



Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #10-217

December 3, 2010

Communities benefit from Arts Fund projects

WHITEHORSE – Eight organizations will share \$113,588 for arts projects featuring festivals, performances, concerts and theatre.

"Community oriented events supported through the Arts Fund benefit many Yukoners, whether they are performing and creating as artists, or engaging as audience members," Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor said. "The Yukon government is pleased to support each of these projects which reflect the talented and thriving arts community we have in the territory."

The Yukon Educational Theatre Society received funding for its season of events that promote public engagement and participation: Burning Away the Winter Blues, A Celebration of the Harvest and Winterlude: The New Santa Parade.

"Knitting the community together through artful events is the focused intention of Yukon Educational Theatre," artistic director Arlin McFarlane said. "We are seeking to create a northern mythology built on world mythologies. With the assistance of the Arts Fund we are able to keep kindled and alive the flame of magic and enchantment."

Young people living in Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, Mayo and Dawson City will enjoy music education opportunities such as fiddling, songwriting, and singing through the Klondyke Fiddle School Program. In addition, parents, childcare staff and elementary school teachers will receive early childhood education sessions to enhance music opportunities for young children.

"We're thrilled to be receiving funds again in our sixth consecutive year of delivering music education to rural Yukon communities," North Klondyke Highway Music Society president Peter Menzies said. "We simply couldn't do this work without the support of the Arts Fund."

Other fund recipients include the Donald Watt Collective for the eighth International Snow Sculpture Challenge, the Fiddle Kids for artistic development programs, and the Northern Lights School of Dance for its annual Nutcracker tour. Ramshackle Theatre will produce a new play, *Syphilis: A Love Story*, while big band meets belly dance in the Saba Middle Eastern Dance Ensemble's concert of new works. Finally, the Whitehorse Poetry Society will host the third Whitehorse Poetry Festival in June, 2011.

The Arts Fund supports group projects that foster the development of the arts in Yukon. The next application deadline is December 15.

For more information visit www.tc.gov.yk.ca or contact the fund administrator at 867-667-3535 or 1-800-661-0408, extension 3535 or email artsfund@gov.yk.ca.

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See backgrounder and photo below.

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Arts Fund recipients: September 2010 intake

Recipient	Project	Amount
Donald Watt Collective	8th International Snow Sculpture Challenge	\$21,000
Fiddle Kids Organization	Artistic development in fiddling, dance and performance	20,000
Northern Lights School of Dance	Nutcracker tour to Dawson City	9,800
North Klondyke Highway Music Society	Klondyke Fiddle School Program	15,000
Ramshackle Theatre Collective	Mounting of <i>Syphilis: A Love Story</i>	15,500
Saba Middle Eastern Dance Ensemble	Middle Eastern Dance Concert	2,148
Whitehorse Poetry Society	Whitehorse Poetry Festival	15,140
Yukon Educational Theatre Society	Inzanity! Community celebration projects: Santa Parade, Burning Away the Winter Blues, Harvest Festival	15,000
	Total:	\$113,588

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Minister Taylor visits recipients of the Arts Fund; Arlin McFarlane, artistic director for Yukon Education Theatre and Yukon artist Linda Leon at the Old Firehall. The Society is preparing for A celebration of the Harvest and Winterlude: The New Santa Parade.