
FACTSHEET

For Immediate Release

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development

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Arts, culture and the creative economy

- Since 2001, the B.C. Government's support for the province's arts and culture community has exceeded half a billion dollars – \$658 million – more than any other government in B.C. history.
- The province benefited from 81,385 culture jobs in 2014, representing 3.5% of total jobs in B.C.
- With 24,800 artists, B.C. has more artists per capita than any other province.
- 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.
- Launched in February 2016, the Government of British Columbia's three-year Creative Economy Strategy is supporting and growing the creative sector. This strategy focuses on four key areas:
 - Leveraging talent and creative clusters.
 - Accessing new markets.
 - Maximizing investment.
 - Enriching communities.
- As part of the Creative Economy Strategy, the B.C. government is:
 - Targeting \$1.5 million over three years toward collaborative spaces.
 - Providing \$250,000 per year for three years to raise the international presence of B.C. artists.
 - Investing a further \$300,000 over two years in artsVest B.C., a training program designed to spark new business sponsorship of arts and culture programming.
- The Government of British Columbia is providing \$60 million in funding for arts and cultural organizations as well as for individual artists in 2017-18. This includes:
 - \$24 million for the BC Arts Council (includes \$2.15 million from the BC 150 Cultural Fund).
 - About \$17.5 million in arts and culture community gaming grants.
 - \$11.9 million for the Royal BC Museum.
 - \$2.2 million for Creative BC (via the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training).
 - \$2.2 million for the Arts and Cultural Development Branch operations.
 - \$2 million for arts and culture programs, including the After School Sport & Arts Initiative and other strategic investments.
 - \$350,000 for the Arts Legacy Fund portion of the BC Arts and Culture Endowment.
- Since 2001, the BC Arts Council has distributed about \$283 million to the province's arts and culture sector.
- To mark the 150th anniversary of Canada's Confederation in 2017, and to celebrate B.C.'s communities and their contributions to Canada, the Province is investing up to \$8 million in museums and heritage sites throughout B.C.
- In 2016, the Province of B.C. provided a \$15-million grant for the creation of a BC Music

Fund to help support various activities in B.C.'s music industry.

- The B.C. government has supported four successful artsVest B.C. program cycles between 2012 and 2016. Each provincially funded dollar is matched by federal funding, generating an average of \$3.75 in additional business sponsorships that is added into B.C.'s economy. Through leveraging, the provincial outlay from 2012-2015 has generated more than \$1.1 million or 475% rate of return on investment.
- The number of artists in B.C. grew by 74% between 1989 and 2013.

Media Contact:

Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural
Development
250 356-6334

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