



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 14, 2017

Emily Carr University Announces \$2.5 Million Gift From Ian Gillespie

Donation funds new scholarships, grants, and equipment

Vancouver, BC; November 14, 2017 – Emily Carr University of Art + Design (ECU) announced today a major gift of \$2.5 million from Ian Gillespie. Central to the donation is a \$1 million commitment for scholarships, research grants, and new equipment for the Ian Gillespie Faculty of Design + Dynamic Media. Twenty per cent of scholarship funds will support Indigenous students at ECU.

“We believe Emily Carr University is one of the jewels of our province. I hope that this is the beginning of a long-term relationship with the school. It is our belief that fostering the growth of our creative economy is critical to the success of our community in the coming decades. I would also like to thank Ron Burnett for his incredible leadership and passion,” states Ian Gillespie, founder of Westbank.

“This donation will have a tremendous impact on our students and our ability to support the creative sector in BC and Canada,” says Dr. Ron Burnett, President and Vice-Chancellor, ECU. “Design is emerging as one of the most important areas of the creative economy. These funds will provide our students and faculty with the resources they need to excel, explore, and think differently about creativity and how it shapes our world.”

As part of the commitment, \$1.5 million will be applied towards ECU’s THE BIG IDEA capital campaign to help fund the new Great Northern Way campus. The campaign raised \$24.5 million, including \$315,000 from students themselves. ECU officially opened the doors to the cutting-edge campus on September 5.

“Without the generosity of our donors, this facility could not have been built,” continues Burnett. “We are profoundly grateful to the individuals, companies, and non-profits who have made the new campus a reality for our students.”

The Ian Gillespie Faculty of Design + Dynamic Media responds to the complex world around us by enhancing understanding of social context and connections as one of the most respected graphic, media, and applied art and design schools in North America. It offers interdisciplinary design studies in sustainability, health care, regional and recreational products, systems and information design, typography, visual communications and storytelling, commercial, experimental and 3D animation, film and video, and interactive and integrated design.

About Ian Gillespie:

Ian Gillespie is a Canadian city-builder. In 1992 he founded Westbank based in Vancouver, British Columbia. Westbank is a practice working towards the goal of bringing seemingly disparate elements together and it has built a practice around long-term commitments to artistry, sustainability and city-building. These commitments underlie an orientation towards projects like Woodward's, Vancouver House, Mirvish Village, Telus Garden, Fairmont Pacific Rim and Oakridge – catalysts for larger change that go beyond the borders of the projects themselves. The core of Westbank's mission is to create a body of work with a high degree of artistry that helps foster more equitable and beautiful cities. Westbank is active across Canada, the United States, and Tokyo, with projects including luxury residential, Five Star hotels, retail, office, rental, district energy systems, affordable housing and public art. It is one of North America's leading developers, with offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, Seattle, Shanghai, Beijing, Taiwan, Tokyo, Hong Kong, Shenzhen and over 25 billion dollars of projects completed or under development.

About Emily Carr University:

Emily Carr University is one of the top ranked specialized universities in the world in Art, Media & Design. Founded in 1925, the Vancouver-based university has over 2,000 full-time and 3,000 part-time students. ECU is a place of innovation, facilitating research into areas such Health, Data, Robotics, Wearables, Stereo 3D Cinema, and Immersive/Augmented Technologies. We are a community of makers and doers, interested in changing the world, contemplating new models of social organization and challenging preconceptions about the creative economy. Find out more at ecuad.ca.

-30-

For more information, interviews or high resolution photography, contact:

Gwen Hardy
cell 604 809 0062
gwen@elettra.ca

Westbank contact:

Jill Killeen
778 837 8907
jill@killeencommunication.com