

BCHDP-Arca Hosting Initiative Impact Report

**2017-
2020**



*The BCHDP-Arca Hosting Initiative
is a partnership between the
Irving K. Barber Learning Centre and
the BC Electronic Library Network*



IRVING K. BARBER LEARNING CENTRE



BCELN

**BRITISH COLUMBIA
ELECTRONIC LIBRARY NETWORK**

Released June 2021



On the Cover: "[Workers at Cassiar Cannery Coming off Shift](#)" from the North Pacific Cannery Collection.

Message from the Executive Director

2020 wrapped up the final year of the BCHDP-Arca Hosting Initiative pilot phase, which extended three years of funding into four years of valuable work hosting at-risk digitized collections, laying the foundation for shared infrastructure that will benefit BC's small galleries, libraries, archives, and museums (GLAM) sector for years to come.

Successfully extending the partnership through to 2025 demonstrates the need for this barrier-free hosting option, and the strength of the partnership between BC ELN and IKBLC.

We'll continue to explore ways to leverage existing investments to create equity across the BC GLAM sector. I look forward to our continuing work with IKBLC towards our common goal of supporting access to BC's wealth of digital assets.



Anita Cocchia
Executive Director
BC Electronic Library Network

Highlights:



14 GLAM organizations participating

Ten current participants benefit from free and secure hosting of their digitized content on the Arca platform. Four committed grant recipients are working with the BC ELN team to bring their content online.



80,197 items in 135 collections now online to discover

A large newspaper archive, unique contemporary dance recordings, and art gallery promotional materials are just some of the digitized collections free to discover.



Partnership extended through to 2025

Achieving sustainability for the next five years ensures that BC's small GLAM organizations will have accessible, supported hosting for their digital treasures.

Partnering to bring BC Digitized History Online

The [British Columbia Electronic Library Network \(BC ELN\)](#) and the [Irving K. Barber Learning Centre \(IKBLC\)](#) at the University of British Columbia Library are partnering to facilitate use of the Arca provincial collaborative digital repository by past and current [BC History Digitization Program \(BCHDP\)](#) grant recipients.

The [BCHDP-Arca Hosting Initiative](#) ensures past, present, and future BCHDP grant recipients have access to free, sustainable, standards-based hosting for their online collections, safeguarding provincial investments in digitization.

BCHDP-Arca Hosting Initiative Participants

Through this partnership, small galleries, libraries, museums, and archives across the province can make their unique digitized collections available to those in BC and beyond.

