



FIRST PEOPLES'
CULTURAL COUNCIL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FPCC's Indigenous Arts Grant Recipients Announced Today

BRENTWOOD BAY, B.C. – The First Peoples' Cultural Council (FPCC) is pleased to announce that \$979,950 in grants have been awarded to Indigenous artists in B.C. through the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards (AADA) and Aboriginal Youth Engaged in the Arts (AYEA) programs. Of 111 applications received for the October 31, 2016 deadline, 76 projects were selected to receive funding for the 2016/17 program year. A full list of recipients can be found on our website: www.fpcc.ca/arts/Programs.

FPCC's arts grants support Indigenous arts in B.C. through five programs: *Individual Emerging Artists, Organizations and Collectives, Sharing Traditional Arts Across Generations, Arts Administrator Internships* and *Aboriginal Youth Engaged in the Arts*. Proposals are accepted annually from Indigenous artists in B.C. Applicants must have a demonstrated commitment to their practice in any discipline – visual, music, dance, theatre, literary or media arts – and can work in traditional or experimental forms.

“The AADA and AYEА programs are a primary source of support for the unique expressions of First Nations artists in B.C.,” said Tracey Herbert, FPCC's CEO. “We are proud to support emerging artists to develop and move toward full-time careers in the arts. Many recipients go on to receive awards and recognition, and also give back to their communities and other artists through mentorship and collaboration. We are also grateful to our funding partners and are pleased to see their support benefiting projects across the province.”

Since 1996, FPCC has been delivering the AADA grant programs through a partnership with the BC Arts Council. Support for the program has also been provided by the New Relationship Trust (NRT) since 2009 and the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies since 2013. In 2014, FPCC also began delivering the Aboriginal Youth Engaged in the Arts (AYEA) program, which is intended to encourage youth participation in creative and artistic activity.

Each year, proposals are reviewed by peer adjudication committees, composed of expert artists and arts administrators who evaluate applications and select grant recipients through a rigorous assessment process. The AADA grants are one of the few sources of funding directed specifically toward Aboriginal and First Nations arts in B.C. Projects in all regions of the province, including remote communities, can access support that may otherwise be unavailable. The benefits are usually multi-faceted. For example, with support from the *Sharing Traditional Arts* program, Burns Lake artist, Eugene Patrick, will teach drum-making, singing and dancing in three of the Lake Babine Nation communities in the northern interior.

Indigenous artists and organizations in B.C. are invited to find out more about the AADA and AYEА grants by visiting www.fpcc.ca/arts. The next deadline for all FPCC arts programs is October 31, 2017. Updated guidelines and application forms will be available on FPCC's website in the summer of 2017.



“Investing in Aboriginal artists is part of our government’s commitment to building B.C.’s creative economy,” said Peter Fassbender, Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development. “The arts awards administered by the First Peoples’ Cultural Council help develop a strong arts ecosystem for Aboriginal artists and arts organizations in B.C., supporting artistic excellence and thriving careers. Congratulations to all of the recipients!”

“Whether using contemporary, experimental or traditional forms, Aboriginal artists add depth and texture to our province’s cultural tapestry, providing insight into a rich and diverse history and celebrating cultural expression,” said Merla Beckerman, chair, BC Arts Council. “The BC Arts Council is proud to partner with the First Peoples’ Cultural Council in offering the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards program to further the artistic journeys for individuals, emerging artists and Aboriginal arts organizations across the province.”

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About the First Peoples’ Cultural Council:

The First Peoples’ Cultural Council is a First Nations run B.C. Crown corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, cultures and heritage in B.C. FPCC provides funding and resources to communities, monitors the status of Indigenous languages and develops policy recommendations for First Nations leadership and government. FPCC has distributed more than \$40 million to B.C. Indigenous communities and individuals since 1991. For more information, visit www.fpcc.ca.

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