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## NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

### **New program invests in British Columbia's cultural infrastructure**

VICTORIA – Arts and culture organizations now can apply for grants of up to \$50,000 for small capital projects.

By investing in creative spaces, the new Collaborative Spaces Program will:

- grow the creative economy;
- promote artistic creation;
- increase shared resources and facilitate collaboration; and
- enhance accessibility for artists and audiences throughout B.C.

This program follows a successful pilot in 2015-16 and is part of the Creative Economy Strategy's commitment to target \$1.5 million toward collaborative creative spaces over three years.

Collaborative Spaces grants will support:

- Renovations to expand or repurpose an existing creative space (for example, a gallery or theatre).
- Renovations to expand or repurpose an existing community facility for increased creative purposes (for example, a friendship centre or heritage site).
- The purchase of specialized equipment (for example, a film projector, theatre seating or sound equipment).

A limited number of project grants will be available each year, and may be applied for up to 80% of the project costs. The remaining 20% can be matched through cash or in-kind contributions from other sources.

Arts and culture groups, band councils, Aboriginal friendship centres and non-profit organizations with an arts and culture mandate are eligible to apply. The application deadline is Sept. 1, 2016.

#### **Quotes:**

#### **Community, Sport and Cultural Development Minister Peter Fassbender –**

“Improved cultural facilities have far-reaching benefits, enhancing artistic creation and helping create healthy, vibrant communities. By investing \$1.5 million over three years in collaborative creative spaces, our government is helping to grow our province's creative economy.”

#### **Michael Colclough, Executive Director, Wachiay Friendship Centre Society –**

“Collaborative Spaces funding is responsible for moving our community artist and youth multimedia hub project from a dream to reality. Local artists and youth now have a dedicated facility to work on their digital and analog artistic creations with state-of-the-art equipment available for audio and video experimentation. The hub will make an incredible contribution to the arts in our community.”

**Quick Facts:**

- The B.C. government invested \$436,300 in 11 arts organizations as part of the 2015-16 Collaborative Spaces pilot project.
- Launched in February 2016, the three-year Creative Economy Strategy will help grow the creative sector.
- The strategy focuses on four key areas:
  - Leveraging talent and creative clusters.
  - Accessing new markets.
  - Maximizing investment.
  - Enriching communities.
- The United Nations has identified the creative economy as one of the world’s fastest-growing sectors for income generation, job creation and export earnings.
- With 24,800 artists, B.C. has more artists per capita than any other province.
- British Columbia’s culture GDP was \$6.7 billion in 2014, representing 3% of B.C.’s economy.
- British Columbia had 81,385 culture jobs in 2014, or 3.5% of total jobs in B.C.
- The B.C. government is spending more than \$60 million on artists, arts and culture organizations in 2016-17, including \$24 million for the BC Arts Council and about \$17.5 million in community gaming grants.

**Learn More:**

For a list of recipients of the 2015-16 Collaborative Spaces pilot project, visit:

<http://ow.ly/4ndx9x>

For more information about the Creative Economy Strategy and the Collaborative Spaces Program, including the program guidelines and application form, visit:

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/creativeeconomy>

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