



NEW Public Art Grants Program

Communities in the Columbia Basin already benefit from spectacular natural surroundings. Now they have the opportunity to enhance their aesthetic values by increasing the presence of public art. This is thanks to a new three-year, \$750,000 program from Columbia Basin Trust, called Public Art Grants...[full story](#)



Mentors Inspire Youth to be Entrepreneurial

The Trust has partnered with JA British Columbia to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in local youth and inspire community mentors through a unique program, Be Entrepreneurial...[full story](#)



Solar Panels to Power Up in Balfour

Recent energy retrofits have made three community buildings in Balfour more energy-efficient, cost-effective and comfortable for users. Now the groups that own these buildings will go a step further by installing solar panels on their roofs...[full story](#)



Ramping Up High-Speed Internet

Now, with an underwater fibre optic cable connecting Balfour, Kaslo and points in between, residents, businesses and local governments there and beyond can benefit from high-speed internet...[full story](#)



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If your organization is looking to make capital improvements to an arts and culture venue, this grant program may be for you. The second intake is now open. Apply by September 13, 2018...[full story](#)



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Art Goes Public Thanks to New Trust Program

News: April 24, 2018



Columbia Basin Trust commits \$750,000 to help communities increase public art

(Columbia Basin) – Communities in the Columbia Basin already benefit from spectacular natural surroundings. Now they have the opportunity to enhance their aesthetic values by increasing the presence of public art. This is thanks to a new three-year, \$750,000 program from Columbia Basin Trust, called Public Art Grants.

With support from these grants, Basin communities can purchase and install original works of fixed art. These may include artworks like murals, sculptures or mosaics, and must be created by Basin artists. They must be installed in well-travelled spaces that are accessible by all.

The program will enable the public to interact more with art, helping expand the impact of the arts in the region. It will also support and profile Basin artists.

“Public art benefits residents and visitors by creating a vibrant atmosphere,” said Wayne Lundeberg, Columbia Basin Trust Strategic Advisor. “Public art makes our communities more engaging, enhances our economies and adds to quality of life. It also helps communities showcase local Basin-based artists.”

Basin arts councils, local governments and First Nations are eligible to apply. The grant will fund up to 80 per cent of the cost of the artwork and installation, to a maximum of \$30,000. The application deadline for this year’s intake is June 28, 2018. Learn more at ourtrust.org/publicart.

This program is the latest way the Trust has addressed its arts and culture strategy, and its arts, culture and heritage strategic priority. The Trust also offers an [Arts and Culture Venue Grant](#), which opens for its second intake on April 26, and is continuing its long-term commitment to its popular Arts

and Culture Program, delivered by the Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance. Learn more at ourtrust.org/artscultureheritage.

PHOTO:

(Left): “Osprey” by Denis Kleine in Nelson’s Lakeside Park. Photo by David R. Gluns Photography, supplied by City of Nelson.

(Middle): “Colours of Nelson: A Mural Project” by numerous Basin artists at Lakeside Park bridge underpass. Photo by David R. Gluns Photography, supplied by City of Nelson.

(Right): “Share the Road” by Alexis Mainland in Castlegar. Photo by Adrian Wagner.



Mentors Inspire Youth to be Entrepreneurial

News: April 9, 2018



Business professionals give back to their community by investing their time in young learners.

The Trust has partnered with JA British Columbia (JABC) to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit in local youth and inspire community mentors through Be Entrepreneurial. The program is facilitated by local business people who bring their expertise into the classroom at the invitation of a host teacher.

JABC Mentor Jennifer Barclay steps away from her regular duties as a workshop facilitator for Kootenay Career Development Society to deliver the interactive curriculum on self-employment, financial literacy and work readiness, most recently to Stanley Humphries Secondary students.

“I’d love to see more business people doing this because it gives kids the opportunity to connect with people in their community who are making a difference, building things, and introducing new products and ideas. I want this generation to get excited about where they live and about the opportunities that exist here for them, and this program is a great platform for that,” said Jennifer. “It’s very heartening that there is a program like this that supports kids in rural communities.”

The curriculum, presented in a group setting, draws on collaboration and innovation. Jen appreciated the students’ ability to tap into ideas enthusiastically, without hesitation or creative restriction. Her own passion had her formerly running Fattoria Local Foods, which followed the principles of the 100 Mile Diet and sold humanely raised meat, sourced from farms in the nearby Creston Valley, to the community of Nelson.

“I had a lot to share because my business wasn’t successful in the end – you can learn just as much from that, if not more,” she said. “I didn’t succeed because I didn’t identify my weaknesses: working alone, being organized and the financials. It’s just as important to be able to identify your weaknesses as it is your strengths, so that you can enlist help.”

She was pleased to participate in a program that gives students an understanding of the important role planning plays in starting a business by identifying and examining entrepreneurial concepts, including product, service, competitive advantage and target market.

Coaching students to develop and pitch their own business is guided by the program materials and in-depth training but personalized by the mentor, who shares real life stories in an engaging and memorable way.

