

MEDIA RELEASE

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BMO Financial Group and Goldcorp make combined \$2 million donation to Vancouver's cultural community

The City of Vancouver, Department of Canadian Heritage, and Province of British Columbia contribute additional \$18.1 million

Vancouver, B.C. — The Arts Club Theatre Company and Bard on the Beach Shakespeare Festival are pleased to announce the naming of the new **BMO Theatre Centre**. BMO Financial Group's \$1.5 million contribution ensures the completion of the facility's construction, scheduled to open this fall at 162 West 1st Avenue, and will enable both organizations to better serve the community while operating more effectively. In addition, the Arts Club and Bard on the Beach are excited to announce the naming of the new **Goldcorp Stage**, which will be housed at the Centre. Goldcorp's \$500,000 donation will allow for the installation of state-of-the-art, modern sound and lighting systems in this versatile new 250-seat performance space.

"We are truly grateful to these generous corporate citizens who have proven their vision and community leadership by helping us realize this dream project, which will enrich our arts community for years to come," **said Claire Sakaki, Managing Director, Bard on the Beach**. "With this support from BMO and Goldcorp, we can now inspire and entertain a broader cross-section of our community," **continued Peter Cathie White, Executive Director, Arts Club Theatre Company**.

The new BMO Theatre Centre and Goldcorp Stage will provide both the Arts Club and Bard on the Beach with expanded possibilities for the development of new productions, as well as allowing both companies to grow their current education and training programs. The theatre will also be available for other non-profit arts organizations to rent at-cost.

"Our contribution to the BMO Theatre Centre is the most significant theatre sponsorship we've made in B.C. and it greatly enhances our support for the staging of entertaining, culturally relevant, and award-winning local theatre in Vancouver," **said Mike Bonner, Senior Vice-President, BC & Yukon, BMO Bank of Montreal**. "This gift also fits in nicely with BMO Financial Group's support of arts and culture, and in particular theatre, across Canada."

"Goldcorp is committed to making a positive difference here in Vancouver as well as those communities where we operate our mines," **said Chuck Jeannes, President and Chief Executive Officer, Goldcorp**. "We believe strong, vibrant, and sustainable communities are possible through contributions to the arts, education, health, and community development, and with this gift, we're helping to do just that."

The Arts Club has a 12-year relationship with BMO Financial Group, which has supported them as a Presenting Sponsor through numerous productions over the years, as well as being Season Partner for their historic 50th season. Bard on the Beach also maintains a strong relationship with BMO, which is its current Mainstage Naming Sponsor and a longtime Education Program sponsor. Goldcorp is also a longtime supporter of the arts community in Vancouver. As Bard's season sponsor, Goldcorp has been a generous corporate partner for many years.

In addition to private support, the City of Vancouver secured the space for the new City-owned theatre centre through a Community Amenity Contribution valued at \$7.6 million, in addition to committing \$7 million toward the improvements through the 2014 capital budget, for a total of \$14.6 million in support. Other public funding for the project includes the Department of Canadian Heritage's contribution of \$2.5 million through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund. The Canada Cultural Spaces Fund seeks to improve physical

conditions for artistic creativity and arts presentation or exhibition. It is also designed to increase access for Canadians to performing arts, visual arts, media arts, museum collections, and heritage displays. In addition, \$1 million was given by British Columbia's Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

"This partnership between two of Vancouver's leading theatre organizations will result in a collaborative space and creative hub that will also serve as a cultural anchor in the Olympic Village neighbourhood," **said the Honourable Shelly Glover, Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages.** "The Government of Canada is thrilled to be a partner, and we wish you continued success."

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ABOUT THE ARTS CLUB

The Arts Club Theatre Company, founded in 1964, is the largest not-for-profit organization of its kind in Western Canada. Led by Artistic Managing Director Bill Millerd and Executive Director Peter Cathie White, it offers professional theatre at three venues—the Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, Granville Island Stage, and Goldcorp Stage—as well as on tour throughout the province.

ABOUT BARD ON THE BEACH

Bard on the Beach is Western Canada's largest not-for-profit professional Shakespeare festival. Established in 1990 and led by Artistic Director Christopher Gaze and Managing Director Claire Sakaki, Bard's mission is to perform, explore and celebrate the genius of William Shakespeare. The Festival is staged every summer in Vanier Park, surrounded by Vancouver's natural beauty. Bard also offers a variety of year-round educational programs serving children, youth and adults.

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