

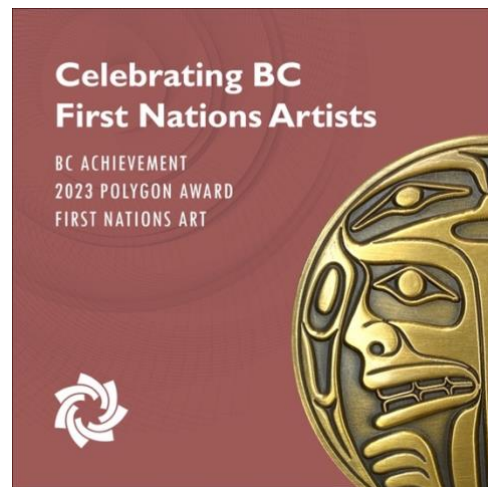
For Immediate Release



**BC Achievement
Polygon Award
First Nations Art**

BC ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION REVEALS RECIPIENTS OF 2023 POLYGON AWARD IN FIRST NATIONS ART

Vancouver, BC (October 4, 2023): The [BC Achievement Foundation](#) is honoured to announce the recipients of the [Polygon Award in First Nations Art](#) (FNA). Presented annually by the independent foundation, which celebrates exceptional people doing exceptional work, the award program shines a light on artistic excellence in traditional, contemporary or media First Nations Art.



“Congratulations to each of the deserving recipients of the 2023 Polygon Award in First Nations Art! The recognition is a testament to your artistic brilliance in traditional and contemporary art,” said Walter Pela, Chair of the BC Achievement Foundation. “The commitment to your craft, impressive body of work, and the recognition you receive within your communities showcase the profound impact of your creativity and dedication to preserving and advancing First Nations art. These contributions enrich the cultural landscape, inspiring others while preserving the deep heritage of First Nations arts in British Columbia. Thank you for inspiring the next generation of artists while preserving the legacy of First Nations Art in BC,” he added.

Now in its 17th year, the Polygon Award in First Nations Art recognizes those who have demonstrated a commitment to their art practice; have accumulated a body of work; and are recognized in their communities as artists. Celebrating the intersection of art and culture, while honouring First Nations artistic traditions, the program creates a platform for community engagement, mentorship, and storytelling.

The 2023 recipients, chosen by an independent jury, are:

[Brent Sparrow](#) – Musqueam, Vancouver

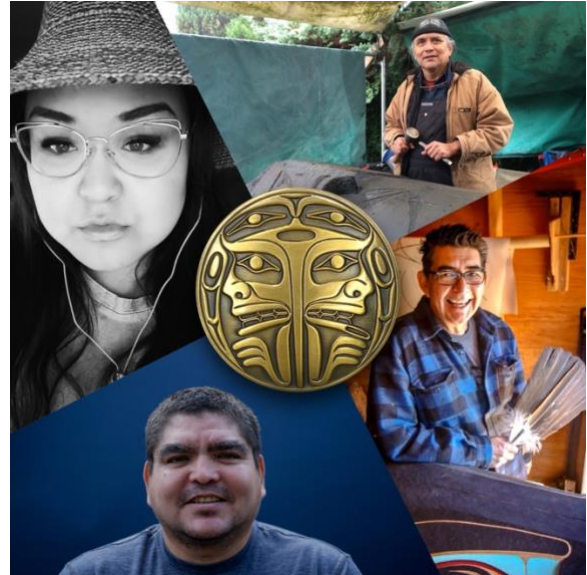
[Klatle-bhi](#) – Kwakwaka'wakw / Squamish, West Vancouver

[Shawna Kiesman](#) – Nisga'a, Ts'msyen, Haida, Victoria – Crabtree McLennan
Emerging Artist

The 2023 Award of Distinction for Lifetime Achievement, as decided by the BC Achievement Board after community consultation, is:

[Xwalacktun \(Rick Harry\)](#) – Kwakwaka'wakw / Squamish – West Vancouver – Award of Distinction for Lifetime Achievement

The 2023 jury members include **Nathan Wilson**, Nuuchahnulth, Gitksan and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry and 2020 recipient; **Shawn Hunt**, Heiltsuk and 2011 recipient; **Xémontélót Carrielynn Victor**, Cheam First Nation and 2018 recipient. **Connie Watts**, Associate Director, Aboriginal Programs, Emily Carr University of Art + Design and artist of Nuuchahnulth, Gitksan and Kwakwaka'wakw ancestry; and **Brenda Crabtree**, former Director, Aboriginal Programs, and Special Advisor to the President on Indigenous Initiatives, Emily Carr University of Art + Design, a member of the Spuzzum Band with both Nlaka'pamux and Sto:lo ancestry, served as advisors.



Through the extraordinary contributions of awardees like these, BC Achievement continues to advance its quest to elevate excellence, share success, and inspire change.

The foundation is hosting a ticketed award ceremony and dinner on Wednesday, November 15 at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre in Vancouver, BC, where each recipient will be honoured with a short film highlighting their accomplishments. Click [here](#) to purchase tickets. Awardees will also be celebrated through an online campaign, #shinethelightbc.

In addition, BC Achievement is proud to present a **combined exhibition** showcasing the recipients for both the 2023 Polygon Award in First Nations Art and Applied Art + Design Award. The exhibition, which is free and open to the public, will take place at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre from Thursday, November 16 to Wednesday, November 22. Click [here](#) to register.

Interviews with representatives of the BC Achievement Foundation and award

recipients are available upon request. A media kit, including awardee bios and high-resolution images, can be found [here](#).

For more information about the BC Achievement Foundation and the Polygon Award in First Nations Art program, please visit www.bcachievement.com.

The Polygon Award in First Nations Art is made possible through the generosity of Vancouver-based Polygon Homes. The BC Achievement Foundation is also grateful to supporting sponsors [TELUS](#) and [TD](#), and community partners [BC Ferries](#), [Denbigh Fine Art Services](#), and [The Roundhouse](#) each of which play a key role in elevating change in their support of the First Nations Art Award program.

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About BC Achievement

BC Achievement is an independent foundation established in 2003 that celebrates the spirit of excellence in our province and serves to honour the best of British Columbia. In addition to the Polygon Award in First Nations Art, the organization presents several established programs, including the Indigenous Business Award, the Applied Art + Design Award, the Community Award and in partnership with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the BC Reconciliation Award. By recognizing the accomplishments of our province's entrepreneurs, artists, community leaders, youth and volunteers, BC Achievement's award programs pay tribute to exceptional people, doing exceptional work, while carving a path forward for others to follow.

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