



2018 B.C. Budget Submission

Summary

The BC Museums Association (BCMA) is pleased provide a summary of funding needs for BC museums as the Province develops its 2018 budget.

BC's museum sector delivers a huge range of benefits to British Columbians – powering our economy through jobs and tourism, educating citizens of all ages, safeguarding and interpreting our province's rich history and culture and bringing community members together to create dialogue and understanding around important issues like reconciliation, diversity and inclusion, just to name a few.

Key areas of need for museums include increased funding for core operations and programming, stable and ongoing support for infrastructure projects, an annual fund that invests in collaboration between B.C. museums and First Nations communities, a more accessible granting system and stronger investment in the BC Museums Association as a service organization for the sector.

The BC Museums Association and our 400+ members are truly excited to see a commitment to doubling BC Arts Council funding and investing in arts and cultural infrastructure in the mandate letter for the Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture. Following through on these promises and ensuring the needs of museums are addressed through the Province's arts and culture programs will ensure a bright future for B.C.'s museums and the communities who depend on them.

Our organization and membership

The BC Museums Association (BCMA), founded in 1957, represents over 400 members across British Columbia, including museums, art galleries, archives, historic sites, First Nations cultural centres, science centres and related organizations located throughout B.C. We are a provincially incorporated non-profit society and a registered charitable organization that works to create a bright future for BC's museum, gallery and heritage sector through networking, advocacy, innovation and professional development. The organization is led by a 13-member volunteer Board of Directors (the BCMA Council), supported by small professional staff and volunteer committees.

We work in partnership with a range of stakeholders to support the growth and development of the museums, culture and heritage in B.C. Of particular note is our partnership with the Province. BCMA is successfully administering the British Columbia | Canada 150: Celebrating B.C. Communities and their Contributions to Canada program (hereafter referred to as the BC-Canada 150 grant program), which has resulted in \$7.6 million distributed through 221 grants in 150 communities, creating a lasting legacy for British Columbians and strengthening B.C.'s museums, First Nations and heritage communities. There were 416 applications totaling more than \$24 million in requests for this program, including many

excellent projects that we were not able to support. And BCMA is doing more than just administering the grants - we are also building capacity in the sector. BCMA legacy activities focus on strengthening the museum sector, increasing collaboration among stakeholders, engaging First Nations and building our own organizational capacity to be a strong service organization for the industry.


Why invest in museums?

Arts, culture and heritage are a resource which can strengthen our communities in so many ways. We know that the Province must make tough decisions about spending priorities across a range of critical issues. The important thing to know is that every dollar invested in museums and culture is paid back many times over through economic, social, cultural, educational and other benefits to communities. The current investment in B.C.'s museums is delivering huge benefits for British Columbians, creating:

- Transformative arts, cultural, heritage experiences for citizens of all ages;
- Welcoming spaces of belonging, dialogue and understanding for community members from all backgrounds and abilities;
- Jobs, skills training, tourism and economic activity in urban and rural communities across the province and a stronger national and international profile for B.C.;
- Contributions to repatriation and reconciliation by working with First Nations communities to recognize and share the unique histories and experiences of Indigenous peoples and by participating in the respectful return of ancestral remains and cultural belongings. Culture is a spark for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities. As a powerful avenue for sharing the truth of our history, it creates a process for fostering understanding, respect and meaningful relationships moving forward;
- Opportunities for youth, especially at-risk youth, to succeed in school, work and later in life.

Key facts about BC museums

B.C.'s museums, art galleries, science centres, aquariums, historic sites, cultural centres and other memory institutions are keepers of legacy, places of learning, and drivers for the economic and social well-being of our communities. They connect people to collections, to information, to ideas and to each other.

- More than 400+ BCMA members across all regions of B.C.
 - Museums attract 8.6 million annual visitors, with an additional 21 million online visits to museums' digital collections and programming
 - Museums generate approximately \$213 million in annual revenue
 - More than 4,000 people are employed by B.C. museums
 - Over 21,000 volunteers provide over 1 million hours of volunteer work each year.
 - 20,348 school groups visited B.C. museums in 2013
 - The collections of B.C. museums include over 4 million artifacts and objects, 663,896 linear meters of textual records, close to 12 million graphic materials, over 53,000 natural history/scientific specimens, 36,307 hours of film, video and sound recordings and 2,093 permanent exhibitions.
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What do museums need?

Funding levels that are among the lowest in the country are preventing B.C.'s museums and other arts and cultural organizations from achieving their goals and delivering more benefits to B.C. communities. Our members are resourceful and resilient, passionate about serving their province and masterful at galvanizing community support and finding ways to do more with less. Yet the reality is that many museums are struggling to realize their potential due to a lack of resources, limited staff, facilities that are in need of repair and the need for increased capacity in key areas like fundraising, marketing, collections management and community partnerships.

