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Arts Fund Supports Vibrant Community Projects

WHITEHORSE – The Arts Fund is contributing \$150,280 to 13 recipients with a mix of well-known and new projects announced Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor.

“It’s exciting to see Yukon’s abundant artistic talent continuing to develop in new directions, while building increasingly solid foundations,” Taylor said.

One example is the Yukon Art Society’s new initiative to increase the visual arts component of the well-loved 13-year-run Arts in the Park. The society received a grant to move the visual art activities to Arts Underground where visitors and locals will be able to see projects progress from first to final stages.

“We are grateful for the support through the Arts Fund,” Yukon Arts Society president Charlene Alexander said. “This grant will allow for better exposure of Yukon’s visual artists. Visitors will have a main street destination to meet artists and view work all day, not just during lunch hour.”

The Arts Fund is an applicant-driven funding program that supports artists and communities in creative endeavours such as festivals, events, training and art creation in all forms. The fund is adjudicated four times a year by the Yukon Arts Advisory Council in an arms-length process.

The next deadline for Arts Fund applications is March 15. Applicants are encouraged to consult a fund administrator before applying by calling 867-667-3535 or 867-667-8789, toll-free within Yukon at 1-800-661-0408, extension 3535 or 8789 or emailing artsfund@gov.yk.ca.

The Department of Tourism and Culture contributes more than \$2.7 million annually in support of Yukon arts and culture.

For more information, visit <http://www.tc.gov.yk.ca/205.html>.

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Attached backgrounders: Photos and list of recipients from the December 15, 2008 intake.

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Backgrounder: Arts Fund December 2008 recipients

	Applicant	Project	Amount Allocated
1	Anvil Range Arts Society	Visual arts workshops and exhibition during Crane and Sheep Viewing Festival	\$2,080
2	Gwaandak Theatre	Toward <i>Go Angel Girlfriends</i> : women with disabilities and other theatre artists develop and perform a new theatre work in 2009	\$12,000
3	Liard Aboriginal Women's Society	Preservation and Sharing of Kaska Legends and Arts project: traditional storytelling events in Ross River and Watson Lake	\$20,000
4	Love is in the Air Collective	To produce and present a themed musical event, <i>Love is in the Air</i> : a celebration of love through songs and spoken word	\$10,000
5	Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services Society	To commission and create a public mural by engaging professional visual artist Heidi Hehn and the youth with Youth of Today society	\$9,000
6	Skookum Jim Friendship Centre	To produce the 2009 Skookum Jim Folklore Show, an annual celebration featuring local and visiting First Nation performing artists	\$7,000
7	Society of Yukon Independent Dance Artists	A residency to support the creation, performance and presentation of the work of emerging and professional Yukon dance artists	\$15,000
8	Suzuki Strings Association Yukon	Toward a three-day Suzuki Winter Music Camp offered to music and strings students of all ages	\$8,700
9	Town of Faro	Faro's Terra Festival: to create a medieval festival with youth using elements of visual, literary and performing arts	\$1,000
10	Whitehorse Heritage Festival Society	To produce the Whitehorse Heritage Festival highlighting the fashions, crafts and performances of Yukon ethnic communities featuring performances by a visiting Filipino dance troupe	\$15,000
11	Yukon Art Society	Toward <i>Arts in the Park</i> : showcasing performing arts in Lepage Park and visual artists at Arts Underground	\$16,000
12	Yukon Art Society	Toward the <i>Linkages and Lineages</i> mentorship project bringing emerging and established Yukon artists together to create and show new work	\$7,500
13	Yukon Bluegrass Music Society	Toward the Kluane Bluegrass Music Camp 2009	\$12,000
14	Yukon Music Camp Society	Toward Yukon Summer Music Camp 2009	\$15,000
TOTALS:			\$150,280

Backgrounder: Photos



Caption: Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor met and congratulated Gwaandak Theatre members as they prepare for their spring production of "Go Angel Girlfriends".



Caption: Dakká Kwáan members visited with Minister Elaine Taylor after giving a performance at the recent 'Capturing the Spirit of the 2010 Winter Games' announcement. Dakká Kwáan is currently using their funding to perform at cultural festivals in lower mainland British Columbia.