
NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Tourism, Culture and the Arts

BC SPIRIT FESTIVALS TO CELEBRATE 2010 LEGACY

VICTORIA – The Province is providing \$3 million this year to support arts and cultural festivals in more than 150 communities across British Columbia through the 2010 Sports and Arts Legacy, announced Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts Kevin Krueger.

“We created the Legacy to celebrate and renew the pride and excitement British Columbians experienced during the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games,” said Krueger. “This new BC Spirit Festivals program brings together artists, cultural organizations and all British Columbians to celebrate the spirit of B.C. in our communities.”

The BC Spirit Festivals program will support festivals in communities during February, the anniversary of the 2010 Games. Spirit festivals will be delivered across B.C. through local arts councils and community partners with the assistance of BC Spirit Committees. Signature Spirit events will also be held in Vancouver and Victoria.

The program will be administered by the Assembly of BC Arts Councils, with support from the BC Arts Council. Grants will be based on population and will provide up to \$50,000 to produce festivals in communities. Applications will be adjudicated through a peer-review process. Applications for the BC Spirit Festivals program will be accepted from Aug. 1 to Oct. 6, 2010. After this initial intake, support may be available for festivals that embody the vision of BC Spirit, and take place throughout 2011.

“The BC Spirit Festivals are an amazing opportunity for our members and affiliates to lead their communities in celebrating B.C.’s diverse cultures,” said Junko Sakamoto, executive director of the Assembly of BC Arts Councils. “We’re looking forward to working with our partners to showcase B.C.’s arts and culture communities.”

The BC Spirit Festivals program is the first arts program to be announced under the 2010 Sports and Art Legacy, established in Budget 2010. The Legacy provides \$30 million over three years to enhance arts and cultural opportunities for all British Columbians. More Legacy programs will be announced in the fall of 2010.

This year the Province is providing a total of more than \$30 million directly to artists and arts and culture groups. Since 2001, the Province has delivered \$600 million in support of arts and culture, including more than \$134 million through the BC Arts Council.

For more information on the BC Spirit Festivals program and the Legacy visit www.bcartsCouncil.ca.

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