



Vernon & District Performing Arts Centre Society  
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\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\*

**July 21, 2021**

## **2021 Performing Arts Bursary Applications Invited**

Despite the gradual return to full public performances, the Vernon and District Performing Arts Centre Society (VDPAC), has announced it will proceed with offering up to three \$1,000 bursaries as part of the Society's annual Bursary Program for 2021.

Students from Vernon, Coldstream or Electoral Areas B or C who are entering into, or returning to full-time studies at a university, college, or technical school majoring in an accredited Performing Arts or Performing Arts Management program; and those students already registered in a recognized apprenticeship program in the Performing Arts or Performing Arts Management are invited to apply.

Bursary applications must be received at the Vernon and District Performing Arts Centre **by 5:00pm, Wednesday, September 15, 2021.**

Public announcement of the 2021 Bursary recipients would normally be revealed publicly, live as part of the Society's annual Birthday Bash celebration at the Performing Arts Centre, prior to the Society's opening 2021-22 SPOTLIGHT Season presentation. With the BC Restart Plan currently in Step 3 and 'indoor public gatherings' limited to 50% capacity until at least September 7<sup>th</sup> and Step 4, plans for this year's Birthday Bash are on hold until full capacity audiences are allowed. In the meantime, the Society aims to announce its 2021 Bursary recipients "in early-October".

Each year, VDPAC makes available bursaries to promote and assist area students in their pursuit of careers in the Performing Arts. Bursaries are traditionally made possible by the generosity of Performing Arts Centre patrons from tips and gratuities collected at its Coatcheck Gallery and bar & concession. The Society also accepts memorial gifts, sponsorships and personal donations specifically made for its Bursary Program. In 2020, the Society awarded three \$1,000 bursaries based on remaining public donations.

Without public events since March 2020, the Society's Board of Directors agreed to proceed with its Bursary Program in 2021, regardless. To assist this year, and to help re-build its Bursary Fund, VDPAC will announce a special promotion this summer to give patrons and area businesses the chance to re-connect with the Performing Arts Centre and help local performing arts students at the same time.

The Bursary Program is a key part of the Society's ongoing "Youth Engagement Strategy" (YES), which also promotes summer student employment (3 positions available this summer), youth volunteers, student 'community hours' opportunities, a newly re-branded "Student RUSH: Live for Five" discount ticket program, and other youth outreach activities over the year.

**To Apply:** Students are invited to visit the Society's website: [vdpac.ca/AbouttheSociety/BursaryProgram](http://vdpac.ca/AbouttheSociety/BursaryProgram) to download the Guidelines and Bursary Application Form, including required support documentation.

Inquiries about the Bursary Program, or to sponsor or donate to the program, should be directed to the executive director at: [theatre@ticketseller.ca](mailto:theatre@ticketseller.ca).

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