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To whom it may concern,

Invitation to Participate in Research – Oral Interviews

PhD candidate Ana Moyer and professor Dr. Cody Barteet, researchers at the University of Western Ontario in Canada, are seeking participants for a study titled **Apprenticeship in Canadian Tattooing**. The purpose of this study is to document the experience of Ontario 2SLGBTQIA+ and/or disabled tattoo artists during their apprenticeship or other methods to learn tattooing.

We are recording oral history interviews, concentrating our work in the Greater Toronto Area, London, and Guelph district.

The study has three objectives: **1)** document and analyse how people learn tattooing, be that through apprenticeship or DIY methods; **2)** identify the barriers to education in tattooing for 2SLGBTQIA+ and/or disabled people; and **3)** propose strategies, based on tattoo artist’s perspectives, for improvement of the tattoo industry, especially around apprenticeship.

The findings will be shared in a dissertation by Ana Moyer using de-identified quotations from the interviews.

To qualify as a research participant, you must: **a)** contact the researcher voluntarily to express interest to participate in the research and consent to being audio recorded during the interview; **b)** identify as a 2SLGBTQIA+ and/or disabled tattoo artist; **c)** are over 18 years of age; and **d)** reside in Ontario. Please note that current apprentices and current junior artists do not qualify. Once you meet the above criteria, the researcher will schedule a mutually convenient time for a pre-interview meeting. Please be advised that you cannot participate in this research if you do not meet the above criteria.

Specifically, your participation in the research will comprise the following:

1. A confidential de-identified 60 to 90 minute recorded oral interview at a time and location of your choice. We will provide you with a letter of information (attached to this email) outlining with further details.
2. You will be asked to provide written consent if you decide to participate in the study. Please note that you cannot participate if you do not want to be audio/tape recorded. This interview will be in-person.
3. The researcher will facilitate and audio record all interview sessions. These recordings will be stored in a password-protected device. All identifying participant information will be stored separately in a data secure location. No personal information will be shared publicly.
4. There is no direct compensation for participating. Parking will be re-imbursed if needed, and light refreshment during the pre-interview and interview will be provided.

If you are interested and will like to volunteer as a participant in this study, know that your decision to participate or not is totally voluntary, will be kept confidential, and will not impact your ability to participate in any other research programs now, or in the future. For more information about the research, or to volunteer as a participant, please contact Ana Moyer by email tattoostudy@uwo.ca or telephone 226-500-1758.

We thank you in anticipation of your participation in this study.

Signed

Ana Moyer

Dr. Cody Bartee