

MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW PARTNERSHIP TO INVEST \$6.5M IN B.C. ARTS PROJECTS

Vancouver, B.C. (Mar. 5, 2007): A new contribution program called Arts Partners in Creative Development will enable B.C. arts and cultural organizations to create artistic works that achieve a high level of excellence. The announcement was made jointly today by representatives from the Province of B.C., City of Vancouver, Canada Council for the Arts, Vancouver Foundation, Vancouver Organizing Committee for the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (VANOC) and 2010 Legacies Now.

With an initial investment of \$6.5 million over three years, successful applicants will develop, create or commission original works in the performing, visual, media and literary arts. Eligible arts and cultural organizations may apply for up to 90 per cent of their development and/or commissioning costs, to a maximum of \$300,000. The first round of applications will be adjudicated in the summer, with a second round by the end of the year.

The funding partners made the announcement at the Waterfront Theatre in Vancouver, in front of the set for Axis Theatre Company's production of *The Number 14*.

"*The Number 14* was supported by grants from the B.C. Arts Council and the Vancouver Foundation, and it was their contribution that allowed us to bring our dream to fruition," said Axis Theatre Company Artistic director Wayne Specht. "Our play is the kind of work that can be developed with the support of a program like Arts Partners in Creative Development. It will give arts and cultural organizations the ability to focus on creating instead of fundraising."

For more information on Arts Partners in Creative Development, and to view the program guidelines, please visit www.ArtsPartners.ca.

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Arts Partners in Creative Development Quotations from partner representatives

Stan Hagen, Minister of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

“The Province is pleased to be a part of Arts Partners in Creative Development, which will bring significant new financial resources for the creation and development of artistic works,” said Tourism, Sport and the Arts Minister Stan Hagen. “This is an exciting new funding program that will not only benefit communities, but will create permanent artistic legacies that will raise the profile of arts and culture in British Columbia on a national and international level.”

Sam Sullivan, Mayor of Vancouver

“Vancouver, with more artists per capita than any other major city in Canada, is bursting with creative potential,” noted Mayor Sam Sullivan. “Our Council is very committed to supporting arts and culture and has done so through increased investments. We expect that through this new program we will engage artists and audiences in the type of compelling new work that makes Vancouver a creative city.”

Amir Ali Alibhai, board member, Canada Council for the Arts/Conseil des Arts du Canada

“As a national funding agency, the Canada Council recognizes the valuable contribution B.C. artists and arts organizations make to Canada’s artistic landscape. I would like to thank our B.C. partners for showing leadership in developing this initiative; together, we will make a significant investment in the exciting work of B.C.’s artists, work that will be experienced and enjoyed not only by audiences in B.C., but also across Canada and internationally.”

Faye Wightman, president and CEO of Vancouver Foundation

“Each year Vancouver Foundation contributes more than \$4 million across the province to arts and culture organizations working to expand our minds and enrich our lives,” said Faye Wightman, Vancouver Foundation president and CEO. “We are pleased to partner in this new program that will create new arts and cultural legacies for the province. This is an initiative that all British Columbians can be excited about.”

Bruce Dewar, CEO of 2010 Legacies Now

“This new program is an example of what we can accomplish when we work together,” said Bruce Dewar, CEO of 2010 Legacies Now. “Arts Partners in Creative Development will encourage the creation of artistic works that will benefit our province for years to come.”

John Furlong, VANOC CEO

“This initiative is a wonderful testament to the power of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to serve as a catalyst for partnership building, community development and the creation of lasting legacies,” said John Furlong, VANOC CEO. “The Cultural Olympiad offers us a world stage on which to share and showcase our distinct cultures. Through arts and culture we can truly communicate British Columbia’s story and share our creativity with the world.”

Arts Partners in Creative Development Partner organizations and background on The Number 14

Province of B.C.

The Province of British Columbia supports arts and culture through the funding of a variety of programs and organizations, including the British Columbia Arts Council, the Spirit of British Columbia Arts Fund and 2010 Legacies Now. Through the British Columbia Arts Council, the Province has provided over \$130 million in funding to assist artists and arts and cultural organizations throughout British Columbia. For more information, please visit www.gov.bc.ca.

City of Vancouver

The City works to ensure Vancouver's future as a creative city, open and accessible to artists, to the broadest range of artistic expression, and to the widest participation. The City of Vancouver's cultural goals include promoting a high level of creativity, diversity and excellence in the cultural life of Vancouver.

Canada Council for the Arts/Conseil des Arts du Canada

The Canada Council for the Arts is a national arm's-length agency created by an Act of Parliament in 1957. According to the Canada Council Act, the role of the council is "to foster and promote the study and enjoyment of, and the production of works in, the arts." The Council offers a broad range of grants and services to professional Canadian artists and arts organizations in dance, interdisciplinary and performance art, media arts, music, theatre, visual arts, and writing and publishing. It also promotes public awareness of the arts through its communications, research and arts promotion activities. 2007 marks the Canada Council's 50th anniversary.

Vancouver Foundation

As Canada's largest community foundation, Vancouver Foundation is committed to linking donors with opportunities to strengthen B.C. communities, responding to the changing needs of charitable organizations and providing leadership on critical community issues. Through the growth and stewardship of more than 1,000 endowment funds, each year Vancouver Foundation distributes \$40 million to hundreds of non-profit organizations across the province. For more information, please visit www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca

2010 Legacies Now

2010 Legacies Now is a not-for-profit society that works in partnership with community organizations, non-government organizations, the private sector and all levels of government to develop sustainable legacies in sport and recreation, arts, literacy and volunteerism. 2010 Legacies Now actively assists communities to discover and create unique and inclusive social and economic opportunities leading up to and beyond the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. For more information, please visit www.2010LegaciesNow.com.

VANOC

VANOC is responsible for the planning, organizing, financing and staging of the XXI Olympic Winter Games and the X Paralympic Winter Games in 2010. The 2010 Olympic Winter Games will be staged in Vancouver and Whistler from February 12 to 28, 2010. Vancouver and Whistler will host the Paralympic Winter Games from March 12 to 21, 2010.

About The Number 14

The Number 14 is an award-winning show featuring some of Canada's finest physical theatre performers in an action-packed comic adventure set aboard the number 14 bus in Vancouver. The play was created as a co-production between Axis Theatre Company and Touchstone Theatre in 1992 for a short B.C. tour and a two-and-a-half-week run at the 125-seat Firehall Arts Centre in Vancouver. Since Axis Theatre has become sole producer of the show, it has been performed more than 1,100 times to more than 300,000 people around the world. The Number 14 has toured across Canada, the U.S.A., Hong Kong, Japan, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium Austria, Italy, Denmark, Finland and Israel. The next stop for the Number 14 is New York City, where it opens on Broadway at the New Victory Theatre on March 30, 2007.