



January 31, 2022

**The First Peoples' Cultural Council Announces Indigenous Arts Scholarship Recipients**  
*Over \$290,000 in scholarships support education and mentorships for Indigenous artists in B.C.*

[WJOLELP](#), UNCEDED TERRITORY OF WSÁNEĆ NATION / BRENTWOOD BAY, B.C.—  
The First Peoples' Cultural Council ([FPCC](#)) is thrilled to announce the recipients of the 2021-22 FPCC Indigenous Arts Scholarships. The scholarships support the artistic development of 20 Indigenous artists in B.C. with up to \$20,000 for full-time mentorship training and up to \$10,000 for students enrolled in post-secondary education.

“FPCC is honoured to support this talented group of artists who are carrying our Indigenous artistic traditions forward, while also influencing the creation of new and innovative Indigenous arts practices,” said Tracey Herbert, FPCC CEO. “We are also pleased to be working with the BC Arts Council, in response to direction from our communities, to make strategic investments that will continue to strengthen the arts and cultural practices that come from this beautiful land.”

This is the second year that FPCC has offered the Indigenous Arts Scholarships with funding support from the BC Arts Council ([BCAC](#)), which comes through the B.C. Ministry of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport.

“Investing in Indigenous arts, languages, and cultural heritage revitalization is key to reconciliation and a direct response to the TRC's Calls to Action,” said Melanie Mark, Hli Haykwhl Wíi Xsgaak, Minister of Tourism, Arts, Culture and Sport. “The arts help tell our stories, provide a sense of belonging and define our identity. We connect and learn from each other through arts and culture, and these scholarships will empower the next generation to continue being change-makers.”

Scholarship recipients apply for funding through FPCC and are selected by an Indigenous external peer review committee. Over the past two years, more than \$475,000 has been awarded through the program to 34 recipients.

“The BC Arts Council is honoured to support the First Peoples' Cultural Council's Indigenous Arts Scholarship program,” said Sae-Hoon Stan Chung, Chair of BC Arts Council. “Supporting mentorship and post-secondary training for young and emerging Indigenous artists is pivotal to the ongoing vitality of Indigenous cultural practices and knowledge sharing and is part of the BC Arts Council's commitment to supporting Indigenous arts and culture. Congratulations to all the recipients.”

The scholarship recipients work in diverse genres from different regions in B.C. Eliot White-Hill, Kwulasultun, is a Coast Salish artist and storyteller from the Snuneymuxw First Nation. His practice is rooted in honouring and celebrating the teachings and stories that have been passed down through his community. He hopes to share what he finds beautiful and profound about the Coast Salish worldview through his art.

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"Receiving funding from FPCC has enabled and empowered me in pursuing further development as an artist and has allowed me to focus more on my art," said White-Hill. "It has made a huge impact and has helped me so much."

While the support for post-secondary education is important, funding for mentorships provides a critical opportunity for students to learn from established master artists. Danielle Allard is a Haida artist who is being mentored on Haida formline technique by Christian White, a celebrated Haida carver and canoe builder from Old Massett. Danielle is enhancing her knowledge of this artform as she creates original artwork in a series of painted ceremonial feast bowls for a celebration that reintroduces old traditions to the community of Old Massett.

"Danielle is an accomplished painter and has a deep understanding of paint and colours," said White. "Slowly she has come to know the classical style. She is now at a stage where her own innovation has come into play. She is on a pathway to excellence."

Of her experience working with her mentor, Ms. Allard said: "One of the biggest rewards of this apprenticeship has been the ability to reconnect with my culture. Through Christian's guidance I've experienced the land, the people, the language and the art; fully connecting my art to my native soil."

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**About FPCC:**

FPCC is a First Nations-led provincial Crown corporation with a mandate to support the revitalization of Indigenous languages, arts, cultures and heritage in B.C. The organization provides funding, resources and skills development to First Nations in B.C., monitors the status of First Nations languages, develops policy recommendations for First Nations leadership and government and collaborates with organizations to raise the profile of Indigenous arts, languages and cultural heritage in B.C., Canada and internationally. Visit: [fpcc.ca](http://fpcc.ca)

**Available to media:**

- Backgrounder on 2021-22 recipients.
- Interviews with representatives of FPCC as well as scholarship recipients may be accommodated on request.
- High-resolution photos click [here](#).

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## MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

January 31, 2022

### The First Peoples' Cultural Council Announces Indigenous Arts Scholarship Recipients

The Indigenous Arts Scholarship supports the development of First Nations, Métis and Inuit artists and arts practitioners residing in B.C. with funding for education or mentorship.

