
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
2010CSCD0007-001549
Dec. 9, 2010

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

FUNDING SHOWCASES ARTISTS AROUND PROVINCE

VICTORIA – The B.C. government is providing \$1.15 million to artists and arts groups around the province to support cultural activities, in part to mark the first anniversary of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Community, Sport and Cultural Development Minister Stephanie Cadieux announced today.

“Arts and culture played a huge role in the success of the 2010 Games and inspired pride in all British Columbians,” said Cadieux. “This legacy lives on. We also want to ensure this funding reaches as many individual artists and arts groups as possible throughout the year. Watch for new and expanded festivals, exhibitions and performances of all kinds around our province.”

The funding comes from the 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy. It will flow to local artists through two channels: \$750,000 to BC Arts Council, an agency of the provincial government; and \$400,000 to the Assembly of BC Arts Councils, a not-for-profit organization supporting the central role of the arts in B.C. communities.

The Assembly of BC Arts Councils will use its funding to support events, including new or existing festivals, exhibitions and performances (\$300,000 for Vancouver and \$100,000 for Greater Victoria) in February 2011 to celebrate the unique spirit of British Columbia.

“This funding gives the assembly a great opportunity to promote and advance community engagement in the arts,” said Junko Sakamoto, assembly executive director. “I’m confident that these resources will enable talented local artists to create events reflecting the energy, pride and spirit of British Columbians.”

The BC Arts Council will use the \$750,000 to provide an additional granting program for community and professional arts festivals in B.C. communities throughout 2011.

“These additional funds from the legacy will assist council in achieving its strategic goals and priorities,” said board chair Stan Hamilton. “The funding supports council’s mission of engaging all British Columbians in a healthy arts and cultural community recognized for its excellence.”

For information on how to apply for funds visit: www.assemblybcartscouncils.ca

To learn about support by the B.C. government for cultural development, visit the ministry's website at: <http://www.gov.bc.ca/cscd/index.html>

-30-

A backgrounder follows.

Media Contacts:

Gillian Rhodes
Communications Manager
Ministry of Community, Sport
and Cultural Development
250 356-6334

Chris Gudgeon
Communications Manager
BC Arts Council
250 356-8125

Junko Sakamoto
Executive Director
Assembly of BC Arts Councils
250 754-3388

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at www.gov.bc.ca.

BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release
2010CSCD0007-001549
Dec. 9, 2010

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

SUPPORTING THE ARTS THROUGH BC SPIRIT FESTIVAL FUNDS

In July 2010, the Province of British Columbia allocated \$3 million to support BC Spirit Festivals to celebrate the one-year anniversary of the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and Cultural Olympiad. The funding comes from the \$60-million 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy.

B.C.'s arts and cultural communities will take the lead in creating the celebratory events, including existing festivals, exhibitions and performances made possible through the funding.

The \$3 million has been allocated as follows:

In December 2010, the Province awarded \$1,150,000 to the BC Arts Council (\$750,000) to support a granting program for community and professional arts festivals in B.C. communities throughout 2011 – and to the Assembly of BC Arts Councils (\$400,000) to support Vancouver and Greater Victoria events in February 2011 celebrating the spirit of British Columbia.

In November 2010, the Province granted more than \$1 million through the Assembly of BC Arts Councils to 49 local community arts organizations to lead BC Spirit Festivals across the province in February 2011.

Throughout 2010, the Province provided \$525,000 from the Spirit Festival funds to support a number of arts, festivals and cultural events, including: Celebration of Light (Vancouver), Klahowya Village (Stanley Park), Art in the Parks (BC Parks 100th Anniversary), Emily Carr Statue Celebration (Victoria), Morfee Music Festival (Mackenzie) and a Miners Walk (Ferne).

The Province will apply the balance of the Spirit Festival funds to provide free public cultural and artistic events to commemorate the first anniversary of the 2010 Olympic Games and the Cultural Olympiad at Robson Square – and to provide additional support for Spirit Festivals in the Olympic venue sites of Whistler and West Vancouver, as well as administer the Spirit Festival grant programs.

Details of the funding from the BC Arts Council will be available in the near future at:
www.bcartscouncil.ca

Arts organizations must apply for funding from the Assembly of BC Arts Councils by 1 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 22. For information about how to apply, telephone toll-free at 1 888 315-2288, email info@assemblybcartscouncils.ca or visit www.assemblybcartscouncils.ca Click on the Spirit Festivals grant link.

-30-

Media Contact: Gillian Rhodes
Communications Manager
Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development
250 356-6334