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**FUNDING AWARDED TO ARRAY OF ARTS ORGANIZATIONS**

WHITEHORSE – Tourism and Culture Minister Elaine Taylor announced that 18 arts organizations have been awarded funding assistance to develop, advance and present the arts in Yukon.

“This funding allows for economic and social growth that encourages strong artistic community spirit and pride of place,” Taylor said. “The Yukon government is pleased to be able to assist organizations that promote a healthy balance between education and cultural activities year-round to the benefit of Yukoners and visitors alike.”

In 2006, 20 groups shared \$445,000 in funding through the Yukon Arts Funding Program which supports the ongoing activities of established arts organizations. These groups reported overall expenditures of \$2.7 million over the same period. There were 760 art events in 2006 with an estimate of over 56,000 in attendance and supported by over 1,400 volunteers working approximately 35,150 hours.

This year the funding has been increased to \$463,490 with several groups receiving increases in recognition of their expanded program reach. The following groups received increases to their annual funding allocations: Community Choir of Whitehorse; the Longest Night Society; the Yukon Film Society; and the Yukon Art Society.

“The creation and success of Arts Underground has raised community appetites for programs and services far beyond the previous capacity of the Yukon Art Society,” Yukon Art Society President Charlene Alexander said. “We thank the Yukon government for the timely increase in our funding as it will allow us to meet growing demands on staff, and help us to leverage additional funding so that we can further develop and enhance new partnerships and programming for the community.”

Since moving to Arts Underground, the Yukon Art Society has increased workshops, public school art programs, artists’ talks and presentations, exhibitions, skill and professional development for artists (including business development), networking, advocacy, and member services. The society also offers a box office service for the community. As well, the popular *Arts in the Park* series continues to support the development of the visual and performing arts.

The Yukon Arts Funding Program is a combination of Yukon government and Lotteries Yukon funding. Yukon Arts Funding Program applications are assessed through an arms-length process by the Yukon Arts Advisory Council, a seven-member council responsible for providing advice on arts funding, policy and programs.

Yukon enjoys the highest per capita funding for arts and culture in Canada at over \$400 per person according to the most recent Statistics Canada figures.

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Attached is a list of 2007 Yukon Arts Fund recipients.

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## ATTACHMENT: 2007-08 Yukon Arts Funding Program Allocations

1.	<b>Alsek Music Festival</b> Three day annual music festival in Haines Junction that promotes northern performers.	\$11,000
2.	<b>Community Choir of Whitehorse</b> Provides choral music experiences for audiences and choir members, supporting three choirs; and presents guest vocalists and conductors as well as special events such as tours and commissions.	\$20,000
3.	<b>Dawson City Music Festival</b> Three day annual music festival that showcases northern and “outside” performers; and presents community concerts and events throughout the year.	\$36,000
4.	<b>Extremely Moving Youth Society</b> Dance training, performing and touring for youth, community and established dance artists.	\$10,000
5.	<b>Frostbite Music Society</b> Three day annual music festival that showcases northern and “outside” acts as well as associated programming in music sector promotion and education.	\$32,000
6.	<b>Guild Society</b> Produces a community theatre season, monthly music coffee houses and associated educational programs. Maintains a multi-purpose arts facility.	\$53,000
7.	<b>Jazz Society of the Yukon</b> Presents <i>Jazz on the Wing</i> series, provides training and education and commissions new work	\$16,000
8.	<b>Longest Night Society</b> An annual concert of original music, theatre, storytelling and dance with associated touring, commissions, recordings and special projects.	\$15,000
9.	<b>Nakai Theatre</b> A professional theatre company dedicated to developing original work, presenting a season and providing education and development for all aspects of professional theatre. Nakai is awarded \$57,000 over three years per a multi-year funding agreement subject to legislated appropriation and annual accounting.	\$57,000
10.	<b>Northern Fibres Guild</b> Training and promotion of fibre arts and artists. Delivers annual Cranberry Fair. Equipment and library loans and rentals.	\$4,990
11.	<b>Northern Lights School of Dance</b> Provides training and showcasing opportunities for a wide range of dance techniques. Provides master workshops for dancers and instructors.	\$23,500
12.	<b>Society For Education and Culture</b> Haines Junction based cultural society that organizes cultural events in the Kluane area.	\$8,000
13.	<b>Society of Yukon Artists of Native Ancestry</b> An umbrella organization for Yukon First Nation artists.	\$36,000
14.	<b>Ted Harrison Artist Retreat Society</b> Operates a visual arts residency program for local, regional and national artists as well as a community outreach program for Yukon residents.	\$5,000
15.	<b>Whitehorse Concerts</b> Presents a classical music performing arts series, workshops, promotes Yukon musicians.	\$33,000
16.	<b>Yukon Art Society</b> Presents visual arts shows in gallery; provides education and promotional programs for artists, delivers annual <i>Arts In the Park</i> program.	\$45,000
17.	<b>Yukon Film Society</b> Presents independent and alternative media art works including film, video, animation and new media to Yukon audiences; promotes public appreciation of film and media arts through screenings, festivals and innovative media and art creation courses; and supports the production and distribution of works by Yukon media artists.	\$20,000
18.	<b>Yukon International Storytelling Festival</b> An annual three day festival showcasing local and visiting storytelling as well as associated educational programs.	\$38,000

Total funds allocated **\$463,490**