Applicants must be 17 years of age or older. While applicants can study anywhere, they must be a resident of B.C. and have previous experience that demonstrates a commitment to their artistic practice. This is the second year that FPCC has offered this scholarship.

The BC Arts Council allocated \$225,000 to FPCC specifically for this program and additional funds came from other BCAC funding.

Learn more about the program: [fpcc.ca/program/indigenous-arts-scholarship](https://fpcc.ca/program/indigenous-arts-scholarship)

### Post-Secondary Scholarship Recipients

Name	Location/Community	Description
<b>Brandi Bird</b>	Vancouver, Peguis First Nation and Metis	To pursue Bachelor of Fine Arts in creative writing at the University of British Columbia.
<b>Caleb Ellison</b>	Burnaby, Nihithaw (Woods Cree)	To study 3D Animation at Emily Carr University of Art & Design.
<b>Reggie-Anne Harrold</b>	Vancouver, Slavey (Fort Nelson First Nation), Shuswap (Canim Lake)	To pursue a Master of Fine Arts, Visual Arts at University of British Columbia.
<b>Levi Nelson</b>	Mount Currie, Lil'wat Nation	To pursue a Master of Fine Arts Degree/Visual Arts/Painting at the Columbia University School of the Arts.
<b>Joseph Point</b>	Agassiz, Ahtakakoop First Nation	To study Music Production Recording and Business at the Nimbus School of Recording and Media.
<b>Lydia Prince</b>	Vancouver, Cree/Dakelh	To pursue a Master of Design (Interaction) at Emily Carr University of Art & Design.
<b>Maura Tamez</b>	Vernon, Ndé (Lipan Apache) and part of the Dene Nation	To continue a Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of British Columbia.
<b>Cody Tolmie</b>	Vancouver, Stó:lō from Sq'éwlets	To pursue a Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies at Simon Fraser University.

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### Post-Secondary Scholarship Recipients Continued

Name	Location/Community	Description
<b>Eliot White-Hill</b>	Nanaimo, Snuneymuxw First Nation member (Coast Salish); Family has roots in Hupacasath (Nuu Chah Nulth) and Penelakut (Coast Salish)	To pursue a Master of Fine Arts at Emily Carr University of Art & Design.
<b>Hailey Wispinski</b>	Burnaby, Nlaka'pamux (Thompson)	To study fine arts at Emily Carr University of Art & Design.

### Mentorship Recipients

Name	Location/Community	Description
<b>Danielle Allard</b>	Masset, Haida	Enhance knowledge of Haida formline from Christian White to create new artwork for a celebration that reintroduces old traditions to the community of Old Massett.
<b>Margaret August</b>	Victoria, Sechelt (Coast Salish)	To learn wood carving and silver engraving (jewelry) under the guidance and mentorship of Dylan Thomas.
<b>Brandon Belong</b>	New Westminster, B.C. First Nations	Artist development & mentorship with Brandon Belong and established music group.
<b>Bryn Bridgen</b>	Campbell River, K'omoks First Nation, We Wai Kai Nation	Mentorship under two master dance artists, from September 2021 - April 2022, full-time learning, personalized feedback on movement/technique, and collaborating with dance professionals.
<b>Peter Dennis</b>	Prince Rupert, Tsimshian	Transitioning from 2- to 3-dimensional art. Mentor Henry Kelly will teach carving skills, techniques and toolmaking.
<b>Francis Kelly Louis</b>	Vancouver, Musqueam Nation	Traditional dugout canoe carving and cedar strip canoe building mentorship with his father, John (Dick) Louis, a Musqueam Nation canoe carver.

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### Mentorship Recipients Continued

<b>Jessica Miinguaqtii Couzelis</b>	Vancouver, Inuit and Métis	Reclaiming Inuit culture through sewing, storytelling and Inuit cultural mentorship with Levinia Brown over Zoom.
<b>Faye Oakes</b>	Victoria, Tsartlip First Nation	Mentorship with Charles Elliott, a recognized Salish Master Artist.
<b>Tina Robinson</b>	Prince Rupert, Tsimshian	Chilkat weaving mentorship to learn all aspects of harvesting, preparing material, weaving techniques.
<b>Erik Virtanen</b>	North Vancouver, Métis	Mentorship with experienced Métis composer Todd Forsbloom in writing and recording music for television and film.

### Media contact for grant recipients:

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