

## UKRAINIAN REFUGEE STUDENTS ENROLLED AT VANARTS

25 Full Tuition Scholarships were Awarded, and Students Begin Arriving for In-Person Classes

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April 26, 2022 (VANCOUVER, B.C.) – As the Government of Canada works to fast-track Ukrainian refugees coming to Canada, the Vancouver Institute of Media Arts (VanArts) recognizes that education can make a positive difference in their lives. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, VanArts announced it would be offering 25 full tuition scholarships for Ukrainian refugees. The school is pleased to announce that all 25 scholarships have been awarded, and students are now beginning to arrive for in-person classes at VanArts.

The total tuition amount awarded in scholarships is over \$900,000. Students are enrolled in one of the following 12-month diploma programs: 2D Character Animation, 3D Character Animation, Game Art & Design, Professional Photography, and Visual Effects for Film & TV. Until the students arrive in Vancouver, they are being supported with access to classes online. VanArts is following up with each student and providing them with online resources for Ukrainian refugees to secure housing with host families.

Sofiia, a Game Art & Design student from Kyiv, said, “I never would have imagined I would have this great opportunity living so far away from home, but here I am.” Mariia, studying 2D Character Animation and also from Kyiv: “Everyone is so friendly here in Canada. I’m so happy to finally be here.”

VanArts President Alan Phillips said, “We are thrilled that 25 Ukrainian refugee students have enrolled at VanArts, and are especially pleased to welcome them in person as they arrive in Vancouver. It’s our desire to give this opportunity to Ukrainian refugees, and to provide training that will help them launch a creative and rewarding career in Canada.”

ABOUT VANARTS: Established in 1995, Vancouver Institute of Media Arts (VanArts) is a highly ranked visual, media and performing arts school. The school’s mission is to unlock the creative and career potential within each student in the areas of animation, game art, visual effects, photography, web development, and acting for film and television. With the help of specialized instruction, small class sizes, industry-experienced faculty and connections to the creative industries in Vancouver, VanArts graduates have gone on to work for major studios, see their names in the credits of major feature films, and start their own companies.

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