



**BRITISH COLUMBIA  
ARTS COUNCIL**  
An agency of the Province of British Columbia

---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2011CSCD0029-000838  
July 7, 2011

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development  
BC Arts Council

### **Province maintains support for arts sector**

VICTORIA – The BC Arts Council received \$16,831,000 from the provincial government to help fund artists and cultural organizations in British Columbia for 2011-12.

Arts groups large and small apply to the BC Arts Council – an independent agency of the Province – to support opportunities for artists, strengthen local economies and enhance quality of life for citizens in communities across British Columbia.

This year's funding will benefit artists, major cultural organizations and institutions, as well as local community arts councils. British Columbia's diverse and robust arts scene draws significant support annually from the BC Arts Council for art galleries, theatres, orchestras, museums, festivals and more.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Community, Sport and Cultural Development Minister Ida Chong –**

“Arts in British Columbia enrich families and support careers, while infusing creative and economic energy into communities in every region of the province. We will continue to work with artists and cultural organizations through the BC Arts Council, our principal development and funding agency for the arts, to build on British Columbia's well-deserved international reputation for artistic excellence.”

#### **BC Arts Council chair Stan Hamilton –**

“On behalf of the board we thank the minister for this support – the second-highest level in the council's history. The funding is the key to ensuring the long-term health of B.C.'s creative sector. It means that council can continue to provide a high level of service to our clients. These resources allow council to take the strategic steps to ensure the arts in this province will grow and thrive over the long term.”

### Quick Facts:

- BC Art Council's \$16.831 million 2011-12 budget consists of:
  - \$7.931 million from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.
  - \$2.150 million from the BC150 Cultural Fund (a \$150-million interest-generating endowment fund).
  - \$6.75 million from the 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy.
- Total arts and culture support from the B.C. government exceeds half a billion dollars over the last decade.
- From 2001 until March 31, 2011, the BC Arts Council granted \$152 million to artists and cultural organizations in British Columbia.
- B.C.'s creative sector employs more than 78,000 people and contributes \$5.2 billion to our provincial economy.

### Learn More:

- For more information, visit the BC Arts Council's website at:  
<http://www.bcartscouncil.ca>
- Check out the provincial government's role in supporting artists, arts and cultural organizations through the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development at  
<http://www.gov.bc.ca/cscd>

A backgrounder follows.

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

Connect with the Province of B.C. at [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)

# BACKGROUND

For Immediate Release  
2011CSCD0029-000838  
July 7, 2011

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural  
Development  
BC Arts Council

## **Stable arts funding reflects Premier's commitment**

By restoring core funding for the BC Arts Council this year to 2008-09 levels, the Province is standing by a government recommendation and a commitment from Premier Christy Clark to make funding of the arts a high priority in British Columbia.

In 2011, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services recommended a return to funding levels in 2008-09 for the arts. This year's \$16,831,000 in BC Arts Council funding is only \$20,000 below the Province's core funding for council in 2008-09.

Recent fiscal years reflect the stability of provincial government funding for the BC Arts Council.

### **Provincial government support for the BC Arts Council:**

2008-09 funding - \$16,851,000

2009-2010 funding - \$11,593,000 plus an additional \$7 million in one-time supplemental funding from the previous year.

2010-11 funding - \$16,831,000

2011-12 funding - \$16,831,000

The BC Arts Council awards funding to over 1,000 recipients annually across British Columbia. Council funding supports many of British Columbia's key cultural organizations and events. Recipients include the Vancouver Art Gallery, Prince George Symphony, Alert Bay U'mista Cultural Centre, Fort St. James Community Arts Council, ArtsBC and Pacific Opera Victoria.

The funding benefits diverse organizations and individual artists working in visual arts, literary arts, theatre, dance, film, music and more.

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

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [www.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://www.gov.bc.ca/connect)