

Arca Partnerships

Impact Report 2021

Released April 2022



Photo: [Image from a fashion shoot in the Greater Vancouver Regional District.] 1988. Lore Maria Wiener (Designer); Gordon Cornwall (Photographer); Deane (Model). BC Society for the Museum of Original Costume.

Message from the Arca Partnerships Coordinator

2021 saw the start of a second engaging partnership between BC ELN and the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre at UBC Library. This report highlights the impact of these two services, which are anchored in the BC History Digitization Program (BCHDP).

Building on the success of the BCHDP-Arca Hosting Service, which provides barrier-free hosting to BCHDP grant recipients, the BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service extends BC ELN support to small GLAM organizations, like Selkirk College Library and the BC Society for the Museum of Original Costume. By leveraging existing post-secondary expertise and investments in digitization, we reach mutual goals with organizations in the GLAM sector. I look forward to our continuing partnership!

- Sunni Nishimura



Photo: Sunni Nishimura, Arca Partnerships Coordinator

One Partnership, Two Successful Programs

The British Columbia Electronic Library Network (BC ELN) is partnering with the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre (IKBLC) at the University of British Columbia (UBC) Library to bring unique BC collections online through two programs: the [BCHDP-Arca Hosting Service](#) and the [BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service](#).

Through these partnerships, BCHDP grant recipients can now take advantage of barrier-free hosting in the [Arca provincial collaborative digital repository](#) and small GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, and Museums) organizations seeking BCHDP grant funding can access experienced staff and a suite of resources to support digitization planning.

Highlight:

- 38 organizations participated in the partnerships in 2021

Value for Small GLAM Organizations

Through the BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service, participants have the tools and assistance they need to navigate the BCHDP grant application process. The BCHDP-Arca Hosting Service offers grant recipients free, sustainable, and supported hosting to make their digitized collections discoverable to citizens in BC and beyond.

1. BCHDP-Arca Hosting Service:

- 5-year renewed commitment
- 14 participants have access to hosting in Arca
- 140 collections now available to discover online

2. BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service

- 3 years of pilot funding
- 6 students provided hands-on support
- 24 organizations received assistance
 - 2 referred to other relevant funding opportunities
 - 7 ineligible or pursued other funding opportunities
 - 6 intend to apply next year
- 9 participants submitted BCHDP applications, 8 of which were successful

BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service

A Groundbreaking Pilot Program

From grant writing assistance to copyright advising to connecting with digitization partners, the barrier-free assistance available to BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service participants has been carefully designed to meet their needs. Through this three-year pilot program, small GLAM organizations are empowered to apply for BCHDP funding and bring provincial collections to life online.

How it Works

Note: Types of support marked with an asterisk (*) are provided via the BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service. Those marked with a pound sign (#) are provided by the BCHDP-Arca Hosting Service.

Materials available for digitization...

1. Select
 - Apply for Grants *
 - Assess Copyright *
 - Negotiate Copyright
2. Digitize
 - Hire Support Staff *
 - Project Manage *
 - Connect to Digitization Partners *
3. Describe and Manage
 - Wrangle Metadata *
 - Store Content #
 - Archival Preservation *#
4. Discover and Use
 - Discovery Strategy #
 - Ensure Usability #
 - Manage Rights *

... Digitized content discoverable in Arca.

2021 Participants

Note: Participants marked with an asterisk (*) submitted a 2022-23 BCHDP grant application.

Agassiz-Harrison Museum
Alder Grove Heritage Society *
Alert Bay Public Library *

Alkw Media Society
Ashcroft Indian Band
BC Forest Discovery Centre *
BC Society for the Museum of Original Costume *
Centre for Socialist Education *
Community Arts Council of Vancouver
Coquitlam Heritage Society
Doukhobor Discovery Centre
Fernie Heritage Cemetery Restoration Society
Golden Museum and Archives
Heritage Abbotsford Society *
Huble Homestead/Giscome Portage Heritage Society
Kootenay Library Federation
North Vancouver District Public Library *
Pacific Peoples' Partnership
Selkirk College *
Tofino Clayoquot Heritage Museum *
Trail Museum & Archives
Tsawout First Nation
Vancouver Police Museum & Archives
Vancouver Public Library

Quote from Kathleen James, Selkirk College Library: "Thank you so much for all your help and the information you provided! I was successful in obtaining copyright permission from the publisher and was able to submit the BCHDP application. I really appreciate the time you took to guide me through this process."

