



Civic Partner Annual Report: ARTS COMMONS



Our Belief is that equitable access to the arts is a human right.

Our Responsibility is to redefine a bold and adventurous Calgary by championing and investing in creativity.

Our Mission is to be an inspirational force where artists, community, and organizations celebrate cultural identities, experience the full breadth of human emotions, and ignite positive change.

2022 Highlights: A Year of Transition

As Stewards, we...

- Produced the world-premiere of *Ragtime: A Concert Performance*, the first-ever artistic collaboration between Arts Commons, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and Theatre Calgary.
- Increased the provision of shared services within our building to achieve greater economies of scale in the arts ecosystem.
- Were the only arts centre in the world to receive the 2022 National Air Filtration Association 'Clean Air Award' because of our commitment to best air filtration practices.

2022 Highlights: A Year of Transition

As Programmers, we...

- Continued to celebrate local arts and culture in community with our ArtsXpeditions pop-up concerts in Calgary's four quadrants.
- We made history by launching the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra with JazzYYC.
- Saw our first sold-out concert since the pandemic began, *An Evening with Lea Salonga*, thanks to Calgary's Filipino community.

2022 Highlights: A Year of Transition

As Educators, we...

- Led a comprehensive benchmark research study of arts education across Calgary, in partnership with CADA—which will lead to our first Arts ReimaginED Conference in Spring of 2023.
- Saw pre-pandemic levels of engagement with students and teachers.
- Prioritized the bringing together of mainstage artists with local artists as a means of investing in local professional development.

2022 Highlights: A Year of Transition

As City Builders, we...

Announced, in partnership with CMLC and The City of Calgary, the Design Team for the Arts Commons Transformation project:

- Marianne McKenna, KPMB (Toronto)
- Wanda Dalla Costa, Tawaw (Calgary/Phoenix)
- Jesse Hindle, Hindle Architects (Calgary)
- Rasmus Astrup, SLA (Copenhagen)

2022 Highlights: A Year of Transition

In a year of transitions, we connected people back to the arts and to each other by:

- Hosting 577 events and welcoming 37,804 patrons to Arts Commons events.
- Providing on-site arts education programs to 19,080 students and teachers.
- Celebrating the busiest summer in Arts Commons history because of sold-out performances by Punjabi musicians Nimrat Khaira & Arjan Dhillon, Pakistani performers Atif Aslam & Farhad Darya, and Bollywood performer Nehar Kakkar.
- Welcoming 525 arts professionals from across North America as we hosted the 2022 Western Arts Alliance Conference, which featured a free, family outdoor performance of *Squonk: Hand to Hand* in Olympic Plaza—which welcomed over 2,000 audience members to the downtown plaza.

2022 Performance Measures

In a year of transitions, we re-imagined our business model in order to invest in community by:

- Strategically increasing earned and contributed revenues by 25% and 68%, respectively, since 2020

	2020	2021	2022
Earned	\$4,878,236	\$2,280,224	\$6,080,175
Contributed	\$4,205,379	\$6,482,903	\$7,062,259

	Earned	Contributed
Pre-Pandemic	65%	35%
2020-2021	37%	63%
2021-2022	50%	50%

2022 Performance Measures

We leaned into our new Mission statement and commitment to access by:

- Making 13,476 tickets available, for free, to essential workers and their families, thanks to the Season of Gratitude campaign, supported by the Rodney & Karen McCann family.
- Partnering with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship's Canoo program to welcome 1,500 new Canadians to the world-premiere of *Ragtime: A Concert Performance*.
- Launched a digital portal on the Arts Commons website, where people can view presentations filmed in Arts Commons for free and on demand.
- Retrofitted our arts galleries to accommodate our first partnership with a deaf/hard-of-hearing artist, Ebony Gooden, who is also a member of Arts Commons' TD Incubator cohort.

Adapting to a Changing Environment

We leaned into our new Mission statement and commitment to access by:

- Kicking off the second year of our TD Incubator program under the leadership of Calgary funk/R&B duo Sargeant x Comrade.
- Producing short-form documentaries on local artists, currently being broadcast to the public for free via the TELUS Sky 'Art While You Wait' program.
- Continuing to develop our multi-year Reconciliation Strategy under the guidance of Indigenous Elders and Indigenous consultants.
- Reducing greenhouse emissions, waste, and air/water pollution:
 - Replacing boiler infrastructure with new technology that is 35% more efficient and reduces our annual greenhouse emissions by 1,198 metric tonnes
 - Replacing antiquated theatrical dimmer and lighting systems with more versatile, energy efficient LED state lighting.

Adapting to a Changing Environment



Questions