



FOR RELEASE

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Arts Operating Fund supports cultural groups and art projects

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government's Arts Operating Fund will provide nearly \$668,000 to 15 established arts organizations and five annual projects in 2014.

"Yukon government supports the professional development of artists who make a significant contribution to the wide array of cultural events, attractions and festivals that entertain and educate audiences of all ages," Minister of Tourism and Culture Mike Nixon said.

The Guild Society will receive \$92,000 to manage the Guild Hall facility and to encourage the development of local artists and audiences through the production and presentation of arts events.

"We are extremely grateful for the support we receive from the Arts Operating Fund," society president Fiona Solon said. "The Guild Hall has been the cornerstone of community theatre in Whitehorse for more than 30 years and this funding is essential to the society. It allows us to continue growing and improving upon what the Guild does best: producing great theatre which benefits our entire community."

The Yukon Art Society will receive \$69,000 to foster the creative and professional development of Yukon artists through exhibitions, education and activities with wide community appeal.

"The society has been offering support to Yukon artists at all levels of development for more than 40 years," society vice-chair Charlene Alexander said. "These services include recreational art activities, school programming and retail marketing which enhance Yukon's vibrant arts scene and make a valuable contribution to the territory's social, cultural and economic well-being."

The Blue Feather Music Society will receive \$30,000 for its annual music festival. The event is an opportunity for youth to interact with elders and others through art and music.

"On behalf of the Blue Feather Music Society, we are very grateful for the continued support from the Yukon Arts Operating Fund," society producer Gary Bailie said. "This funding allows us to present an inspirational festival that encourages people of all ages and from all cultures to celebrate music and the arts in the Yukon."

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See backgrounder below.

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Background

The Arts Operating Fund has two components. One supports the annual operating and program costs for not-for-profit arts groups with ongoing or year-round activities; the second supports annual projects.

Reporting for 2013 showed groups supported by the Arts Operating Fund earned revenue of more than \$1.2 million and leveraged \$1.6 million in other government funding. Nearly 2,000 people volunteered close to 40,000 hours to help present 580 events that entertained 79,000 attendees.

This funding is provided by Yukon government and Lotteries Yukon.

2014/15 Arts Operating Fund / Annual Operating Component Recipients

Organization	Awarded
Guild Society	\$92,000
Yukon Art Society	\$69,000
Yukon Film Society	\$55,000
Gwaandak Theatre Society	\$52,500
Nakai Theatre Ensemble	\$50,000
Dawson City Music Festival Association	\$45,000
Whitehorse Concerts	\$35,000
Junction Arts and Music Society (JAM)	\$35,000
Jazz Yukon	\$29,500
Breakdancing Yukon Society	\$28,000
Northern Lights School of Dance	\$27,500

Extremely Moving Youth Society	\$27,500
Community Choir of Whitehorse	\$27,500
All-City Band Society (ACBS)	\$20,000
Northern Fibres Guild	\$4,990
Operating Component TOTAL	\$598,490

2014/15 Arts Operating Fund / Annual Project Component Recipients

Organization	Awarded
Blue Feather Music Society	\$30,000
Association franco-yukonnaise	\$15,000
Rotary Club of Whitehorse	\$10,000
Village of Mayo	\$7,185
Skookum Jim Friendship Centre	\$7,000
Project Component TOTAL	\$69,185
GRAND TOTAL 2014/15 (Both Components)	\$667,675

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