



Renewing Our Partnership with the City of Courtenay





A hub for local arts and culture in Comox Valley.

Since 1967, the **Comox Valley Arts Council** has made the arts accessible to everyone in the Comox Valley through free programming, direct support to local artists, and partnerships across the region.

59

years serving the Comox Valley, since 1967

155

current members and growing

3100

estimated artists in the Central Island region



Our Work

Programs

- Crit Club
- Incubator Microgrants
- The Art Wagon
- The Digital Creation Hub
- Central Island Arts Guide
- Central Island Studio Tour
- 30 DDC

Partnerships / Collabs

- Ancestral Echoes
- YQQ Exhibition
- Tin Town Cafe Exhibitions
- Pulse on the Plaza
- Community Events

Advocacy

- NIC program Suspension
- Arts Promo
- Connecting Tourism
- Arts-based public space
- Public art/murals

OUR WORK

Programs / Crit Club

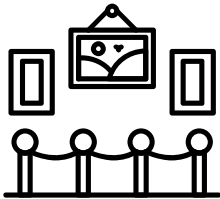


Programs / Crit Club



✓ **160**

sign-ups across
the season

SEVEN 

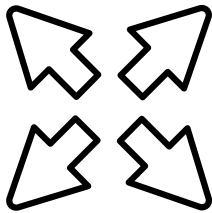
host studios and galleries
across the Valley.

24 

artists
presented
work

8

sessions

2 

neighbouring
communities
emulating program

Programs / Incubator Microgrants



Programs / Incubator Microgrants

2026 Awardees (10)

\$500 Marla Temoin | Collage Studio Pop-Up

\$500 Toni Dunne | Love Poems For Strangers

\$500 Carly Ball | Superworm: An Interactive Puppet Show

\$500 Emily Blezard | Community Corner Green Art

\$500 Krista Purcell | From Garden to Gesture

\$500 Nicole Bertram | Comox Valley Cares Quilt

\$500 Lauren Correia | D.I.Y. Arts & Crafts Fest

\$500 Josephine Olivier | Anonymous Art

\$500 Zoë Biggs & Alex Maertz | Community Mural Project

\$500 Megan Hutchens | Made Here: Container Murals



OUR WORK

Programs / The Art Wagon



Programs / The Art Wagon

five 

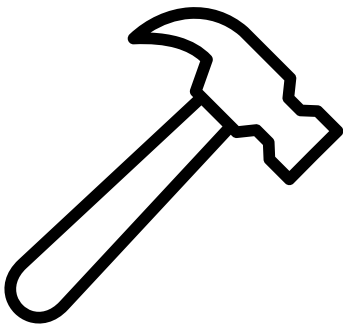
events across the Valley, from Cumberland to the Courtenay plaza.

two

original installations built for the Wagon this year.

200+ 

people through the Wagon this year



Interior rebuilt as a microgallery, May 2026.



Programs / Digital Creation Hub



Programs / The Studio Tour Evolves



Partnerships / Ancestral Echoes



Partnerships / Ancestral Echoes



OUR WORK

Partnerships / CV/Arts + YQQ Arts & Culture Program



Partnerships / CV/Arts + Tin Town Cafe



Partnerships / Pulse on the Plaza



OUR WORK

Partnerships / Pulse on the Plaza



Partnerships / Moonlight & Magic



OUR WORK

Partnerships / Lunar New Year with Open Door Society



OUR WORK

Advocacy / Standing Up for Fine Arts at North Island College



OUR WORK

Advocacy / Promoting the Arts



New This Programming Year:

- Summer Art Camps for Kids
- Fall Art Studio for Kids and Youth
- Culture Crawl (Spring/Summer 2027)
- Art Directory (Spring/Summer 2027)



Small organization, an outsized footprint

4 seasons of
intergenerational storytelling

50+ partnerships

CVAG, YQQ, Sid Williams, QICS, Courtenay Museum, MIKI'SIW, Tin Town Cafe, Elevate, Queer Centre, Open Door Society, IWC, SD71, DigFM, NIC, Chamber of Commerce, CCFS, Cumberland Museum

microgrants
\$26,000

Funding 32 artist-driven participatory art projects over the last 4 years.

3 street festivals

55 studios

An average of 55 art studios participate in annual studio tour program.

160 artists
8 sessions

sign-ups across this season's Crit Club artist gatherings

3,000+
newsletter subscribers reached twice monthly

20 Other cultural organizations use our community calendar. 9,000+ social media followers.

4 exhibitions

Partnering with the Comox Valley Airport (YQQ) and Tin Town Cafe.

All of this delivered by a staff of 2 on an operating budget under \$200K.

Already doing what the city's plan calls for.

Adopted by Council in March 2025, the **City's 10-year Strategic Cultural Plan** sets five goals for arts and culture in Courtenay. Comox Valley Arts already delivers against every goal.

Goal 1 · Truth & Reconciliation —

Active partnerships with K'ómoks First Nation and Indigenous orgs; lived daily through Ancestral Echoes program.

Goal 2 · Community Resilience —

Barrier removal built into every program; free access to art experiences like Pulse on the Plaza.

Goal 3 · Accessible & Affordable Spaces —

Digital Creation Hub (community recording studio); providing meeting space to orgs for free; Art Wagon; Exploring 'Space Finder' tool.

