

HAIDA GWAI

MEDIA COLLECTIVE

The Haida Gwaii Media Collective is a community-driven media education and production initiative that empowers residents of Haida Gwaii to gain the resources, skills, and experience in digital storytelling. It is co-founded by Indigenous filmmaker Patrick Shannon and youth program coordinator Julia Weder.

Through accessible film equipment rentals, capacity-building workshops, and local mentorship and networking opportunities, the Haida Gwaii Media Collective hopes to address systemic issues of inequality in the media production industry. Its ultimate goal is to help diverse community members explore their full potential as multimedia creators and build up vibrant creative economies on Haida Gwaii.

The initiative is funded by Grand Challenges Canada through their Indigenous Innovation Initiative program, which primarily aims to address systemic barriers faced by Indigenous women and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

5 Pillars

1. RESOURCES

One of the biggest challenges to media production is a lack of access to quality production equipment. The HGMC has been investing in gear and a centralized space for accessible film and audio equipment.

2. COLLABORATION

Haida Gwaii is home to so many amazing creatives, so we've created a local directory to showcase our locals and their skill sets, facilitating a collaborative community of local creators, story-tellers, and organizations.

3. CAPACITY BUILDING

Edge of the Knife has shown that we have so much amazing talent on island, and we want to build on that momentum by building more capacity through mentorship opportunities, workshops, educational resources, and exposure to professional opportunities.

4. PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION

Our team has experience bringing productions from concept to finished product, and we want to help guide locals in producing their own content. We aim to support creators with legalities, payments, production advice, promotion of their work, and connection-building.

5. CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Over the years we have witnessed many outside productions come to Haida Gwaii, and to make sure that we are protecting the integrity of our communities and culture, a team of Haida knowledge-holders will be on board to review external film productions and ensure appropriate representation of Haida people and culture.