



FOR RELEASE
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Dawson City Arts Society to receive funding increase

WHITEHORSE—The Dawson City Arts Society (DCAS) is set to receive a base funding increase of \$25,000 this year, pending legislative approval.

"The Dawson City Arts Society's important work in the development of Yukon's arts and culture and the delivery of arts education has made it an institution of both territorial and national significance," Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor said. "This speaks to the essential role the society plays in Yukon's arts community and we are pleased that this funding increase will help ensure its sustainability."

The Yukon government currently provides \$400,000 annually for the society's operations and programming. The society generates an additional \$200,000 each year in earned revenue, fundraising and grants.

DCAS was formed in 1998 by a group of local artists. The following year it began operating the Klondike Institute of Art and Culture (KIAC) at the historic Odd Fellows Hall. KIAC now coordinates the Dawson City International Short Film Festival, the Yukon Riverside Arts Festival, an Artist in Residence Program, the Youth Art Enrichment program and other initiatives. It also runs the ODD Gallery and works closely with the Yukon School of the Visual Arts.

"We appreciate that the Department of Tourism and Culture has answered our call for funding due to increases in operational and facility costs," Dawson City Arts Society president Peter Menzies said. "The new support comes at an important time and will help the society continue fostering arts and cultural development in the Klondike region."

In addition to the Dawson City Arts Society's board of directors and staff, the organization was assisted by more than 100 volunteers last year.

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