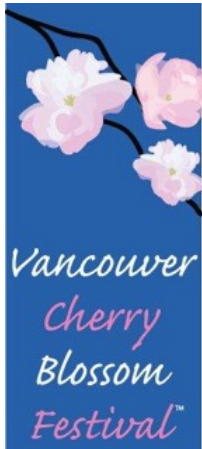


## PUBLIC INVITED TO MAKE LANTERNS FOR CHERRY BLOSSOM LIGHT SHOW AT QUEEN ELIZABETH PARK



**VANCOUVER, BC (January 24, 2017)** – Lower Mainland residents are being invited to make and add their own lanterns to a massive multi-coloured sound and light show that will be projected onto the canopies of some of Vancouver’s largest cherry trees during the Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival.

Entitled Spring Lights, the free immersive light and video art installation at Queen Elizabeth Park is being created by local artists at Hfour Studio with funding support provided by the Government of Canada through Canada 150. The dazzling illumination will include vibrant projections, multi-coloured lanterns, a soundscape, and contemporary dance performance created by choreographer Heather Laura Gray. The illumination will be set up for unobstructed views ideal for photography and picnicking in the spring evening air under cherry blossoms.

In keeping with the Festival’s commitment to celebrate Vancouver’s rich cultural heritage and to honour Canada’s 150<sup>th</sup> birthday, the public is invited to create personalized lanterns that reflect their own multicultural-Canadian identity. To assist them, the Festival is hosting a series of workshops led by workshop facilitator Hannah Barrs starting this February. The three-hour workshops, which are recommended for ages 14 and older, will teach people to transform industrial materials into their very own lanterns that will be incorporated into the evening illumination. Lantern Making Workshops start February 11<sup>th</sup>, and are being offered at the following venues:

Date: Saturday, Feb. 11 from 1-4pm  
Location: West Point Grey Community Centre

Date: Sunday, Feb. 12 from 10am-1pm  
Location: Roundhouse Community Centre

Date: Saturday, Feb. 18 from 1-4pm  
Location: Kerrisdale Community Centre

Date: Thursday, Feb. 23 from 6:30-9:30pm  
Location: St. Andrew’s-Wesley Church

Date: Sunday, Feb. 26 from 2-5pm  
Location: Killarney Community Centre

Date: Saturday, March 11 from 10:30am-1:30pm  
Location: Trout Lake Community Centre

Space for these Lantern Making Workshops is limited, so register early at <http://www.vcbf.ca/community-event/hands-on-workshops>. Lantern workshop materials will be provided at a cost of \$5 per lantern. Play a part in Canada’s birthday celebrations and shine your light for Canada!

The project has been made possible in part by the Government of Canada. Ce projet a été rendu possible en partie grâce au gouvernement du Canada.

**About the 2017 Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival March 30 to April 23:**

The *Vancouver Cherry Blossom Festival* is a charitable not-for-profit organization with the objective to sustain and renew Vancouver's cherry tree heritage, while educating and actively engaging diverse communities in local arts and culture to celebrate the fragile beauty of the iconic cherry blossom. The Festival provides a happy occasion to bring us all together outside in our urban nature with cherry trees to enjoy this awe-inspiring event. Cherry blossom viewing has become a springtime tradition in our city now as people marvel as 54 different varieties come into blossom in our city.

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**For more information on the Festival, please contact:**

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