

2016 2017

 Arts
Commons

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

CITY OF CALGARY

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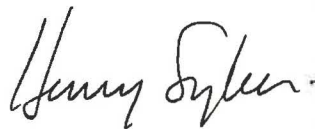
Message from the Chair

Henry Sykes

Chair of the Board - 2012 -2017

It has been almost ten years since I joined the Board of Arts Commons, the last five of which I have served as Chair of the Board. I initially joined the board because it was, and remains, my passionate belief that a great city is more than an accumulation of buildings and businesses. For a city to be truly great, it needs, among other things, a vibrant and thriving cultural and arts community. It needs people who want to be there because it's a city in which they want to spend their lives, and raise families, and connect with other people on many different levels. Just as a house is not always a home, a city is not always a community. Reflecting on the years I have spent on the Board of Arts Commons, I am enormously proud of the role Arts Commons has played - and continues to play - in making our city a community. Our reach - whether through our programming, our education outreach or our community events - continues to grow, and our impact continues to deepen. I am especially pleased that we have accomplished this, and so much more, while balancing our books and creating a sustainable business,

notwithstanding the very difficult economic times we have endured over the last many years. It is when the going gets tough that Calgarians excel, and Arts Commons is a perfect example. The Board of Arts Commons has a robust succession planning process, and as a result, I have complete confidence in the leadership of our new chair, Scott Hutcheson. I want to thank him, and all of the members of our Board, for their support, their wisdom, and their guidance over so many years. I also want to thank our CEO, Johann Zietsman, who has built an exceptional team of committed and extraordinarily competent leaders. We are very fortunate to have such a group of people in our City. I leave my position knowing that Arts Commons is not only in good hands, but it is in the best hands. It has been a privilege.



Henry W. Sykes, Q.C.
Chair, Board of Directors





© Mike Tan

National Geographic Live Explorer and Photographer Anand Varma, meets with patrons to sign autographs. © Will Young



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Special event in the Jack Singer Concert Hall lobby.



Patrons create their own personal pieces of art at Happenings 9.

Our Vision:

A creative and compassionate society, inspired through the arts.

Our Mission:

To bring the arts ...to life.

This is **YOUR** Arts Commons

Q&A with students in the Jack Singer Concert Hall as part of National Geographic Live.



Indigenous supergroup Black Arm Band performs at Jack Singer Concert Hall as part of BD&P World Music and the High Performance Rodeo. © Will Young



This is Where the Arts Come to Life!

"It was the best of times... it was the worst of times." The economic downturn took its toll on key industries, shutting down several businesses, and many arts organizations faced extraordinary challenges. Although Arts Commons also faced challenging economic times, we are pleased that we were able to continue to bring the excitement, inspiration, and renewal of the arts to the people who walked through our doors, when they needed it most.

In addition to bringing world renowned artists and award-winning productions to our stages, we continued to create accessible opportunities for our community by hosting free public events and providing complimentary tickets to those who would otherwise be unable to attend. Over the season, we hosted hundreds at our free *Happenings* events and distributed complimentary show tickets to over 1,700 people, with nearly 900 of those allocated to families and children. Arts Commons Presents engaged over 10,000 students in Arts Learning programs and hosted over 8,000 students at *National Geographic Live* education events.

We shared the excellence of performers such as Mavis Staples and Ludovico Einaudi, and engaged with artists like Black Arm Band, who came all the way from Australia and shared their heritage with Indigenous students here in Calgary. In this way, we bring the arts to every life and remain grateful for the ongoing support of our patrons, donors, and sponsors. Without you, none of this would be possible.

On behalf of Arts Commons and our community, I wish to thank our outgoing Chair, Henry Sykes, for his passion, dedication, leadership, and generosity over the past decade – we wish Henry well in his new endeavours! Thanks also goes out to our resident companies, community partners, artists, volunteers, media, and all three levels of Government, for your continued commitment to the arts.

The following pages tell the story of both Arts Commons as a whole, including our seven resident companies, partners, and third parties, as well as the specific contribution of Arts Commons' operations and Arts Commons Presents programming.