2021 Impacts

Engaging Small GLAM Organizations

- Launched BCHDP Grant Early Notice survey for prospective applicants to indicate interest in Support Service participation
- Hired, trained, and supervised three contract staff to support small GLAM organizations with 2022-23 grant applications
- Conducted 24 meetings with 19 survey respondents to determine and address their grant application support needs

Facilitating Cross-Sector Collaboration

- Connected three 2022-23 grant applicants with digitization partners Simon Fraser University (SFU) Library and University of British Columbia (UBC) Library Digitization Centres
- Connected two survey respondents, Alkw Media Society (Nuxalk Radio) and Tsawout First Nation, with Indigitization to explore partnership and funding opportunities
- Connected two organizations, the Société Historique Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique and the BC Society for the Museum of Original Costume, with SFU Library Digitization Centre to digitize their materials, to be hosted on the BCHDP-Arca website

Promoting Inclusive and Affordable Practices

- Developed [BCHDP Support Site](#) to provide convenient access to support materials made by BCHDP contractors and co-op students
- Created workflows and metadata templates for digitization projects in a range of formats including newspaper, photograph, and VHS tape, to guide BCHDP grant applicants
- Compiled best practices on how small GLAM organizations can implement low-cost digital preservation systems as well as how to apply Traditional Knowledge (TK) Labels and Cultural Institution (CI) Notices to Arca-hosted collections

Raising Province-Wide Awareness

- Presented “Put It Online! Support for Small BC GLAMs Seeking Funding to Digitize BC Historical Materials” to the community as part of the Maskwacis Cultural College Microlearning Series to attract new Support Service recipients (October 2021)
- Presented on the needs of small GLAM sector organizations at the regional consultation meeting with the provincial Parliamentary Secretary for Arts and Film (July 2021)

BCHDP-Arca Hosting Service

An Established Partnership

Now in its fourth year, the BCHDP-Arca Hosting Service provides free, sustainable, and standards-based hosting on Arca to past, present, and future BCHDP grant recipients, safeguarding provincial investments in digitization.

2021 Participants

Note: Organizations marked with an asterisk (*) have collections soon to be available in Arca.

Barkerville Historic Town
City of Port Coquitlam *
Grunt Gallery
Hazelton Pioneer Museum
Heritage Park Museum
Karen Jamieson Dance Society
Nikkei National Museum & Cultural Centre *
North Pacific Cannery National Historic Site
Potters Guild of BC
Sidney Museum and Archives
Société Historique Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique *
Society for the Museum of Original Costume *
Terrace Public Library
Whiterock Museum & Archives

Highlight:

- 22,500 page views of Arca-hosted BCHDP collections in 2021

Quote from Dan Pon at grunt gallery: “Thank you for your time, technical support, and solutions. I’ve recommended this partnership to colleagues who apply for the BCHDP grant in large part due to my experience working with the BC ELN team. Thank you!”

2021 Impacts

Developing Infrastructure for New Collections

- Developed a customized display of the [Sidney Museum newspaper collection](#) in the BCHDP-Arca site

- Coordinated metadata preparation for collections at three organizations – City of Port Coquitlam, Société Historique Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique, and Society for the Museum of Original Costume – for upload into Arca
- Increased storage capacity of the BCHDP-Arca site to house growing collections

Engaging the Community

- Prepared BCHDP-funded materials from the Société Historique Francophone de la Colombie-Britannique for digitization via a supervised high school student work experience project
- Promoted the official virtual launch showcasing the Sidney Museum newspaper Arca collection to community members

Spotlight on Sidney Museum and Archives

On December 1, 2021 the Sidney Museum and Archives [launched](#) the online database of digitized Peninsula News Review archives to the public. Alyssa Gerwing, Executive Director at the Museum and Archives, tells us about the historical significance of this project and the value of participating in the BCHDP-Arca Hosting Service:

“The Peninsula News Review (PNR) Collection contains unique materials that document the agricultural, cultural, economic, historical, political and social history of British Columbia, especially pertaining to the Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Islands. The PNR Collection includes increasingly delicate physical copies of the newspapers spanning 1912 through 2021, as well as archival copies on 35mm microfilm from 1912 to 2002.

After winning the financial support of the BC History Digitization Program (BCHDP), we were happy to work with the BC ELN Arca team to provide digital public access to the microfilm collection (1912-2002) for phase 1 of our project. The Arca team worked with us to meet our needs, and those of our budget, as well as respecting the requirements of our stakeholders, including BCHDP, Peninsula News Review, and Black Press Media Ltd. By supporting Arca with the inclusion of our digital content, we hope to continue to see this provincial resource for local history grow.”

Quote from Alyssa Gerwing, Sidney Museum and Archives: “By supporting Arca with the inclusion of our digital content, we hope to see this provincial resource for local history grow.”

A Look Ahead

- Partnering with 2022 BCHDP grant recipients to bring in new collections, including the BC Society for the Museum of Original Costume, the Centre for Socialist Education, the North Vancouver District Public Library, and the Tofino Clayoquot Heritage Museum
- Launching the BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service website, populated with support tools including best practices, metadata templates, sample digitization workflows, and more
- Connecting UBC iSchool students with BCHDP grant applicants to facilitate student professional experience opportunities
- Optimising Early Notice and support processes to build on the foundations laid in year one of the BC ELN-BCHDP Support Service and to create efficiencies for year two

Visit the BCHDP-Arca website: <https://bchdp.arcabc.ca/>



Photo: Image courtesy of the Sidney Museum and Archives.

