

From: TCA.Minister@gov.bc.ca
Subject: Arts Funding
Date: 4 August 2009 6:25:33 PM
To: dir@imaa.ca

Ref: 25421

Jennifer Dorner
Independent Media Arts Alliance
3995 Berri
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Email: dir@imaa.ca

Dear Jennifer Dorner:

Thank you for taking the time to write me. I understand your concerns about the future of arts and culture funding in British Columbia. What this community provides our province is tremendously important to British Columbians and our Government. Government is in the difficult position of having to make extremely tough decisions in response to the current economy. I recently met with the BC Arts Council and we discussed these realities. I assure you that as the Minister responsible for arts and culture, I welcome the opportunity to work with arts and culture organizations in managing the challenges we face in British Columbia.

Since 2001, the Government has provided over \$124 million to assist artists and arts and cultural organizations throughout British Columbia. In addition, Government has established vital funding programs to support British Columbia's arts and culture sector, including the BC150 Cultural Fund, a \$150 million permanent endowment in honour of the 150th anniversary of British Columbia as a Crown colony. Revenues earned by this endowment will be used to support arts and culture throughout the Province.

Another program, established in the fall of 2005, was the British Columbia Arts Renaissance Fund (BCARF). The fund was a \$25 million endowment matching program to assist British Columbia's non-profit arts and culture organizations to build permanent endowment funds by providing matching grants up to \$350,000 per year. This has provided 215 successful endowment matches totaling \$24.7 million, resulting in permanent capital endowments of more than \$55 million, while establishing 61 new funds.

I am aware and concerned that decisions affecting the arts and cultural sector will impact individual artists, arts organizations and communities. With that in mind, we will provide updates to ensure the arts and cultural community is kept informed as we work together to find creative ways to build a strong foundation for the future.

Sincerely,

Kevin Krueger
Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Arts