

1958

- Nelson School of Fine Arts was established as an organization under the Societies Act of British Columbia
- It began as a summer school offering two week courses in music, drama, ballet and visual arts
- Tuition range was \$15 - \$35 per course

1959

- Zeljko Kujundzic joined the Nelson School of Fine Arts Executive Board and was hired as first Principal to start up the three year diploma program
- The diploma program included instruction in composition, painting, graphic art, modeling and ceramics, life drawing and painting, mural, mosaic and stained glass, sculpture in wood, clay and metal. Certificate courses were available in both commercial art and applied art
- The summer program continued under the same name: Nelson School of Fine Arts

1960

- Nelson School of Fine Art opened its doors to 10 full time students for it's three year diploma program
- Location was at 356 Baker Street
- Funding for the first year of operations came from the community fund raising efforts of \$17,000
- Tuition was \$150 per year (Sept 1- May 31) including materials

1961

- Board of Directors made an application to the provincial government for funding and moved that art school change name to Kootenay School of Art under a separate governing body (becoming the first provincial school of art)
- 18 full time students enrolled

1964

- Government support came in the way of a merger with the newly built Vocational School in Rosemont (current day Selkirk College Silverking Campus)
- Commercial Art added to the program under the Vocational framework
- Kujundzic resigned due to philosophical differences and D.O. McGregor was hired as Director
- Enrollment rises to 54 students

1966-67

- KSA awarded international recognition with medals from 24th & 25th Competition of Ceramic Art in Faenza, Italy naming it as one of the top six art schools in the world

- Tuition \$15 per month, Student Activity fee \$1. Materials costs not included

1968

- KSA reaches maximum capacity of 105 full time students, 33 part time students
- Art division becomes first program in the province within the vocational framework to achieve post-secondary status

1969

- KSA begins studio training for Notre Dame University students majoring in fine arts (BFA and B.ed students)
- Tuition increase to \$25 per month for Post Graduate students

1972

- With rise of community colleges across the province, the Government began phasing out Vocational and Technical schools. Vocational School and KSA placed into trial 'meld' with Selkirk College.

1974

- Province approves agreement between KSA, Selkirk and Eastern Washington State College graduate program to provide internship training

1975

- Final meld with Selkirk College takes place. Education Committee submits request to change existing three year Fine Arts Certificate/Diploma to four year program
- Graphic Design Program added to the curriculum

1977

- Closure of Notre Dame University and subsequent creation of the David Thompson University Centre on former NDU campus

1978

- Transfer credits in place with University of Victoria for UVIC BFA: English, design and composition, and art history became compulsory curriculum and studio courses became electives

1979

- KSA moves to its Third location in Patenaude Hall of DTUC (Selkirk College 10th street campus). With the move to DTUC, KSA becomes the visual art department of DTUC and its identity removed from all calendars, letterhead and stationary.
- 135 students enrolled (included both Notre Dame University BFA and Bed students taking art classes)

1980

- Ric Gomez hired as Coordinator of Visual Arts Program at KSA to build upon the vision of an integrated visual, performing and literary arts school that was originally conceived by the Nelson School of Fine Arts

1981

- Program fee structure brought in line with other college career programs consistent with the DTUC, \$125 per semester

1984

- Closure of the David Thompson University Centre by Social Credit Provincial Government

1990

- *Kootenay School of Art Working Committee* forms, made up of community members including previous DTUC and KSA instructors and students. Mandate committed to resurrection of an art school and goal to establish a three year diploma granting program with autonomous local Board of Governors as the key administrative structure
- Ed Baraville, former founder of the original KSA (1958) serves as honorary chair of the working committee

1991

- Kootenay School of the Arts is re-born with offerings of short term studio classes presented by highly acclaimed artists
- Program offerings: Drawing (\$150), Introduction to Textiles (\$115), Creative Writing (\$110), Painting (\$60) and Printmaking (\$50 plus materials)
- Classes held at (The Sub) 711-10th Street and in the Old Brewery Building
- David Lawson is the first Director of the renewed Kootenay School of the Arts

1992

- Working Committee continues to seek government funding with goal to regain former high status in the arts education and training field
- Inquiry into education in the Kootenays, chaired by Dr. Margaret Fulton. Recommendation made to Ministry of Advanced Education to support the Kootenay School of the Arts
- Enrollment 127 students

1994

- Full Revival of Kootenay School of the Arts
- Reinvented at a co-operative and run by consensus
- Program areas: Writing, Mixed media, Ceramics, Wood, Jewelry, Fibre, Metal
- Three year certificate program with transferable credit for foundation year with other accredited arts programs in Canada
- Tuition: \$250-300 course per year depending on program major
- Various studios in Nelson: Victoria Street campus (Clay), 503 Front Street (Fibre, Writing, Drawing and Painting), 908 Front Street (Metal and Stone)

1996

- Victoria Street campus \$1.8 million renovation completed through federal/provincial Infrastructure Works funding, allowing school to consolidate its studios and offices from five different rental locations around town

1999

- Annual Tuition \$2200, student fee \$350
- Enrollment rises to 150 students

2002

- BC Liberals cut funding to the school. KSA continues operating as a private post-secondary institution.
- Cuts made to Mixed Media and Writing departments result in the creation of the non-profit society, the Nelson Fine Arts Centre (Oxygen Art Centre), to ensure continuation of their curriculum in the community.
- Enrollment slashed to 80 students due to program cuts.

2004

- KSA on brink of closing. Memorandum of Understanding signed with Selkirk College

2006

- Official merger with Selkirk College. Dissolution of KSA cooperative. Name change to Kootenay School of the Arts at Selkirk College

2007

- Victoria Street campus \$1.63 million renovation complete, adding \$50,000 of new equipment and 3,200 square feet of additional space on third level of the building

- Enrollment 66 full time students

2012

- Name changed to Kootenay Studio Arts at Selkirk College, incorporated into larger Fine & Applied Arts Division of the College to include Digital Arts & New Media and Contemporary Music & Technology programs
- Kootenay Studio Arts Programs: 10-month certificate in Blacksmithing, Metal Casting, Ceramics, Jewelry, and/or Textiles

2014

- Reinstatement of two-year diploma pathway with transferable credit opportunities and creation of Open Studio Advanced Certificate Program.
- Enrollment for fall 2014 (at time of writing): 31 students