VICTORIA, BC — Today, 57 arts, cultural and community-based projects received over $283,000 from the 150 People and Places grant program to celebrate Victoria’s anniversary of incorporation. The grant recipients — a wide range of arts, cultural, and community groups — were invited to today’s announcement by the City of Victoria and the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee Society.

“We are thrilled by the incredible range of projects that will showcase Victoria’s talent and diversity in our anniversary year,” said Mayor Dean Fortin. “The opportunity to celebrate Victoria’s 150th with projects that are rooted in the community and representative of our vibrant arts and culture, is amazing — and made possible by the generosity of our funding partners.”

Arts-based projects include theatre, opera, visual art, photography, multimedia, music, literary, filmmaking and First Nations art. Community projects range from block parties to historical re-enactments, a commemorative booklet, themed markets, historical tours and displays, art workshops, historical markers, and community mapping projects.

Since February 2011, the City of Victoria has been working in cooperation with the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee Society to develop an exciting line-up of celebratory anniversary events. The Society’s 150 People and Places grant program, offered in November, was made possible by the Canadian Heritage community anniversaries grant of $120,000 and the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee Society’s contribution of $25,000.

The number of projects that could receive support increased with additional funding of $125,000 from the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development and $13,800 from the Francophone Affairs Program through the Canada – British Columbia Cooperation Agreement on Official Languages.

“We are extremely thankful to our funding partners,” said Hugh MacDonald, Co-Chair of the Greater Victoria Spirit Committee Society. “The additional support by the Province means that every Victoria neighbourhood will have the opportunity to celebrate this important milestone in the city’s history in a meaningful way.”

The call for proposals consisted of two grant opportunities. The Addressing Arts and Culture grant invited professional artists of all disciplines to develop exciting and unique art and cultural projects that would highlight iconic locations and addresses in Victoria. The My Community Celebrates 150! grant invited community groups, neighbourhood associations, and community based non-profits to produce their own participatory celebration or project.
Projects were selected by a five-person panel, consisting of Spirit Committee members who represent tourism, sport, the arts, non-profit sector and Victoria Council. A total of 115 project proposals were submitted, of which 57 were selected for funding based on quality, feasibility, credibility and accessibility criteria.

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