What is needed is stable and increasing provincial funding to help the sector reach its full potential. Museum workers and volunteers need training opportunities and better working conditions. Museums want to attract private sector support and more visitors. They want to strengthen relations with local First Nations. They want to maintain and expand their facilities to preserve and showcase the important art, artifacts, records and irreplaceable treasures that tell the story of our great province for the citizens of today and generations to come.

It's also important to acknowledge that many museums struggle to access existing funding programs. While some museums receive support from the Province, many excellent organizations do not. We hear again and again that smaller, regional museums and cultural centres outside Vancouver and Victoria are struggling to access provincial funding due to onerous and complex application processes, limited funding and a system that favours established organizations, with little room for newcomers.

Investing in B.C. museums

- 1. The top priority for B.C. museums is increased funding for core programming and operations.** B.C. has not kept pace with arts funding in other provinces and 88% of our members identified increasing core funding (e.g. operating assistance) as their top priority in a recent survey. Overworked, under-paid staff and volunteer burnout are commonplace, and organizations are missing opportunities to build audiences, serve communities, connect with First Nations and increase their financial sustainability.

Recommendations:

- **Increase the amount of funding available to museums through BC Arts Council operating assistance grants.** Larger operating assistance grants to more organizations will deliver a strong return on investment for museums and communities. While project grants serve an important role in the system, funding for core operations and programming is badly needed by museums across the province and should be the primary focus for any new investments in BC Arts Council programs for museums and related organizations.
- **Ensure accessibility for small organizations and new applicants.** It is essential that all provincial funding programs be designed (or re-designed) to be accessible to organizations of all sizes and capacity levels, from established organizations with professional staff to volunteer and community-run facilities that may lack grant-writing skills or face other

barriers such as language, culture or geography that prevent them from achieving success in current funding programs.

- **Partner with the BC Museums Association to better meet the needs of small museums, First Nations cultural centres and other under-served groups.** Museums want grant-makers who understand the specialized needs of their field and can provide advice and support throughout the granting cycle. We saw from the BC-Canada 150 grant program that dedicated, industry-led support made it possible for small organizations, First Nations communities and culturally diverse applicants to successfully access this provincial funding program. The BC Museums Association is here as a resource to government and the BC Arts Council and we are enthusiastic about sharing information and partnering on outreach and program delivery to create benefits for our sector and for British Columbians.

2. **Infrastructure funding is needed to safeguard collections and expand public access to B.C. museums.** BCMA is very pleased to see that funding for arts and cultural infrastructure is included in Minister Beare's mandate. Museums large and small in all regions of B.C. will benefit from an ongoing provincial infrastructure funding program that helps them maintain their facilities and complete capital projects to make these spaces safe, welcoming, accessible and inclusive to all.

Recommendation: Introduce infrastructure funding as soon as possible to help museums complete capital projects and facility improvements and leverage other sources of funding from federal and municipal governments and private sector supporters.

3. **B.C. museums are uniquely positioned to support reconciliation by working with First Nations communities to recognize the unique histories and experiences of Indigenous peoples and by participating in the respectful return of ancestral remains and cultural belongings.** All that is needed to advance these goals is an investment that can help museums and First Nations communities work together.

Recommendation: Create a new annual fund valued at approximately \$500,000 to \$1 million a year to help museums and other memory institutions engage with First Nations communities to advance reconciliation. The BCMA's new Indigenous Advisory Committee – comprised of leaders from B.C.'s First Nations and from museums that have shown excellence and innovation in working with Indigenous communities and includes representation from the First Peoples Cultural Council, the Royal BC Museum and the Indigenous Heritage Circle – could support the adjudication of applications to this fund. The program could be effectively administered through the proven expertise and capacity of BCMA's staff and Council, or co-administered with other GLAM sector (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums), heritage or arts and culture stakeholders to broaden its reach.

4. **Continue to invest in the BC Museums Association so we can be a strong service organization for the arts and culture sector.** Capacity building is necessary for B.C. museums to reach their

full potential and we are grateful to the Province for investing in our organization through the BC Arts Council, Community Gaming Grants and with one-time funding through BC-Canada 150 grant program. However, like many arts service organizations in B.C., we face a funding gap that limits our ability to provide the programs and services we know are needed to ensure a thriving arts and culture sector in B.C.

Recommendations:

- Increase funding available to Arts Service Organizations through the BC Arts Council's Operating Assistance program.
- Increase funding dedicated to Arts Service Organizations through Community Gaming Grants.

- 5. Reduce the administrative burden of provincial funding programs for museums and all arts and culture organizations.** The time and money spent by museums and other arts and cultural organizations on applying for provincial grants is extremely high and presents a significant barrier to the success of these organizations and their ability to deliver benefits to British Columbians.