Current Participants

Barkerville Historic Town

Grunt Gallery

Hazelton Pioneer Museum

Heritage Park Museum

Karen Jamieson Dance Society

North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site

Potters Guild of BC

Sidney Museum

Terrace Public Library

Whiterock Museum & Archives



Committed Grant Recipients

City of Port Coquitlam

Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre

Société Historique Francophone de la Colombie Britannique

Society for the Museum of Original Costume

Visit the BCHDP-Arca website: bchdp.arcabc.ca



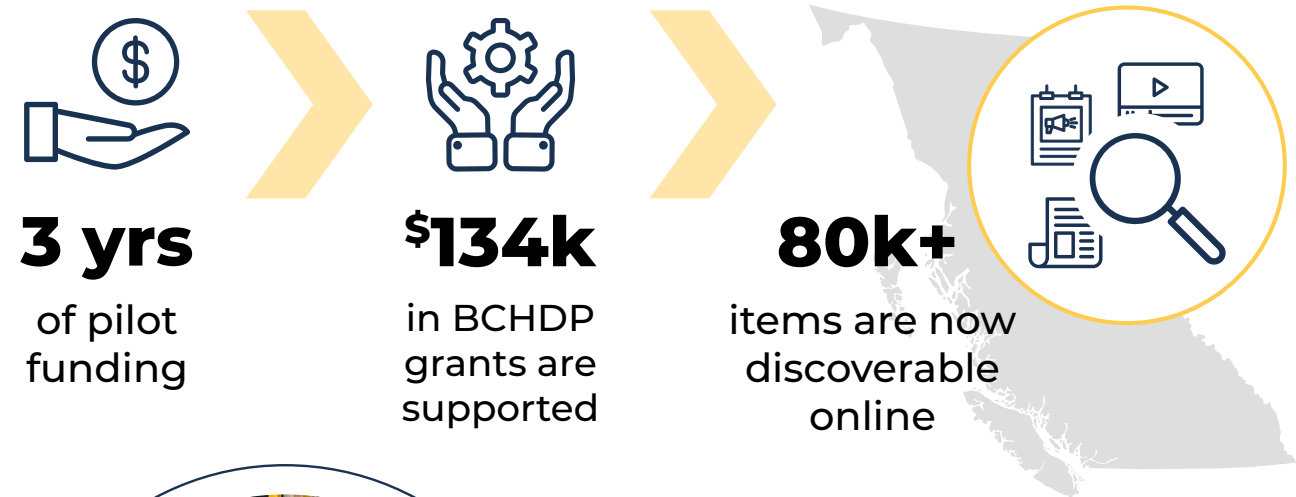
In 2020, as GLAM organizations adjusted to public health guidelines, grunt gallery collaborated with VIVO Media Arts and Printed Matter, Inc. to present a virtual exhibition. In Sharona Franklin's Limeflower Heterodoxy, a live streamed installation, the decomposition/transformation of gelatin sculptures speaks to themes of contrasting healing methodologies.

To explore grunt gallery's earlier programming *LIVE Biennial of Performance Art: The Early Years*, spanning 1999-2005, visit their [BCHDP-Arca webpage](#).

Image by Kay Slater.

Value for Small GLAM Organizations

Prior to this partnership, an estimated 20% of digitized materials funded through BCHDP grants pre-2016 were not available online. The BCHDP-Arca Hosting Initiative provides free, sustainable, and supported hosting to make these collections discoverable, and the BC ELN Team provides friendly, front-line support every step of the way.



“ As a small, non-profit dance organization, Arca’s BCHDP hosting service has given Karen Jamieson Dance the invaluable opportunity to disseminate works from our archives and broaden our user-base more widely than ever before.

Emma Metcalfe Hurst,
Dance Archivist,
Karen Jamieson Dance Society

Emma working at Karen Jamieson Dance office. March 2021.
Photo by Pamela Tagle, Managing Director.

Free,
sustainable,
& standards-
based:
Infrastructure
designed to
last



Participation
is completely
free for BCHDP
grant recipients



Arca is built on
Islandora, a Canadian-
developed, open-
source platform



Standards ensure
collections are discoverable
in future provincial and
national discovery tools

BC ELN brings Valuable Expertise and Efficiencies

Leveraging Funding

Leveraged efficiencies to extend what was originally three-year funding into four years of actual work; all funding stayed with the initiative.

Shared Infrastructure Expertise

Leveraging extensive experience providing shared infrastructure support to small organizations, BC ELN provides hands-on training, documentation, webinars, site visits, metadata wrangling, and friendly frontline support tailored to the needs of BCHDP-Arca participants.

Strong Relationships

BC ELN draws on existing relationships with service providers to create sustainable infrastructure, ensuring the BCHDP repository remains cost-effective through the long-term.

Staffing Efficiencies

BC ELN realises considerable staffing efficiencies for the BCHDP project by drawing on a pool of experienced senior staff, and hiring students for critical support work.



Anita Cocchia
BC ELN Executive Director

Brandon Weigel
Arca Manager & Technical Lead

Sunni Nishimura
BCHDP-Arca Hosting Project Manager

Nicoletta Romano
Student Librarian

Sunni's Study Leave: A Fruitful Opportunity

As the BCHDP-Arca Hosting Project Manager, one question that has been on Sunni Nishimura's mind is, "What support is missing for small GLAM organizations at the early stages of digitization planning?"

