

For immediate release / December 7, 2015

MEDIA RELEASE

Calgary soon to get its own spaceship

Beama Visual Environments named recipient of the Big Bang Residency Program

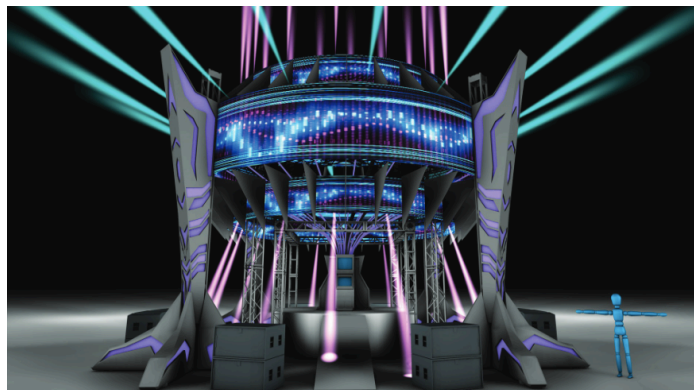
[Calgary/Banff, Canada] — A Calgary team will be the first group to go through the Big Bang Residency Program, an initiative designed to support mixed groups of artists and engineers for a year to create a large-scale engineered artwork and immersive experience – a space ship in this case – to premiere during Beakerhead 2016.

The winning team will be provided with budget of \$50,000 for materials and artist fees through funding from the Remarkable Experience Accelerator, a joint initiative of Calgary Arts Development and the Calgary Hotel Association.

Nineteen teams applied from across the globe, including across Canada, the United States, France, Poland and The Netherlands. The winning proposal, by Beama Visual Environments, will see the creation of a multi-interactive work called the Bass Ship. The team has created work for music festivals all across North America such as Coachella and Shambala and can be found on industry top ten lists. The work will open on September 14, 2016.

The Bass Ship is an immersive, fully interactive audio-visual installation exploring the idea of non-verbal communication.

There are no passengers on a spaceship. We're all crew!



“When you step inside the ship, you become a part of an experiment. You have to coordinate with three other crew members to create a coherent communication. There are a lot of interesting dimensions, which will be developed through the residency at The Banff Centre, culminating in a spectacle!” says Mary Anne Moser, president and co-founder of Beakerhead.

From the ship's switchboards and control panels, participants (a.k.a. crew) will be guided by visual cues. Each action by one of the participants will trigger a sequence of audio, lighting and video events, which will play out on the Bass Ship and shared with the audience ... or extra-terrestrials!

"It has been an honour and a thrill to see the wealth of creativity from applicants around the world," said Jen Mizuik, director of Visual + Digital Arts at The Banff Centre. "We look forward to welcoming Beama Visual Environments to The Banff Centre, where they can develop and polish their project in one of the world's most inspiring places."

This is the first year for this three-year program, spearheaded by Beakerhead, an annual smash up of art, science and engineering that erupted in Calgary for the first time in 2013 and reached an audience of 112,000 last year.

The next call for proposals to the Big Bang Residency Program will be issued in the summer of 2016.

Media Contact

Michelle Htun-Kay
Director of Communications and Marketing
Beakerhead
1-403-971-5180 or michelle@beakerhead.com

Jenny Spurr
Media and Communications Officer
The Banff Centre
1-403-763-6719 or jenny_spurr@banffcentre.ca



About Beakerhead

Beakerhead is a citywide, interactive movement that explodes with creativity. It brings together the arts and engineering sectors to build and exhibit works of art and science during an annual weeklong happening each fall. From outdoor artworks to community celebrations, interactive digital events to event premieres, Beakerhead is a crucible of human ingenuity. Beakerhead 2016 will take place in Calgary, Alberta on September 14 - 18. *For more information visit www.beakerhead.com or follow @Beakerhead on [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) and Beakerhead on [Facebook](#).*

About The Banff Centre

The Banff Centre's mission is inspiring creativity. Thousands of artists, leaders, and researchers from across Canada and around the world participate in programs at The Banff Centre every year. Through its multidisciplinary programming, The Banff Centre provides them with the support they need to create, to develop solutions, and to make the impossible possible. www.banffcentre.ca