
NEWS RELEASE

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B.C. TO ESTABLISH EMILY CARR UNIVERSITY OF ART & DESIGN

VANCOUVER – The Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design will become a university, to be called the Emily Carr University of Art and Design (ECUAD), Premier Gordon Campbell and Advanced Education Minister Murray Coell announced today.

“The kind of leading-edge education programs offered at Emily Carr are an important part of building the highly skilled workforce we need here in B.C.,” said Premier Campbell. “In the throne speech, we committed to expanding B.C.’s public university system and creating new opportunities for higher learning. Emily Carr is already known as a leading institution in Canada for programs such as visual arts, design and media arts, and becoming a university will help to expand on that reputation.”

Pending amendments to B.C.’s University Act, the new Emily Carr University of Art and Design (ECUAD) will focus on providing students with exceptional programs in visual arts, including drawing, painting, photography and digital arts; media arts, including animation, gaming, filmmaking and video and television; and design, which focuses on sustainability and new forms of product and process design.

“The consultations conducted as part of the Campus 2020 process clearly identified that British Columbians want access to more university degree programs,” said Coell. “The Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design is the only public post-secondary institution in the province solely dedicated to the visual arts, media arts and design. As a university, it will be able to do even more.”

“We are extremely proud to see that our innovative institution will become a university,” said Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design president Ron Burnett. “This new status means we can increase opportunities for students to participate in professional degree programs leading to bachelor’s and master’s degrees in visual art, design and media studies.”

The Emily Carr Institute began in 1925 as the Vancouver School of Decorative and Applied Arts. It went through several name changes before becoming the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in 1995.

The Emily Carr Institute has an enrolment of 4,040 students, including 214 international students. Since 2001, the Province has increased operating funding for Emily Carr by \$2.7 million and invested \$2.3 million in capital projects, including construction of the interdisciplinary digital studio of art, media and design.

Media contact: Bridgitte Anderson
Press Secretary
Office of the Premier
604 307-7177

Linda O'Connor
Communications Manager
Ministry of Advanced Education
250 952-6400
250 812-4418 (cell)

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