Beginning in March 2020, Sunni began a year-long study leave to answer this very question. She wanted to learn more about support gaps that existed for small GLAM organizations seeking to digitize their collections. For example, a small museum may have grant writing expertise available but no staff on-hand to digitize materials.

During her leave, Sunni conducted research and met with staff at small GLAM organizations. Trends started to emerge as Sunni identified areas where support could be provided such as copyright assessment, grant application writing, hiring digitization staff, and connecting to digitization service providers.

Sunni's research will have a lasting benefit for BC's small GLAM sector. Identifying what supports organizations need before they even reach the digitization phase is the first step. Once gaps have been identified, Sunni and her team plan to turn their attention to sustainable solutions.



Sunni Nishimura

BCHDP-Arca Hosting
Project Manager
BC Electronic Library Network

2017-20 Impacts

Making BC Treasures Accessible

- ▶ Built, configured, and customized the [BCHDP-Arca website](#)
- ▶ Migrated BCHDP-Arca website to state-of-the-art Simon Fraser University (SFU) cloud server hosting to enhance platform performance, stability, and sustainability
- ▶ Worked with 14 organizations to prepare and ingest their collections into Arca
- ▶ Uploaded 80,000+ items in 135 collections
- ▶ Supported and trained staff from 10 GLAM organizations to manage their collections in Arca
- ▶ Confirmed with McIntyre Streaming extension of advantageous BC ELN pricing to non-BC ELN GLAM organizations, allowing BCHDP recipients using Arca to host videos at an affordable rate

Outreach to the GLAM Sector

- ▶ Reached out directly via email, phone, and in-person to 150+ past and current BCHDP grant recipients to determine interest in Arca hosting
- ▶ Presented about the BCHDP-Arca hosting opportunity at provincial and national GLAM sector, library, archives, and museums conferences, both in-person and online
- ▶ Distributed promotional marketing materials at library, museums, and archives conferences
- ▶ Published "[Arca: Technology to Let Your Digital Assets Shine!](#)" in the BC Library Association publication Perspectives: The Technology Issue (September 2018)
- ▶ Launched [mini website](#) with Arca hosting information that is linked directly from the BCHDP grant application

Providing an Inclusive Repository

- ▶ Joined Cultural Institutions Working Group for LocalContexts.org, to contribute to and stay abreast of Traditional Knowledge (TK) labels and Cultural Institution notices development in preparation for partners with Indigenous content in their collections
- ▶ Discussed with participating organizations, such as Karen Jamieson Dance, implementation of TK labels and Cultural Institution notices for Indigenous content

Building a Community of Practice

- ▶ Engaged three UBC iSchool students who performed metadata wrangling, outreach, and support work



Taking Off into 2025!

In 2020, the BCHDP-Arca hosting partnership was extended an additional five years, to 2025. Achieving this long-term sustainability ensures that current, committed, and interested GLAM organizations continue to have a hosting option available to them, right here in BC, so they can open their digital collections to the world.

2020-21 Financials

		2020/21 Projected
		Revenue
Carryforward from 2019/20		5,450
IKBLC Funding		10,000
	Total	15,450
		Expenses
Arca Service Support Fee		5,100
Coordination & Partner Liaison		3,200
Technical Infrastructure & Advanced Support		5,700
Communications/Outreach		1,440
	Total	15,440
	Revenue-Expenses	10

A Look Ahead to 2021

- ▶ Partnering with 2020 BCHDP grant recipients to bring in new collections, including Barkerville Historic Town, Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre, the Society for the Museum of Original Costume, and Société Historique Francophone de la Colombie Britannique
- ▶ Expanding support provided to BCHDP grant applicants through the new BCHDP Grant Support partnership between BC ELN and IKBLC
- ▶ Presenting about the BCHDP-Arca hosting opportunity to the BC historical research community at the BC Studies Conference May 2021
- ▶ Engaging UBC iSchool and Langara Library Technician students in supporting partners through communications and outreach work, and metadata wrangling