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## **B.C. First Nations and Aboriginal Artists and Arts Organizations Awarded AADA Grants**

BRENTWOOD BAY – The First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council (the First Peoples' Council) today announced that the Aboriginal Arts Development Awards (AADA) program has this year awarded 47 grants totaling \$540,000 to Aboriginal and First Nations artists and organizations working in all artistic disciplines across the province.

Proposals are accepted annually from First Nations and Aboriginal artists, organizations and established collectives that have a demonstrated commitment to their practice in any artistic discipline—visual, music, dance, theatre, literary or media and including the contemporary practice of traditionally based forms.

“This year is a hallmark of creative excellence and the continuation of strong artistic expressions from First Nations artists,” said Dr. Lorna Williams, Chair of the at the First Peoples' Council Board. “Each year the quality of the proposals we receive increases, which demonstrates the growing capacity of Aboriginal arts administration in B.C.”

Since 1996, the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council's Arts Program has delivered the AADA grants through a partnership with the BC Arts Council. With continued support from the BC Arts Council and a significant investment from the New Relationship Trust, this longstanding program is a primary source of support for the unique expressions of B.C.'s First Nations artists.

“We are proud that our longstanding partnership with the First Peoples' Council has funded so many exceptional artists and organizations,” said Jane Danzo, Chair of the BC Arts Council Board. “Over the years, we have seen many emerging First Nations artists receive AADA funding and go on to have long and auspicious careers.”

“The New Relationship Trust is pleased to contribute to the AADA program to assist with the development of First Nations arts administrators, cultural managers and the transmission of culturally based arts,” said Kathryn Teneese, Chair of the New Relationship Trust Board. “The AADA programs help to build communities' capacity in arts and culture development and intergenerational transmission.”

The AADA grants can help emerging artists develop their skills and portfolios, which often allows them to pursue full-time arts careers.

“Without the continued financial support for my art, I would not be able to move forward as an artist,” said Kristi Lane Sinclair, AADA grant recipient, Emerging Individual Artist 2010. “The AADA program has provided me with the opportunity to create marketing tools, music videos and the chance for my artistic practice to gain momentum with the public without compromising my unique musical identity.”

First Nations artists and organizations are invited to find out more about the recipients of the 2010 Aboriginal Arts Development Awards grants by visiting [www.fphlcc.ca/arts](http://www.fphlcc.ca/arts).

Deadlines for the 2010 awards are in October.

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**About the First Peoples’ Heritage, Language and Culture Council:**

The First Peoples’ Council is a B.C. Crown corporation with the mandate to support First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts, cultures and heritage. The First Peoples’ Council has distributed more than \$20 million to BC Aboriginal communities over the past 20 years. For more information, please visit [www.fphlcc.ca](http://www.fphlcc.ca).

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