Recommendations:

- Streamlined application processes and multi-year funding options for BC Arts Council and Community Gaming Grants and any new programs will go a long way in relieving the administrative burden placed on applicants through the funding system. This will deliver huge benefits to BCMA members and the arts and culture sector as a whole by allowing limited staff and volunteer resources to be better directed toward programming and other community benefits.
- Simple forms, realistic reporting requirements, grant writing workshops and more outreach to marginalized and diverse communities are all needed to bring equity into the funding system.
- Invest in sector-specific expertise and program delivery options to provide specialized support, build sector capacity and be more responsive to the unique needs of museums and other arts and culture sub-sectors.

Key contacts

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BC Museums Association Members

The BC Museums Association represents over 400 members located in communities across British Columbia, including the institutions and organizations listed below.

100 Mile House & District Historical Society
15th Field Artillery Regiment Museum and Archives Society
Aboriginal Tourism Association of BC
Agassiz-Harrison Historical Society
Alberni Valley Museum
AldrichPears Associates Ltd
Andornot Consulting Inc
André & Associates Interpretation & Design Ltd.
Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior
Armstrong-Spallumcheen Museum & Arts Society
Arrow Lakes Historical Society Archives
Art Gallery of Greater Victoria
Ashcroft Museum
Atchelitz Threshermen's Association
Balfour & District Business & Historic Association
Bank of Canada Museum
Barkerville Historic Town
BC Farm Museum
BC Hydro Visitor Centres
BC Regiment (DCO) Museum
BC Sports Hall of Fame and Museum
Beaty Biodiversity Museum
Bella Coola Valley Museum Society
Bill Godden Finger Labyrinth Museum
Bill Reid Gallery of Northwest Coast Art
Boundary Museum & Interpretive Centre
Bowen Heritage
Bowen Island Museum & Archives
Bralorne Pioneer Museum
Britannia Mine Museum
Bulkley Valley Historical Society & Museum
Burnaby Art Gallery

Burnaby Village Museum
Burns Lake Native Development Corporation
Caetani Cultural Centre
Canada Science and Technology Museums Corporation
Canadian Country Music Heritage Society
Canadian Heritage Information Network
Canadian Lacrosse Hall of Fame
Canadian Museum of Flight
Canadian Museum of History
Carr McLean
Central BC Railway and Forestry Museum
CFB Chilliwack Historical Society
CFB Esquimalt Naval and Military Museum
Chase & District Museum & Archives Society
Chemainus Valley Historical Society
Cherryville & Area Historical Society
Chilliwack Museum and Archives
City of Maple Ridge
Clinton Museum
Comox Air Force Museum
Comox Archives & Museum Society
Coquitlam Heritage Society/Mackin House Museum
Cornerstone Planning Group
Corporation of Delta
Cortes Island Museum & Archives Society
Costume Museum at Government House
Courtenay & District Museum & Palaeontology Centre
Cowichan Valley Museum
Cowichan Wooden Boat Society
Craigdarroch Castle
Cranbrook History Centre
Creston & District Museum and Archives

Cumberland Museum & Archives
Dawson Creek Art Gallery (South Peace Arts Society)
Delta Museum and Archives Society
Denman Island Seniors & Museum Society
Donald Luxton & Associates Inc.
Dickens British Museum
Doukhobor Discovery Centre
Egmont Heritage Centre (Skookumchuk Heritage Society)
Enderby & District Museum Society
The Esquimalt Municipal Archives
Fernie & District Historical Society Museum
Foothills Systems & Gaylord Archival
Fort Langley National Historic Site of Canada
Fort Nelson Historical Society
Fort St. John - North Peace Museum
Fraser River Discovery Centre
Fraser Valley Heritage Railway Society
Friends of Walhachin Society
Friesens Corporation
Gabriola Historical & Museum Society
Gallery 2 (Grand Forks Art Gallery)
Galiano Island Museum Society
Godden Finger Labyrinth Museum
Golden & District Museum & Historical Society
Granisle Info Centre & Museum
Greater Vancouver Japanese Canadian Citizens' Association
Greater Vernon Museum and Archives
Greater Victoria Sports Hall of Fame
Greenwood Heritage Society, Museum & Info Centre
Grunt Gallery
Gulf of Georgia Cannery National Historic Site
Haida Gwaii Museum
Hedley Heritage Museum Society
Heritage Park Museum

