

HAIDA GWAII

MEDIA COLLECTIVE

Haida Gwaii Media Collective
PO Box 1502
Skidegate, BC,
V0T 1S1

From Our Islands To The World - A new media collective is shaping the future of digital storytelling in remote communities.

Haida Gwaii, B.C. – A new media collective is shifting the narrative of storytelling on Haida Gwaii as founders Patrick Shannon and Julia Weder launch the Haida Gwaii Media Collective (HGMC), an education and production initiative for digital storytelling on Haida Gwaii. With goals of addressing systemic issues of inequality in the media production industry, the collective will support island residents in coming together to learn aspects of the creative process.

“Our stories are so often told by outsiders because we have limited physical resources and not many opportunities for media capacity building,” explains Julia Weder, a youth program coordinator at Hiit’aGan.iina Kuuyas Naay *Skidegate Youth Centre* and co-founder of HGMC.

The collective is addressing these issues by creating a supportive environment for community members to come together and learn to develop, produce, and distribute their own films and stories.

Along with offering locals affordable film and media equipment to rent (housed in the Haida Gwaii Museum), they will provide collaboration and mentorship opportunities, and workshops in all aspects of media production, including; writing, acting, editing, producing, and distribution. They will also offer advice and support with legalities, payments, production, promotion of their work, and connection building so they can continue to expand their skill set.

“We want to help our diverse community members explore their full potential as multimedia creators by exploring their voice and creativity while reconnecting with our living cultures” Patrick Shannon says. Shannon is a member of the Haida Nation and the founder of InnoNative, an Indigenous film production company and co-founder of Supernaturals Modelling, a culturally focused Indigenous modelling agency that’s addressing the issues of representation, mental health awareness, and poor cultural sensitivity in the media and modelling world.

Not only will the media collective develop new creative economies on Haida Gwaii, but through its core pillars of collaboration and a development of a cultural advisory board, they will facilitate

a community of creators, mentors, storytellers and organizations that can work together in telling local stories, while putting emphasis on ensuring an appropriate representation of Haida people and cultures.

The collective was funded in Spring 2021 as a 2-year pilot project, by Grand Challenges Canada through their Indigenous innovation initiative that primarily aims to address systemic barriers faced by Indigenous people, women, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Over the next few months, HGMC plans to establish a network of mentors who can offer their skills and knowledge to share with community members in one-on-one and group workshops - and starting in January 2022 the HGMC will facilitate various creative workshops for residents with professionals from across the country.

Over the next 2 years, the Haida Gwaii Media Collective aims to not only build local capacity in digital storytelling, but to establish a model that can be brought to any remote community that wants to take control of their own narratives.

Media Contacts

Primary media contact

contact@haidagwaiimediacollecive.com

Patrick Shannon

Haida Gwaii Media Collective Co-Founder

Tel: 604-319-4419

Email: patrick@innonative.ca

Julia Weder

Haida Gwaii Media Collective Co-Founder

Tel: 778-984-5824

Email: julia.weder@gmail.com