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**BC Museums Association to Launch BCMA Resilience Grants for Museums, Art Galleries, and Cultural Heritage Organizations**

The BC Museums Association (BCMA), with the support of the B.C. government, is launching a new micro-grant program to help museums, art galleries, heritage organizations, and Indigenous cultural centres across the province during the COVID-19 shutdowns. This program will provide one-time micro-grants of either \$2,000 or \$4,000 to cultural organizations in financial need.

Applications to the BCMA Resilience Grants will open April 27, 2020 and organizations will be able to assess their eligibility and submit a short application through the BCMA's website ([museumsassn.bc.ca](http://museumsassn.bc.ca)).

"Museums are gathering places in our communities and we want these cultural institutions to be able to come back strong when this is over. These micro-grants will help museums meet their immediate needs so they can continue to serve communities in the future," said Lisa Beare, Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

Micro-grants will be open to member organizations who have not received relief funding through the BC Arts Council's Arts and Culture Resilience Supplement. Organizations can use the funds to retain contractors or staff, purchase equipment/software to help get their collections online, or to assist with budget shortfalls due to cancelled programs or events.

"Museums have made tremendous progress in creating sustainable business models in the past decade, but these business models depend on ticket sales and admission donations," said Ryan Hunt, Executive Director of the BCMA. "With this program, we're hoping to provide museums immediate access to critically needed funds to help their organizations weather an unprecedented storm."

As many museums and cultural organizations are shifting their programs and exhibits online, the BCMA, in partnership with [Arts BC](http://ArtsBC), have launched [CultureOnline.ca](http://CultureOnline.ca) – an online directory of streaming events, programs and digital resources that allow British Columbians to experience culture from the comfort, and safety, of their own homes.

Organization who wish to determine their eligibility for a BCMA Resilience grant, can visit: <http://museumsassn.bc.ca/resilience>. Community members who wish to support B.C.'s museum and cultural heritage sector are encouraged to visit [www.cultureonline.ca](http://www.cultureonline.ca) and explore hundreds of free events from museums, art galleries, and cultural organizations around the province.

For additional information and media enquiries please contact:

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