

# MNBC Métis Heritage Arts Class Levels

MNBC’s Métis heritage arts classes are designed to teach and revitalize Métis heritage arts in BC.

MNBC’s **Métis Culture Talks** program offers short classes in a large group setting for level 1 and 2 learners. **Métis Heritage Arts Mentorships** are intensive classes where participants are taught in a small group mentorship setting, at levels 3 and higher. All classes are taught virtually and are for Métis in BC.

MNBC’s heritage arts class levels are designed to help artists understand the skills and commitment required for the needlework based classes offered by the Ministry of Culture, Heritage and Language, and support artists as they travel along their learning journey.

Métis heritage arts can be described as arts practices that have connections to our historic Métis communities and have been well documented as being common aspects of Métis artistic expression. This includes, but is not limited to, needlework arts and the construction of items such as fire bags, tobacco bags, wall pockets, garments, accessories, and other household items.

*\*Throughout this document the term ‘needlework’ refers to any Métis needlework practice including beadwork, embroidery, tufting, and/or quillwork.*

Image: Gregory Scofield. Amelia's Bag With Paisley Pocket. 2022.



## 1. Novice

Level 1 Métis Culture Talks are designed for Métis participants who have little to no experience with the heritage art being taught. These workshops are designed to develop basic skills and how to work with specific materials.

Skills/Experience Required:

- None

Project Time Commitment:

- 1 - 5 hours

Example Workshops:

- Introductory beadwork, quill work, tufting or embroidery

## 2. Beginner

Level 2 Métis Culture Talks are designed for Métis artists who have some experience with Métis needlework. Level 2 is designed to further develop skills in hand sewing, finishing, floral composition, and an understanding of Métis heritage arts.

Skills/Experience Required:

- Fundamental stitching techniques

Project Time Commitment:

- 5 - 10 hours

Example Workshops:

- Brooches, scissor pockets, mittens

## 3. Intermediate

Level 3 Heritage Arts Mentorships are designed for Métis artists who have knowledge of and practice with Métis needlework. Classes will share item-specific teachings and techniques. Level 3 is focused on the construction and assembly of items and techniques taught in levels 1 or 2 are not included.

Skills/Experience Required:

- Intermediate stitching and finishing techniques
- Can showcase projects of various size and complexity completed independently

Project Time Commitment:

- 20 - 50 hours

Example Workshops:

- Gauntlets, moccasins, tobacco bag

## 4. Advanced

Level 4 Heritage Arts Mentorships are similar to level 3, but may have more intricate techniques and an increased volume of needlework and sewing. Level 4 may include a more intensive timeline requiring a higher amount dedicated time outside of class hours.

Skills/Experience Required:

- Advanced stitching and finishing techniques
- Can showcase large projects of high complexity completed independently

Project Time Commitment:

- 60 - 100+ hours

Example Workshops:

- Fire bags, dog blankets, wall pocket

## 5. Mentor

Level 5 mentorships are designed to mentor the mentor. These mentorships are designed for advanced Métis artists who are mentoring Métis heritage arts. Class sizes are smaller with a focus on transferring skills within community.

Skills/Experience Required:

- Advanced stitching and finishing techniques
- Experience teaching/mentoring artists