



FOR RELEASE
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Fund supports Yukon b-boys' American tour and other projects

WHITEHORSE—Breakdancing group Groundwork Sessions, musicians Kim Barlow and Sarah MacDougall, and snow sculptors Donald C. Watt and Michael Lane are all receiving support through the Touring Artist Fund.

"Yukon artists are making waves around the world," Tourism and Culture Minister Mike Nixon said. "Not only are they finding new audiences, they are also being recognized and respected by their peers. The Yukon government is pleased to provide support to these exceptional cultural ambassadors in their ongoing professional development."

The Touring Artist Fund fosters the development of the arts by supporting literary, visual and performing artists to present their work at professionally curated national or international venues.

Barlow received support to tour with Matthias Kom as the indie-folk band Spring Breakup. The duo completed a 15-date tour in Germany and Switzerland to build a fan base overseas.

MacDougall, Bob Hamilton and Tim Tweedale attended the Glasgow Americana Festival, followed by a headlining tour of the United Kingdom. The trio also played dates in Germany, Holland and Sweden.

The Yukon Canada International Snow Sculpture Touring Team, led by Watt and Lane, will create sculptures at four events in Italy, the United States and Japan. Team members Adam Green, Terry Gunderson and Evi Watt will take turns assisting them throughout the tour. The Groundwork Sessions crew of Nick, Ben and Alex Robinson, Riley Simpson-Fowler, Jordan Reti and George Rivard competed in b-boy battles in San Francisco and Orlando.

"Without the financial aid of the Touring Artist Fund, we wouldn't have been able to travel to international competitions and expose ourselves to the worldwide b-boy community," Alex Robinson said. "The opportunity to immerse ourselves in pure hip-hop culture was the chance of a lifetime and contributed immensely to furthering our understanding and capabilities as b-boys. We successfully left our mark by doing well, making a lasting impression and representing ourselves and Yukon to the fullest of our abilities."

For more information visit the website or contact the fund administrator at 667-8789 or email artsfund@gov.yk.ca.

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See backgrounder below.

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Touring Artist Fund recipients - September 15, 2011 intake

Applicant	Project	Amount
Donald C. Watt, Michael Lane	Five-member snow sculpting team will tour, exhibit and compete in four major events in Italy, Japan and the U.S.	\$10,000
Sarah MacDougall	Tour Germany, Holland, UK and Sweden accompanied by Bob Hamilton and Tim Tweedale	\$10,000
Groundwork Sessions	Breakdancing crew to attend b-boy competitions in Orlando, Florida and San Francisco, California	\$9,952
Kim Barlow	Duo of Kim Barlow and Mathias Kom (Spring Breakup) to tour Germany and Switzerland	\$5,500
Total		\$35,452

YouTube video above: Nick Robinson and Jordan Reti of Groundwork Sessions "battling" at the Renegade Rockers 28th Anniversary in San Francisco.

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