

FOR RELEASE
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ARTS FUND SUPPORTS 14 ARTS AND CULTURAL PROJECTS

WHITEHORSE – Minister of Tourism and Culture Elaine Taylor announced that 14 community groups and arts collectives will share \$125,000 in funding made available through the Arts Fund.

The most recent Arts Fund intake received 18 applications, with requests totalling approximately \$206,000.

“The Department of Tourism and Culture is very pleased to provide opportunities for arts organizations throughout the Yukon,” Taylor said. “The current Arts Fund recipients reflect the quality and talent of Yukon artists working in almost every medium – music, dance, theatre, poetry, film, and visual art.”

The Whitehorse Poetry Collective is one of the recipients. It was awarded \$10,000 in support of the Whitehorse Poetry Festival, a new three-day festival featuring readings, workshops and panel discussions that focus on wilderness and the North.

“We're excited about working in partnership with Yukon College to deliver this unique festival,” Clea Ainsworth, chair of the collective, said. “Hosting poets from Canada and the States, the festival will showcase some of the most important voices in contemporary poetry.”

The Arts Fund is an applicant-driven funding program that supports artists and communities in creative endeavors such as festivals, events, training, touring 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 December 15, 2006. Applicants are encouraged to consult with the program officer before applying. Telephone 667-3535 or email artsfund@gov.yk.ca.

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List of Arts Fund September 2006 recipients attached.

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ARTS FUND RECIPIENTS, SEPTEMBER 2006

Applicant	Project Name and Description	Amount Allocated
Alsek Music Festival	<i>Secondary Venues Project</i> Family and cabaret stages and Sunday programming at Alsek Music Festival.	\$7,500
Blue Feather Music Society	<i>Blue Feather Music Festival</i> A youth-focused celebration of music and the arts.	\$4,500
Carcross/Tagish First Nation	<i>Skookum Jim's Vision</i> A project to adapt a local story for the stage and develop a theatre production.	\$2,500
Carmacks Family and Community Support Society	<i>North Klondyke Highway Community Music Project</i> Fiddle and guitar instruction and appreciation in the communities of Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, Mayo and Dawson City.	\$5,000
Community Choir of Whitehorse Society	<i>Magnetic North</i> A preparation and performance of a choral concert for the Canada Games Cultural Festival.	\$3,500
Dawson City Arts Society	<i>8th Annual Dawson City International Short Film Festival</i> Screenings, workshops, panel discussions and special events.	\$20,000
Skookum Jim Friendship Centre	<i>2007 Skookum Jim Folklore Show</i> Presentation of local and national First Nation performing artists.	\$5,000
Society for Yukon Artists of Native Ancestry (SYANA)	A production of contemporary aboriginal writer Drew Hayden Taylor's play <i>The Buz'Gem Blues</i> , produced by SYANA Performing Arts.	\$10,000
Spotlight Shadows Collective	<i>Brave New Works 2006/07</i> A "works in progress" performance series for youth, emerging and established Yukon performing and visual artists.	\$17,500
Whitehorse Poetry Collective	<i>Whitehorse Poetry Festival</i> A three-day poetry festival featuring readings, workshops and panel discussions that will focus on concepts of wilderness and North.	\$10,000
Yukon Bluegrass Music Society	<i>Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Music Camp</i> A 3-day music camp at Kluane Lake for beginner and advanced students.	\$6,500

Yukon Bluegrass Music Society	<i>Kluane Mountain Bluegrass Festival</i> A 3-day bluegrass/old-time music festival showcasing outside and regional groups with workshops and performances.	\$10,000
Yukon Dance Ensemble	Fall 2006 Professional Dance Residency for five professional Yukon dance artists to create new work for the repertoire of Yukon Dance Ensemble.	\$15,000
Yukon Film Society	<i>Available Light Film Festival 2007</i> 5th annual festival plus Canadian northern-themed screenings planned for the Canada Games Cultural Festival.	\$8,000

TOTAL: \$125,000