

1979



**Assembly of BC Arts Councils is founded**  
 The Assembly of British Columbia Arts Councils is an incorporated society, registered charity and provincial arts service organization with a mandate to support and develop the central role of arts and culture in building sustainable, vibrant and economically diverse communities in BC.

**First newsletter is published June 15, 1979.**  
 Through our communication networks, education and training initiatives, and participation in provincial initiatives, we support the unique ways arts practices and processes contribute to community well being.



1980

**1986 World Expo.**

The Assembly partners with regional arts councils universities, colleges, and Opus Framing to produce Images BC. The exhibition is mounted in the BC pavilion.



**1987- Awarded a provincial government grant of up to \$30,000**  
 The Assembly is awarded a provincial government grant of up to \$30,000 for improving regional Cultural programming in BC.

1990

**1990, Awarded funding to produce a funding resource directory**

The Job Development Program of Canada Employment and Immigration awards funding to the Assembly of BC Arts Councils to research, write, edit and produce a funding resource directory for the arts in BC.



**1991 - The Arts Resource Book**, the first directory of its kind in BC, is published by the Assembly of BC Arts Councils. It quickly sells out.

**1992 - The membership adopts the mandate of advocacy, communication and training.**

These three guide the Assembly of BC Arts Councils actions for the next four years, including broadening directorships to include at large directors and responding to a broadened community arts network and related partnerships.

**1996- The 2nd Edition of the Arts Resource Book is released.**

Responding to a contemporary need, the Assembly of BC Arts Councils expands its mandate to include community cultural development and partnerships as well as remaining a provincial arts service organization for community and regional arts councils .



**1999 - The Assembly partners with ArtStarts & The Province of BC.**

The Assembly partners with ArtStarts in Schools and the Province of BC through the British Columbia Arts Council to present BC Arts and Culture Week.

2000



**2004 - The Community Arts Toolkit is published.**

**2008- The Assembly establishes a Legacy Fund**

The Assembly manages BC150 Community Arts Grants and establishes a Legacy Fund with a donation of over \$86,000 from Allan Markin of Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. The Fund is managed by the Vancouver Foundation.

**2009 - BC's Art and Culture Week celebrates its 10 year anniversary.**  
 The BC Arts Renaissance Fund contributes \$70,000 to the Assembly's Legacy Fund.

2010



**2010 Re-branded the organization to the name "ArtsBC"**

The organization reaffirmed its commitment to three core service areas: ARC: Advocacy, Resources and Community, and subsequently re-branded the organization to the name "ArtsBC" to allow its membership to be more inclusive and sustainable. The organization did not legally change its name, but uses ArtsBC as its trade name.

**2011 - The Assembly of BC Arts Councils becomes ArtsBC**

In-line with a new mandate of advocacy, resources and community, ArtsBC expands its membership to include business improvement associations, individuals and students, in addition to arts organizations. ArtsBC launches Twitter page, ArtsBC administers the BC's Spirit Festivals and Initiatives Programs, as well as Arts in the Park in celebration of the BC Parks Centennial.

**2015 -Arts BC promotes over 300 arts councils,** organizations, businesses and affiliates, individuals and students.



**2016 Arts BC, Renewal**

New strategic plan to reflect the needs of a changing and dynamic arts and cultural landscape in BC—one that is supported by a core leadership team, regional outreach activities, a fresh look with useful digital engagement to serve our members, and in turn, strengthen BC's communities.