

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.

Almost \$350,000 in funding went to 16 projects on Vancouver Island. A sample of these projects is listed below, in alphabetical order by city/area:

Comox Valley Transition society

\$12,600 for the BeSafe Girls Group.

This project will expand and enhance the program to include three after-school groups and a new group for girls aged 15 to 17. The weekly two-hour groups are interactive and include youth leadership development and gender specific support.

Khowhemun Elementary, School District #79 - Cowichan Valley

\$23,460 for Smart Table Culture and Language.

This project will use "smart boards" and other technologies to integrate Aboriginal language and culture into the daily routine of pre-school and kindergarten programs at Khowhemun School. Cultural Teaching Assistants and elders have designed games and activities to make learning more fun and interactive.

Huu-ay-aht First Nation - Port Alberni

\$30,000 for Paawats (Language Nest) Program.

This program teaches the Nuu-chah-nulth language to children by engaging preschoolers, their parents and elders. It is based on the principle that the best way to acquire a second language is the same way children acquire a first language -- immersion rather than the traditional teaching-learning situation.

Pacific Rim Arts Society, Tofino and Ucluelet

\$7,000 for the Carving on the Edge Festival 2010.

Pacific Rim Arts Society will launch a new festival to celebrate the traditional and contemporary arts of the west coast carver. Carving on the Edge Festival 2010 will feature exhibits of west coast carving, demonstrations, studio tours, lectures, films and community feasts during the week of September 16-23 in Ucluelet and Tofino on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Components of the festival will build on the artistic, cultural, educational and environmental aspects of coastal carving. The rich cultural history of the region as well as contemporary explorations of carving will be showcased with exhibitions and demonstrations of canoe-building, traditional tools, masks, bowls, chainsaw arts, architectural features, and new art forms.

Other Guys Theatre Company, Victoria

\$30,000 for the musical theater review *Good Timber*.

Inspired by the poetry of Robert E. Swanson*, the Other Guys Theatre Company will bring together actors, musicians and visual artists to develop Swanson's work into songs and dramatic readings. The show will be performed in Victoria against a unique and rarely-seen collection of archival film and photography from the Royal BC Museum archives.

(* Robert Swanson worked for years as a logger, then as a forestry safety inspector for the government. His books *Whistle Punks & Widow-Makers* and *Rhymes of a Western Logger* are tales from the golden age of logging in BC.)

Victoria Single Parent Resource Centre Society

\$29,000 to the Moms and Mentors Program, which provides mentoring for at-risk, isolated pregnant and parenting teens, and other vulnerable single mothers in Greater Victoria. Moms are matched for a year with volunteer mentors who are experienced mothers, understand the challenges of being single parents, and can provide support in nurturing, resourceful and non-judgmental ways. Monthly group activities with on-site child care will provide educational and networking opportunities. The goal is to foster healthy pregnancies, and strengthen their parenting and coping skills.

Victoria Women's Transition House

\$70,000 for Stepping Stones for Families: Ready to Rent program.

A grant over two years to support a unique 12-hour course that is accepted in place of a reference by housing providers, and helps multi-barriered families in securing and maintaining rental housing.

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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