, marital status, economic situation, national origin, religion, and personal or political beliefs

- Address conflict directly and in a timely way
- Follow this model of conflict resolution:
 1. First discuss the problem with the other member directly one to one
 2. If this doesn't work, ask for help from a mutually agreed upon person
 3. If this doesn't work, ask the Coordinating Committee for help
 4. The Coordinating Committee may offer to mediate or refer the members to a Britannia Senior Programs coordinator

CONTRACT FOR FEEDBACK: Revised 2019

Advice to the Writer

- Try to be clear about the kind of feedback you want. Ask specific questions or indicate areas you'd like feedback on.
- Respect the readers' efforts and ideas you are offered. Make notes. Listen carefully.
- Don't give up your authority. It's your work. You get to decide. It's not about a consensus or majority opinion.

Advice to the Reader

- Speak to the intention. Start with the big picture rather than being picky.
- Invite amplification. Say where you need more information, or where you are confused.
- Read carefully. Respect the work. Be an advocate for it.
- It's not about you. Don't score points. Don't try to rewrite the work for the author.
- Lead with the strengths. But be honest about the weaknesses. Indicate those places where you were confused or uncomfortable.
- Try always to strengthen the work – to make it what it wants to be.
- Separate the author from the work. Don't assume that the work reflects his/her/their opinions or that it is autobiographical. Don't direct criticism at the author.
- Respect the values and perspective of the piece. Let go of judgments. It doesn't matter what YOU like – what does the work want?
- Say SOMETHING. Silence can unsettle. At the very least, you can feed back words or phrases or images that you liked.