Goal 4 · Bolster Community Arts —

Opportunities for artists through exhibitions YQQ, Tin Town, peer support through Crit Club and Microgrants to artists; youth arts learning.

Goal 5 · Strategic Sector Development —

Summer student hires; Partnerships with tourism; Crit Club training for artists; Developing mentorship program (needs funding).



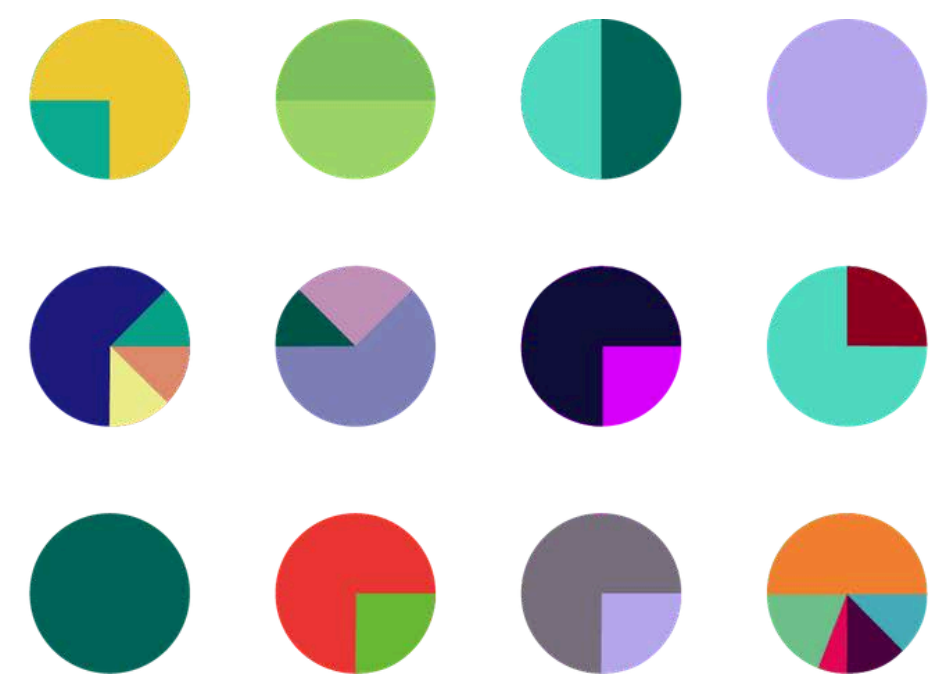
Why it matters.

- One of only four core cultural service providers named in the Plan.
- City funding already helps leverage significant external grants \$200k for us over last 5 years—plus municipal matching dollars from Province.
- Explicitly named in the Plan's own funding-review action (5.1.2).
- **CV/Arts is not preparing to align with the Plan — we have been living it.**

National and Provincial funding is narrowing. Our own revenue is growing.

	FY 2025-26 Actual	FY 2026-27 Budget
INCOME		
Grants	\$169,886	\$147,866
Earned & other revenue	24,900	38,160
Total income	\$194,787	\$186,026
EXPENSES		
Staff & contractors	\$151,510	\$124,903
Artist fees	8,820	19,300
Microgrants	5,000	0
Program delivery	15,434	19,448
Operations & administration	16,943	19,145
Total expenses	\$197,707	\$182,796
NET	(\$2,920)	\$3,230

Internally prepared figures.
Our fiscal year ends June 30th.
Official financial statements will
be available mid-September.





Supporting CV/Arts Microgrants

- Our microgrant program is trusted by artists.
- Supporting something already in place vs. creating something new makes sense.

\$5,000 from the City = 10 community art projects, funded directly.





Microgrant Testimonials

"More of That, Please! is a community pop-up podcast that asks everyday people one simple question: what do we need more of in the world? Thanks to a CV/Arts Microgrant, I produced our first five-episode season — that first \$1,000 helped get the show off the ground and prove the idea could work. This year, the podcast received a \$10,000 TELUS STORYHIVE grant to keep going. We wouldn't be here without that first round of support from CV/Arts."

Charlie Karumi

Host/Producer, More of That, Please!



Microgrant Testimonials

“The CVArts Microgrant Program is an incredible incubator for grassroots arts and culture in the Comox Valley. It fosters a widespread spirit of creativity, supports the animation of public spaces, and allows an entrance into public cultural production for people who may not yet even consider themselves artists. It has made a tangible positive impact on the local arts scene in the short time it has been running.”

*Allison Trumble, BA MLIS
Library Manager, VIRL*



Microgrant Testimonials

“The microgrant allowed me to take what was a seed of an idea and build it out to a project that created conversations, connections and community. The financial support not only made it possible to purchase materials, but felt like a vote of confidence from an important organization. As a creator, that helped my little seed sprout into some real magic. I've also participated in others' projects throughout the valley, and each project has created a sense of lightness and hope. The focus on free, accessible and interesting projects makes the Comox Valley a better and stronger community, and supports the kinds of arts that might not exist without the microgrant project”

-Nicole Bertram, The Spool Sewing Studio

Thank you

Cultivating a thriving, culturally dynamic Comox Valley through advocacy, partnerships, events, promotion and programming in the arts.

Comox Valley Arts

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Artwork opposite by meika johnson - an indigi-queer artist living and making in Courtenay.

Design made for Pulse on the Plaza Summer 2026

