



Nancy Arcand

(1961 -)

Born on February 17, 1961, in New Westminster, B.C., Nancy grew up surrounded by creativity, curiosity, and the freedom to explore. The youngest of two daughters to Patricia and Alan Jupp, Nancy credits her beloved Nana and namesake for nurturing her artistic spark and her parents for inspiring her love of adventure.

With her father's career as a commercial airline pilot, Nancy's childhood was filled with travel and adventure. Many of her happiest childhood memories were spent at the family cabin on Sakinaw Lake, where she first learned to see the beauty in nature—a source of inspiration that still fuels her art today.

Nancy often says she's been “an artist since I could hold a pencil.” Over the years, her creative journey has included painting, silversmithing, singing in her band, and playing the trumpet and French horn in high school. She fondly recalls her grad trip to Europe, performing in town squares across Germany. Outside the arts, Nancy was just as energetic—playing soccer, skiing, competing in logger sports, enjoying slow-pitch softball and bowling as an adult.

After high school graduation, Nancy attended BCIT's Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation Program, combining her love of nature and community. In 1986, she joined the Greater Vancouver Regional District Parks (GVRD), becoming the first woman hired in the Parks department. Her dedication and leadership led her to the role of Park Operations Supervisor, a position she held proudly until retiring in 2004.

During her time with GVRD, Nancy met her future husband, Steven Arcand, whose company was dredging sand on parkland. They married in 1986, and in 1997, they welcomed their son, Travis—a moment Nancy describes as life-changing, saying that becoming a mother profoundly changed her outlook on life.

In 2005, Nancy accepted the role of Executive Director at the Mission Arts Council (MAC), where she has since led with creativity and vision. Over two decades, she has helped bring countless community projects to life, including the Rivers Edge Haunted Attraction at Mission Raceway, the Rivers Edge Short Horror Film Festival, the Fraser Valley Children's Festival, and the Mission Renaissance Faire.

Nancy's personal art practice continues to evolve. In 2000, she founded Little Bear Art, supporting incarcerated Indigenous artists in building their portfolios and stories. Later, her love of clay led to whimsical, hand built animal sculptures and the launch of Arcand Artz in 2020—now an award-winning pottery studio.

Today, Nancy continues to explore, create, and inspire. Whether leading the Mission Arts Council or sculpting in her studio, she remains passionate about building community through art and celebrating creativity in all its forms.

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