

June 28, 2010

## Vancouver Foundation supports arts, education, and families

Vancouver Foundation recently approved grants for projects in the areas of arts and culture, education, and children, youth and families. The Foundation and its donors granted almost \$3 million to support 134 unique projects in these areas that address a variety of community issues across the province. Funding for other areas of interest will take place this Fall.

More than \$400,000 in funding went to 28 projects in Vancouver. A sample of these projects is listed below, in alphabetical order:

### **Battered Women's Support Services**

\$50,000 to the Youth Engagement in Violence Prevention Pilot Project.

This project will include curriculum development, marketing, training, workshops, and evaluation with 600 high school students. The intent is to make a curriculum accessible to community organizations to reduce violence against young women.

### **Beauty Night Society**

\$45,000 to Beauty Night Society's Life Makeover program for vulnerable women.

This program empowers women in the Downtown Eastside with life skills training and builds self-esteem through make-overs. Funding will enable the group to expand their services and hire a coordinator to oversee their work, so they will be able to help even more marginalized women in the Downtown Eastside.

### **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Vancouver**

\$45,000 for the Pre-teen Nights Project.

This grant will be used towards program salary and supplies for Pre-teen Nights, which will be offered at six club sites around greater Vancouver. The project will provide a fun and safe evening program for pre-teen youth, where they can develop healthy peer relationships and be supported in their transition into the teen years.

### **Children's Hearing and Speech Centre of BC**

\$16,500 for A Sound Move - Tele-intervention for Deaf Babies.

This innovative project uses new technologies to deliver service to deaf and hard-of-hearing babies and children in remote and under-serviced BC communities. Sophisticated assistive-hearing technologies such as cochlear implants can give children who are deaf the chance to participate fully in a hearing world. Early intervention therapy is essential to ensure that a child develops listening and speech skills to his or her maximum potential.

### **Pacific Community Resources Society**

\$35,000 to Learning is First (LIFT) program.

LIFT is an east Vancouver after-school program that helps young people succeed in high school and beyond. It provides integrated tutoring, mentoring and recreation to 150 youth in Grades 6-10, with the support of 60 volunteer tutor/mentors.

**Ray-Cam Community Association**

\$100,000 for the MoreSports and YELL programs.

This two-year grant will be used towards coordination and implementation of both programs, which enable communities and youth to build equitable, inclusive opportunities for kids and families to participate in sports and recreation.

**Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre**

\$20,000 for the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.

For one week each September, thousands of volunteers gather in communities across Canada to clean up kilometres of shoreline. With its elements of science, geography, civics and other subjects, teachers have been asking for a curriculum to bring the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup into the classroom. This project will create a school curriculum based on the Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup.

**Vancouver Symphony Centre**

\$100,000 for the new Vancouver Symphony Centre and VSO School of Music.

Scheduled to open in January 2011 on Seymour Street (on the former site of the Capitol 6 movie theatre), the VSO Centre and School will be 25,000-square feet of dedicated, purpose-built space for music instruction. It will contain a 120-seat flexible-space recital hall, 18 teaching studios, 10 listening stations, six practice rooms, two large classrooms, a large ensemble room, recording booth, salon, server, two student lounges, retail shop, cafe, and office space. Distance learning capabilities have been incorporated into the design and will be key components of its use.

*With more than 1,300 funds, and assets of \$720 million, Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest community foundation. Since it was founded in 1943, Vancouver Foundation, in partnership with its donors, has distributed more than \$786 million to BC charities.*

**For more information:**

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