Hi-Cube Storage Products
Historic O'Keefe Ranch
Hli Goolth Wilp-Adokhl Nisga'a - Nisga'a Museum
Hope Museum
Hope & District Arts Council
Hornby Island Natural History Centre
Huble Homestead/Giscome Portage Heritage Society
Island Mountain Arts Society
Italian Cultural Centre Museum
Jewish Historical Society of BC
Kaatza Historical Society
Kamloops Art Gallery
Kamloops Museum & Archives
Kelowna Museums Society
Kilby Historic Site
Kitimat Museum & Archives
Lac la Hache Historical Society
Ladysmith & District Historical Society
Ladysmith Maritime Society
Lake Country Museum
Lakes District Museum Society
Langham Cultural Society
Langley Centennial Museum & National Exhibition Centre
Lillooet Museum & Visitor Centre
Lucidea
Lytton Museum and Archives
Macdonald & Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd.
Mackenzie & District Museum
Mackin House Museum/Coquitlam Heritage Society
The Mackie Lake House Foundation
Maple Ridge Historical Society
Maritime Heritage Gallery and Discovery Centre
Maritime Museum of BC
Mennonite Heritage Museum
Metzger Collection
Michel-Natal-Sparwood Heritage Society

Mission Museum
Miyazaki House
Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery
Moyie Community Association
MSA Museum, Trethewey House
Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology at SFU
Museum at Campbell River
Museum of the Cariboo Chilcotin
Museum of Vancouver
Nakusp & District Museum Society
Nanaimo Art Gallery-VIU Campus
Nanaimo Art Gallery-Downtown
Nanaimo Museum
Naramata Heritage Museum Society
New Westminster Museum and Archives
Nicola Valley Heritage Society
Nicola Valley Museum Archives Association
Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre
Nk'mip Desert & Heritage Centre
North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site
North Vancouver Museum
Northern Secwepemc Cultural Centre
Northeast Aboriginal Business Centre
Nuyumbalees Cultural Centre
Oak Bay Archives
Okanagan Military Museum Society
O'Keefe Ranch & Interior Heritage Society
Old Hastings Mill Store Museum
Oliver & District Heritage Society
Osoyoos Museum Society
PACART (Pacific Art Services Ltd.)
Parksville & District Historical Society
Pemberton & District Museum & Archives Society
Pender Harbour Living Heritage Society
Pender Islands Museum Society
Penticton Art Gallery
Penticton Museum and Archives
Point Ellice House
Pitt Meadows Heritage & Museum Society
Port Clements Museum

Port Coquitlam Heritage & Cultural Society
Port Hardy Museum and Archives
Port Moody Station Museum
Pouce Coupe Museum and Historical Society
Powell River Historical Museum & Archives Association
Princeton & District Museum & Archives Society
Presentation House Gallery
The Protection Island Cultural Historical Society
Qualicum Beach Historical & Museum Society
The Quesnel and District Heritage Association
Quesnel & District Museum & Archives
The Reach Gallery Museum Abbotsford
Regional District of Mount Waddington
Revelstoke Museum & Archives
Richmond Museum & Heritage Services
Richmond Olympic Experience
Robert Bateman Centre
Roedde House Preservation Society
Ross Bay Villa Historic House Museum
Rossland Historical Museum
Royal BC Museum
Royal Jubilee Hospital School of Nursing Archives/Museum
Royal Roads University Archives
Royal Roads University- School of Tourism
The Royal Westminster Regiment Historical Society Museum
Rungh Cultural Society
Saanich Archives
Saanich Pioneer Society
Salt Spring Farmers Heritage Foundation
Satellite Video Exchange Society (VIVO Media Arts Centre)
Sea to Sky Forestry Centre Society
Science World British Columbia

Seaforth Highlanders of Canada Museum
and Archives
Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea
Shawnigan Lake Museum
Sidney Museum & Archives
Sikh Heritage Museum
Simon Fraser University Art Gallery
Snc'wips Heritage Museum
Sooke Region Museum
South Peace Historical Society & Archive
South Similkameen Museum Society
SPARC Vintage Radio Museum
SS Sicamous Marine Heritage Society
Summerland Museum & Heritage Society
Sunshine Coast Museum & Archives
Surrey Art Gallery
Surrey Museum
Terrace Art Gallery
Texada Island Museums
The Alberni Project - HMCS Alberni
Memorial and Exhibit
The Exploration Place
Touchstones Nelson Museum of Art and
History
Trail Museum
Tumbler Ridge Museum Foundation
Two Rivers Gallery
UBC Museum of Anthropology
U'Mista Museum

University of Victoria Legacy Art Galleries
Valemount & Area Museum
Valley Museum & Archives Society
Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre
Vancouver Art Gallery Association
Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre
Vancouver International Bhangra
Celebration
Vancouver Island Military Museum
Vancouver Island University - Museum of
Natural History
Vancouver Maritime Museum Society
Vancouver Naval Museum & Heritage
Society
Vancouver Police Museum
Vanderhoof Community Museum &
Historical
Vernon Public Art Gallery
Village/Nechako Valley Historical Society
Wells Historical Society
West Coast Railway Heritage Park
West Vancouver Museum
Westbank Museum and Arts & Crafts
Society
Whistler Museum & Archives Society
White Rock Museum & Archives
Williams Lake Museum & Historical Society
Yale Historic Site

