

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Celebrate Downtown Eastside arts projects at the Interurban Gallery group show June 3 - 24

Vancouver, BC - Vancouver Foundation and Carnegie Community Centre are proud to present the 2016 Downtown Eastside Small Arts Grants Group Show. The show is free and runs from June 3 to 24 at the Interurban Gallery.

Curated by new media artist and designer Jen Castro, more than 45 grantees will showcase their art in a wide range of mediums including painting, mixed media, photography, literary arts, textile, video, and more. Many of the items in display will be for sale, and 100% of the sales will go to the artists.

Entering its 6<sup>th</sup> year, the small arts grants program gives artists living or working in the Downtown Eastside the opportunity to develop their artistic talent and showcase their work to the public in the form of exhibitions and local performances. In 2015-16, Vancouver Foundation funded 97 arts projects in the DTES for a total of \$92,458.

"This is a one-of-a-kind grants program for artists in the Downtown Eastside," says Kay Yamamoto, Coordinator of the program at Carnegie Community Centre. "The grants fund emerging artists from such a wide variety of disciplines, you never know what amazing ideas will come next", she adds.

"We are excited to hear that some of our past and current grantees are beginning to receive government grants such as Canada Council for the Arts," notes Meseret Taye, Program Manager at Vancouver Foundation. "It goes to show that by starting off with a small grant of less than \$1,000, the artists in our community can get recognized at a national level."

Find out more about the show and the artists at: <http://vancouverfoundationsmallarts.ca/>

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### LISTING INFORMATION

### Downtown Eastside Small Arts Grants Group Show 2016

Date:	Friday, June 3 - Friday, June 24, 2016
Opening Night:	Friday, June 3, 2016, 7pm - 10pm
Gallery Address:	Interurban Gallery, 1 E. Hastings Street Vancouver, BC V6A 1M9
Gallery hours:	Wednesday - Saturday, 12:30pm - 5:30pm
Website:	<a href="http://vancouverfoundationsmallarts.ca/">http://vancouverfoundationsmallarts.ca/</a>

ARTISTIMAGES: <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B9CGHsnKsHxDU1phSHZKRVi6LWs>

## EXAMPLE ARTIST PROFILES

### Katherine Soucie, Fashion Designer

Katherine Soucie is an artist who works with textile waste products. She transforms waste hosiery, utilizes obsolete clothing + textile machinery and incorporates traditional artisanal techniques in order to (re)imagine them to tell their story.

<http://www.katherinesoucie.com/>

<http://vancouverfoundationsmallarts.ca/artists/katherine-soucie>

### Ben Poulton, Photographer

Over the course of the last three years, Ben has taken technical courses that focused on darkroom practices and analog based photography. From there, he found an artist studio and built his own darkroom.

His goal, as an artist, is for his work to evolve. To remain malleable. To inspire people. He is always touched by artists that have been able to incorporate a sense of humanity into their work. That their work has outgrown them, in a sense. That what they have done is larger than them.

<http://www.vancouverfoundationsmallarts.ca/artists/ben-poulton>

### Floyd Bernard, Suncatcher artist

Floyd taught himself how to make suncatchers. He started with dreamcatchers, but as he learned more and more, he started changing the designs and trying to make something that looked like the visions of spirit orbs that he saw in his head.

Floyd's goal is to continue to take the visions of these spirit orbs from his dreams and people he meets and develop more designs for his suncatchers and other art. He hopes to share his creations with others so they may see the goodness in themselves and learn about his culture. He also hopes to continue to do more photography and document the positivity of the Downtown Eastside and its residents, especially artists.

## About Vancouver Foundation's Downtown Eastside Small Arts Grants Program

In 2009, Vancouver Foundation started the grant program, in partnership with Carnegie Community Centre, to give Downtown Eastside (DTES) artists the opportunity to advance their careers by expanding their portfolios and showcasing their work.

The Downtown East Side Small Arts Grants program is intended for artists who demonstrate a history of original art practice, and show a vital engagement with the Downtown Eastside community. With small grants of \$500 - \$1,000, the program is an opportunity for local artists to take their art to the next level.

We fund a very wide range of media including music, theatre, writing, photography, pottery, textiles, jewelry making, carving, painting, animation, dance, mixed-media, performance, video and more.

In the 2015-16 grant cycle, we funded 97 projects for a total of \$92,458.

Learn more about the program by watching video of artists in action:  
<http://vancouverfoundationsmallarts.ca/>

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