



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Guelph Community Foundation surprises the community today with more grants than expected as they kicked off Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> in Guelph**

**Thursday October 6, 2016 – For immediate release**

Community organizations from across Guelph gathered this morning at The River Run to find out who was selected to receive funding, as part of The Guelph Community Foundation community grants and the Community Fund for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>. It was originally anticipated that The Guelph Community Foundation would be announcing a total of \$160,000 in grants today, but due to the additional generosity of Foundation fund holders and the Board of Directors, **the amount granted today was \$204,970.68**

"This is an exciting day for the Guelph community", says Cyndy Moffat Forsyth, Chair of the Grants Committee at The Guelph Community Foundation. "As we approach Canada's sesquicentennial year, and with the collaboration with Community Foundations of Canada and the Government of Canada, we were able to support truly Canadian initiatives right here in Guelph". The call for applications included any community group who had ideas for programs and/or activities that would build, inspire and encourage people within our community. The ultimate goal was to work together to create impact at a grassroots level, investing in the qualities and services that define Guelph and ultimately Canada.

"The Community Grants for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> allowed us to inject additional grant dollars into our community granting program", says Chris Willard, Executive Director at The Guelph Community Foundation. "We were blown away when our Board of Directors and some of our fund holders allocated additional funds". A total of 28 charitable organizations were selected and announced today as part of the community-building grants at The Guelph Community Foundation and the Community Fund for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup>. "This is when the real work begins" says Willard. "The community groups we support are the hard working feet-on-the-street heroes that will now bring their amazing activities and programs to life. These are the people who work together to create impact as we invest in the qualities and service that define Guelph and ultimately Canada".

As part of the celebration today, Musagetes grant recipients were also announced. The organizations that were selected showed new approaches to building community and culture through partnerships that provide a connection to social justice, environmental resilience and/or intercultural relationships. There were 9 grants awarded, totalling \$42,000. The Musagetes fund is a donor-advised fund within The Guelph Community Foundation and acts as a catalyst for the ongoing production and enjoyment of performing, visual and literary arts excellence in Guelph and area. With the help of The Guelph Community Foundation, the Fund promises to make a meaningful and lasting contribution for our community's benefit and our arts scene.

Congratulations to all grant recipients!

[A full list of all Musagetes grant recipients can be found on the following page.](#)

For more information about the Guelph Community Foundation, contact:

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## **THE 2016 MUSAGETES GRANT PROGRAM RECIPIENTS: \$42,000**

### Art Gallery of Guelph

#### ***A Sense of Wonder***

**\$10,000**

Through this project, the Art Gallery of Guelph and Ed Video Media Arts Centre aim to meaningfully connect the experience of visual and media arts to youth and adult members of the d/Deaf community. AGG and Ed Video will feature multiple experiential workshops throughout fall 2016, which will culminate in a series of public events across Guelph in winter 2017.

### Canadian Mental Health Association Waterloo Wellington Dufferin Branch

#### ***Art Works for Mental Health Community Art Show***

**\$3,000**

Spark of Brilliance will present a community-based, inclusive art show that highlights the skills and talents of people living with mental health and/or addictions issues, as well as raise awareness and bust stigma surrounding these issues.

### Guelph Arts Council

#### ***10 Carden Expansion Project Arts Partnership - Phase 1***

**\$8,000**

10 Carden is expanding through the purchase of 42 Carden Street in downtown Guelph. Guelph Arts Council will facilitate an arts component in the space to inspire Guelph's residents through increased arts engagement, and enable collaborations between artists and social innovators. In Phase 1, lighting and hanging systems for exhibitions will be installed in two of the facility's community spaces.

### Guelph Concert Band

#### ***Guelph Concert Band Percussion Equipment Purchase***

**\$1,000**

Guelph Concert Band will purchase percussion equipment. The band needs a full array of percussion equipment in order to perform varied repertoire and fully engage audiences.

### Guelph Contemporary Dance Festival

#### ***Rebuilding a Broken World: Collaboration between Guelph Dance and Portal Dance Project***

**\$5,000**

Guelph Dance is partnering with Portal Dance Project (PDP) to present a multi-media dance work called 'Broken'. 'Broken' is a contemporary dance work investigating how our world is broken and what it takes to re-build, find ingenuity, resources, and tenacity. 'Broken' includes dance, film, and music, and Guelph Film Festival is partnering for the film component of the project. An outreach component of this project includes workshops in schools and making the performances financially accessible to all.

### Guelph Jazz Festival

#### ***Jazz in the Community & Play Who You Are: KidsAbility Youth Ensemble***

**\$3,000**

The Guelph Jazz Festival featured KidsAbility Youth Ensemble's free concert on the Main Stage in Market Square on Saturday September 17, 2016, featuring regional percussionists Joe Sorbara and Richard Burrows. This culminating concert followed a months-long series of workshops. The participating youth learned about music, improvisation, percussion, etc. in the workshops and were keen to perform before a live audience.



## Guelph Neighbourhood Support Coalition

### *Transported: Significant Objects and the Immigrant Experience*

**\$4,000**

Transported: Significant Objects and the Immigrant Experience will be a series of eight 3-minute videos, each one exploring a first person immigrant experience in general, and as focused on one significant object brought along on the journey of migration. The videos will be created by a team of three local video artists who will lead story discovery and video creation workshops with the participants. The videos will screen at the GNSC's 2017 Equity Conference; and at the 2017 Guelph Film Festival.

## Immigrant Services – Guelph Wellington

### *SHIFT*

**\$5,000**

SHIFT is a community based arts project that connects immigrant and culturally diverse artists with emerging refugee communities to explore the challenges and experiences of shift work. The project envisions an intergenerational exploration of work life and aspirations of newcomers who face or have faced barriers such as language, culture and the effects of displacement. Community members will be invited to work with a multi-disciplinary group of arts facilitators to co-create a photo, text and audio based installation. Elements of the installation will be reconfigured for digital dissemination across multiple social media and web based platforms.

## Shelldale Better Beginnings, Better Futures

### *Shelldale Girls Art Group*

**\$3,000**

Shelldale Girls Art Group will give young refugee, immigrant and at-risk youth an exposure to fine art, an experience that they may not otherwise have access to. They will learn about art appreciation through gallery tours and enhance their emergent art skills through workshops with Guelph School of Art and a variety of local artists. At the end of the program they will be able to take home their art supplies so that they are able to continue to hone their talents. Their artistic voices will bring a unique perspective to the greater art community of Guelph.

## **TOTAL MUSAGETES 2016 GRANT PROGRAM**

**\$42,000**