

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vancouver Foundation's Neighbourhood Small Grants program wants your innovative ideas for 2015

Vancouver, BC - Vancouver Foundation is proud to announce the return of its Neighbourhood Small Grants program. Both Neighbourhood Small Grants and Greenest City Neighbourhood Small Grants are now accepting applications for 2015.

Neighbourhood Small Grants help connect and engage residents in their community by encouraging them to come up with their own ideas for how their neighbourhood can be strengthened. Small grants of up to \$500 (occasionally \$1,000) are available for projects by local residents living in 17 communities throughout Vancouver, the North Shore, Burnaby, North Surrey, New Westminster and Richmond.

Last year, the Neighbourhood Small Grants program provided funding of more than \$425,711 to support 911 projects that helped connect and engage communities. The grants are administered through our program partner organizations and resident advisory committee members – all local community volunteers.

Neighbourhood Small Grants and Greenest City Neighbourhood Small Grants Applications opened on Thursday February 26, and the deadline for applications is Tuesday March 31, 2015.

“For a very small amount of money - often only a few dollars - these small projects help bring people together,” says Vancouver Foundation President & CEO Kevin McCort. “We take great pride in helping create a sense of community, where before, there may have been none.”

The Neighbourhood Small Grants program was created by the Vancouver Foundation in 1999. The program is based on a simple but powerful idea: when people feel a sense of connection and belonging to their neighbourhood, they are more likely to be engaged in activities that make it a better place to live.

“This year, we are also piloting Neighbourhood Small Grants in high-rise buildings to understand how we can better engage those who live in vertical communities and might experience a high degree of isolation,” adds McCort.

For more information on the Neighbourhood Small Grants program, and to apply online, visit www.neighbourhoodsmallgrants.ca

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About Vancouver Foundation

With over 1,600 funds and assets totaling \$930 million, Vancouver Foundation is Canada's largest community foundation. Each year, Vancouver Foundation and its donors make more than 5,300 grants, totaling approximately \$50 million to registered charities across Canada. Since it was founded in 1943, Vancouver Foundation, in partnership with its donors, has distributed more than \$1 billion to thousands of community projects and programs. Grant recipients range from social services to medical research groups, to organizations devoted to arts and culture, the environment, education, children and families, disability supports for employment, youth issues and animal welfare.

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