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**Performing, Visual and Literary Artists to Share Advanced Artist Award**

WHITEHORSE – Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor announced 11 Yukon artists will share \$40,000 in funding to further their artistic development and create new works.

“The Yukon government is pleased to support the further advancement of artists who have shown commitment and continue to evolve their practice,” Taylor said. “Yukon’s thriving and dynamic artistic community enriches the lives of Yukoners and attracts new visitors north.”

Funding recipient Nadine Landry will travel to Louisiana to study Cajun music and explore the rich cultural dimensions of her journey.

“My Acadian roots in Canada can be traced directly to the people there. Many escaped with only their songs and stories,” Landry said. “Thanks to this funding, I can learn from the best, immerse myself in the heritage and bring both the music and culture back home.”

Upon her return, Landry will be sharing what she learns with other musicians, with French language school programs and will be happy to see more Yukoners two-stepping to Cajun music in the future.

Closer to home, 20-year veteran of the visual arts Meshell Melvin is excited to bring her knowledge of form and colour to the world of animation.

“I am very grateful for the door this funding opens,” Melvin said. “I’m learning to use two-dimensional stop motion photography to bring my work to life. It will be interesting to see what arrives on film with a long and diverse history of visual arts.”

The Advanced Artist Award program is funded by Lotteries Yukon and is administered by the Department of Tourism and Culture. Applications are reviewed by a jury of peers. The next intake for the Advanced Artist Award will be October 1.

For more information about the Advanced Artist Awards, contact the Department of Tourism and Culture’s fund administrator at 667-8789 or toll-free from the communities at 1-800-661-0408 extension 8789.

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Attachment: List of Advanced Artist Award Spring 2009 Recipients

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## List of Advance Artist Award Spring 2009 Recipients

NAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT FUNDED
Charlie Wilson	to attend a five-day International Intensive theatre workshop with teacher/director Catherine Alexander at the Caravan Farm Theatre in Armstrong, British Columbia.	\$ 1,025
Emily Farrell	to travel to Quelimane, Mozambique in June 2009 to create HIV/AIDS awareness theatre by adapting Shakespeare, in conjunction with Shakespeare Link Canada (SLC)	\$ 2,500
Kyle Cashen	to collaborate with Jordy Walker to experiment with song structures and instrumentation in order to compose new material for Crash the Car	\$ 2,500
Katherine Alexander	to create a new body of work: a steel laundry line of women's clothing using artistic blacksmithing and fabrication techniques	\$ 2,500
Joseph Tisiga	to create a multi-media exhibition at the Yukon Arts Centre, exploring various First Nation themes through the simulation of creating an "Indianized" corporation	\$ 2,500
Halin deRepentigny	to construct a birch bark canoe and create photographs, sketches and body of oil paintings on canvas based on it	\$ 4,225
Michael Reynolds	to create a new collection of poems	\$ 4,800
Patricia Robertson	to create a second draft of a manuscript for a young-adult fantasy novel, <i>The Fires of Terrania</i>	\$ 4,950
Marten Berkman	to create an interactive stereoscopic (3D), high definition video installation	\$ 5,000
Meshell Melvin	to further develop animation skills and explore the application of the art of animation to her studio practice and bring her images to life	\$ 5,000
Nadine Landry	to study Cajun music for one month in Breaux Bridge, South Louisiana, under the mentorship of world renowned musicians Christine Balfa and Dirk Powell	\$ 5,000
		<b>\$ 40,000</b>