Getting real and connecting with youth was refreshing and inspiring for Jen, who has a relaxed disposition she attributes to her varied background. Jen holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, which she draws on in her current role with KCDS in Castlegar. There she conducts employment workshops that focus on resume and cover letter building, job searching and interview prep, the Myers Briggs' personality test, and, her personal favourite, one that tackles the importance of self-esteem.

“Being unemployed can be so hard on people’s self-confidence and self-esteem. Ironically, it’s a time when you’re expected to go out and sell yourself,” she adds. By imparting their knowledge, volunteers like Jen give students the confidence they need to find success in both business and life by challenging students to examine their strengths and consider their futures within their community.

“I have friends from Castlegar and Nelson with kids who graduate and leave for university; they get out of dodge as soon as they can, which I understand and I support,” said Jennifer. “But I also like the idea of inspiring youth to invest in their community.”

Be Entrepreneurial is one of JABC’s free programs, available thanks to generous donations from supporters like the Trust.

JABC is a member of JA Canada and part of JA Worldwide (JA), the world’s largest not-for-profit organization dedicated to educating young people about business. Since 1955, British Columbia schools have partnered with JA to inspire and prepare youth to succeed in an ever-changing global economy. In the 2016-17 school year, over 38,000 BC students benefited from JABC programs delivered free of charge by volunteers from local business communities.

To volunteer to deliver a JABC program in your community, visit jabc.ca/volunteers. To request the Be Entrepreneurial Program for your school, check out jabc.ca/teachers.



Solar Panels to Power Up in Balfour

News: April 17, 2018



Columbia Basin Trust contributes \$70,000 to alternative energy project

(Columbia Basin) – Recent energy retrofits have made three community buildings in Balfour more energy-efficient, cost-effective and comfortable for users. Now the groups that own these buildings will go a step further by installing solar panels on their roofs. This move toward energy independence is being supported with \$70,000 from Columbia Basin Trust.

“Balfour was already advanced with this project when they approached the Trust,” said Kindy Gosal, Columbia Basin Trust Director, Special Initiatives. “They had already completed energy assessments and done the required retrofits to maximize efficiency before proceeding with adding renewable energy generation. That’s what we liked best about this: the work they had already completed that prepared them for the next step.”

Solar panels—specifically Solar Photo Voltaic systems—will be installed on the Balfour Seniors’ Centre (owned by the Balfour Seniors Association) and the Balfour Community Hall and Balfour Golf Course clubhouse (both owned by the Balfour Recreation Commission). These systems convert sunlight into electricity that can be used to heat and power the buildings, bring down utility bills and reduce the production of greenhouse gases (GHGs). If the Balfour systems generate extra electricity, they will sell it to Nelson Hydro.

Because these buildings are such important assets, the Regional District of Central Kootenay championed the project and will be funding it with over \$138,000 from the Federal Gas Tax Community Works Fund for Area E.

Ramona Faust, Director of Area E, said, “The idea is to get the buildings so they’re as energy efficient and expense-neutral as possible while emitting the lowest amount of GHGs. What personally excites me is the energy independence; for societies that operate on a really small budget, energy rates can

start to be really inhibitive. And we all benefit when we reduce our GHG emissions.”

Both Faust and the Trust see this process as a way for the use of renewable and alternative energy in the Basin to gain visibility and momentum, potentially inspiring other communities. Faust said, “I think these are very good projects, which use commercially available technologies. With their success, they could encourage others to consider solar in the future, and perhaps set the tone for how development takes place in Area E.”

The Trust has also helped install solar panels on other buildings in the region, including the Ktunaxa Nation Council’s government building in Cranbrook. Projects like these are one of the ways the Trust is helping communities and groups generate and conserve energy through renewable and alternative energy sources—one of its strategic priorities.

The Trust is developing a new energy sustainability program focused on community-purpose buildings, expected to launch this fall. The Trust also supports Accelerate Kootenays, which is creating a network of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the region (acceleratekootenays.ca), and recently concluded a \$2-million Energy Retrofit Program, which helped ensure affordable housing units are cost-effective and energy efficient (ourtrust.org/energyretrofit).

Columbia Basin Trust supports the ideas and efforts of the people in the Columbia Basin. To learn more about the Trust’s programs and initiatives, and how it helps deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the Basin, visit ourtrust.org or call 1.800.505.8998.

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PHOTO: Solar panels, like the ones show in the image provided, will be installed on three community-purpose buildings in Balfour. Photo credit Pembina Institute



Northern Kootenay Lake Ramps Up Its High-Speed Internet

News: April 12, 2018



Columbia Basin Trust uses underwater cable to connect rural communities to its broadband network

It was a novel approach—looking at a 36-kilometre stretch of northern Kootenay Lake as an opportunity, not a barrier, to the delivery of high-speed Internet. Now, with an underwater fibre optic cable connecting Balfour, Kaslo and points in between, residents, businesses and local governments there and beyond can benefit from faster and more reliable Internet services.

