

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Vancouver Art Gallery meets Kelowna locals at Community Reception

May 13, 2016, Vancouver, BC – Last night, Vancouver Art Gallery’s Director Kathleen S. Bartels, together with the 2016 Audain Prize for Lifetime Achievement in the Visual Arts recipient Paul Wong and Kelowna Art Gallery Executive Director Nataley Nagy, met with community members at the Kelowna Art Gallery on the importance of arts and culture in BC, plans for a new gallery space in Vancouver, as well as how creative economy enriches communities and improve quality of life. This reception is the first of several community receptions presented by the Vancouver Art Gallery in partnership with several arts organizations in British Columbia.

The Vancouver Art Gallery has a long-standing collaborative relationship with arts and culture organizations in BC. Across the Province program, launched in 2006 at the Two River Gallery in Prince George, has toured 8 exhibitions with more than 30 presentations throughout the province, hosted at 7 venues, including the Kelowna Art Gallery. The most recent was *A Terrible Beauty: Edward Burtynsky in Dialogue with Emily Carr* in 2015.

“Art shapes our culture and the communities that we live in. The Vancouver Art Gallery is very proud to be a part of this dynamic provincial community of arts and culture. Ensuring the overall growth of this sector through innovations and collaborations is an important role for us,” said Kathleen S. Bartels. “With the new Vancouver Art Gallery building project underway, we are excited to share our vision and discuss how, together, we can build an extraordinary future for our province. The future Gallery will provide new opportunities for local and international artists and increased capacity for exhibitions that can be shared with partner institutions throughout British Columbia.”

Nataley Nagy, Director of the Kelowna Art Gallery which hosted the event, said that “our gallery is proud to be an active partner with Kathleen Bartels and the Vancouver Art Gallery. The new Vancouver Art Gallery facility will not only provide an iconic, more accessible venue for art in Vancouver, it will strengthen the network of artistic and cultural partnerships across the province and beyond.”

The new Vancouver Art Gallery will be located at a city-owned site at West Georgia and Cambie Streets, known as Larwill Park. The project’s architect is Swiss architectural firm Herzog & de Meuron, working with Vancouver-based Perkins + Will, Executive Architect for the project. The new building will feature over 85,000 square feet of exhibition space—more than doubling its current size—with 40,000 square feet of galleries dedicated to the museum’s vast collection of over 11,000 artworks. It will also feature a new education centre that includes a 350-seat auditorium, workshops and a resource centre for research, library services and artist archives. Additional new features will include greatly expanded storage and art preparation areas; a conservation lab that will be a resource for the Province; and an expanded store, a café and restaurant.

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### MEDIA INFORMATION:

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About the **Vancouver Art Gallery** : The Vancouver Art Gallery is a not-for-profit organization supported by its members, individual donors, corporate funders, foundations, the City of Vancouver, the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council, and the Canada Council for the Arts. We thank everyone for their continuing generosity.