The project was managed by Columbia Basin Broadband Corporation (CBBC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Columbia Basin Trust, and supported by the Province of British Columbia through the Connecting British Columbia program. At Balfour, the cable connects to CBBC’s fibre optic broadband network, which extends more than 800 kilometres throughout the Columbia Basin. The cable then terminates in Kaslo, where service providers can access the network and deliver connections to customers.

“I’m so proud that the Province was able to support this project and help Columbia Basin Trust and Kaslo infoNet Society bring reliable high-speed Internet to the residents and businesses of the northern Kootenay Lake area,” said Minister of Citizens’ Services Jinny Sims. “By continuing to connect more of our rural communities, we ensure that no matter where they live, British Columbians can access key services like healthcare and education and participate in our growing digital economy.”

The northern Kootenay Lake area is mountainous and thickly forested, which made traditional Internet infrastructure difficult and expensive. The idea for an underwater cable was introduced by Kaslo’s local Internet service provider, the Kaslo infoNet Society. Now it and other providers in the area can connect their subscribers to the network through fibre optic and wireless connections and service speeds can be scaled to match growing consumer and business needs for decades to come.

“High-speed Internet is a game changer for families and workers in the communities of Kaslo and northern Kootenay Lake,” said Minister of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Nelson-Creston MLA Michelle Mungall. “The completion of this project will help our residents grow their businesses and stay connected with the world. The positive effects of this work will be felt in the communities for many years to come.”

“The world relies on the Internet, from working to schooling to shopping; it’s essential our region’s small communities and rural areas have access to the same opportunities,” said Dave Lampron, CBBC, Chief Operating Officer. “This project is a significant benefit to the people in Kaslo and area, and it has also made us and others in the telecommunications industry rethink large inland bodies of water. They don’t have to spell the end of the line. Instead, they can offer affordable pathways to connectivity.”

Residents and businesses are already seeing the benefits of the improved service. At the Kaslo Hotel, for example, guests are enjoying their stays more because of what they *don’t* notice anymore: slow speeds and crashes.

“Everyone is carrying a device now, so it’s important in the hospitality business to offer reliable, fast Internet for our guests,” said John Eckland, owner of the Kaslo Hotel. “Not only is the connection faster than before, but it stays that way during weekends and other peak times. Before it would have crashed, upsetting our guests. Thanks to this improved service, we can offer a better guest experience.”

Improved experiences like these leave visitors with fonder memories of their stay, which may have positive economic effects into the future.

For economic reasons like these and higher quality of life, Basin residents have told the Trust that high-speed Internet is a priority to them. That’s why, through CBBC, the Trust is committed to making high-speed connectivity available throughout the region. Learn more at broadband.ourtrust.org.

Columbia Basin Trust supports the ideas and efforts of the people in the Columbia Basin. To learn more about the Trust’s programs and initiatives, and how it helps deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the Basin, visit ourtrust.org or call 1.800.505.8998.

Connecting British Columbia is a program funded by the Province and administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust to expand and upgrade broadband connections in rural and remote communities throughout BC. For more information about the program check out www.northerndevelopment.bc.ca/connecting-british-columbia.

Quick Facts:

- The Trust provided \$445,160 toward the project and the Province contributed \$433,650 through the Connecting British Columbia program (administered by Northern Development Initiative Trust).
- The project will bring augmented high-speed Internet access to a population of approximately 2000 residents containing more than 100 businesses and 700 households within the surrounding area.
- The Kootenay Lake communities benefiting from the update include Balfour, Ainsworth, Charles Rd / Loki Lots, Pine Ridge Estates and Kaslo.
- The fibre offers potential speeds of 10 gigabits per second and beyond.



Arts and Culture Venue Grants



Charles Bailey Theatre, Trail BC. Photo by Ryan Flett Media

If your organization is looking to make capital improvements to an arts and culture venue, this grant program may be for you.

Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants include registered non-profits, public organizations, local governments and Indigenous organizations within the Columbia Basin Trust [region](#).

How to Apply

The Arts and Culture Venue Grant intake is now open. Deadline to apply is September 13, 2018 at 2:00p.m. PT/ 3:00p.m. MT

Please see the [Arts and Culture Venue Grants Application Guide](#).

Applicants are encouraged to contact us to receive project and application assistance with an advisor, email venuegrants@cbt.org or call 1.800.505.8998.

The application process is online for Public Art Grants. You will need to create an account. (If you have already created an account for a different Trust grant application, please use that account.) [Click here](#) to be directed to the Trust's online application site.

Using the Online Application Site:

1. If you're a first time user, you will need to create an account: ourtrust.org/applicationforms.
2. Once signed in, you can select the available program.
3. Download the [Application Guide](#) and [Worksheet](#) to assist you in gathering the information you will need to complete the application.
4. Click on 'Arts and Culture Venue Grants Application Form' to initiate your application. You may

save drafts and submit your completed application at any point before the deadline.

5. Once your application is complete click 'Submit'.
6. You will receive a confirmation email that your application has been received once you have clicked 'Submit'.

Past Projects

Here are examples of past projects that have been approved for grants:

- [Arts and Culture Grants – Winter 2017/18](#)