Thank you for continuing on this journey with us. We continue to welcome you to share your passion with us and are grateful for your role in our success.

Johann F. Zietsman
President and CEO

Our Mandate is...

to foster, present, and promote the arts

From trombones to ukuleles, hair salons to chocolate factories, comedians to world-renowned explorers, the 2016-17 season delivered excitement, inspiration, laughter, and passion at a time when our community needed it most. Arts Commons Presents hosted globally respected musicians, including pianist Ludovico Einaudi, viral sensation Jake Shimabukuro, and blues legend Charlie Musselwhite; Theatre Calgary immersed us in different cultures with the production of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*; Alberta Theatre Projects invited us into a polygamist community with *Gracie*; the Calgary International Children's Festival brought imagination, excitement, and the wonder of the arts

to over 60,000 students, teachers, and families; Downstage took us on a musical journey of murder with *Crime Does Not Pay*; the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra swept us away to the great beyond with their *Sci-Fi Spectacular: Star Wars to Star Trek*; and One Yellow Rabbit celebrated 30 years, enthralling us once again with the variety and power of the High Performance Rodeo.

And those are just a few of the highlights!

Arts Commons is honoured to be able to share these moments and present incredible talent, thereby enriching and inspiring the lives of Calgarians.



David Coulter and Ensemble in *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.
© Kevin Berne



Students and teachers at Kidsfest enjoy a presentation of *Jacky's African Village* in the Big Secret Theatre. © Kelly Hofer



*"So impressed with the
energy, quality and ambiance.
An amazing evening!"*

- Patron

408,984

total attendance
to a ticketed event
at Arts Commons



ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

Arts Commons
Presents



Selina Wong, Lennette Randall,
Devin MacKinnon, André Wickenheiser,
David Rhymer, and Kris Demeanor in
Crime Does Not Pay. © Tim Nguyen

THE CALGARY
INTERNATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
FESTIVAL

Calgary
Philharmonic
Orchestra



theatre:
CALGARY

Ludovico Einaudi back stage
with Founders Circle members.
© Will Young

Our Mandate is...

to provide and care for our assets

Arts Commons is proud to be the custodian of Alberta's largest and most comprehensive performing arts facility. Within the walls of our building are five theatres, a world-renowned concert hall, arts education spaces, costume and set building shops, rehearsal spaces, visual arts galleries, a café, and administrative offices for some of the most ground breaking and accomplished performing arts companies in Calgary. Arts Commons makes it a priority to maintain, as well as enhance our facility to the highest possible standard, from seating and lighting, to backstage rigging and increased patron accessibility.

The five year plan for patron experience improvement came to its conclusion during the 2016-17 season as the Jack Singer Concert Hall was completely renovated with new seating, pillar and audience lighting, and floor finishing

throughout the space. Supported by The City of Calgary through the Capital Civic Partners Grant Program, the Calgary Foundation, and the Government of Canada through The Canadian Heritage - Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, 2,057 seats were replaced with new, Canadian manufactured, acoustically balanced seating.

To improve the accessibility of our performances for all our patrons, the hearing assistance technology was also upgraded in each of our venues, including the Big Secret and Engineered Air Theatres, which previously did not have support for hearing assistance. We also improved seating accessibility in the Jack Singer Concert Hall for patrons with physical impairments.

Behind the scenes, the rigging in the Martha Cohen Theatre and Jack Singer

Concert Hall was upgraded for increased safety. Cracked and worn outflow pipes throughout the building were also replaced to aid with effective water and sewage drainage. In the HVAC system, the largest coils in the city were replaced, significantly increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the cooling system throughout the building. Additionally, since 2015, Arts Commons has been working to replace all of the toilets, faucets, and much of our plumbing with efficient, water saving fixtures that have not only greatly decreased our water consumption building-wide, but also improved the sanitary cleanliness of our facilities through autosensing technology.

From the infrastructure that keeps our building running at high efficiency, to the comfort of our patrons, Arts Commons strives to maintain and constantly improve on the assets in our care.



*Rigging in the Martha Cohen Theatre.
© Alex Bonyun*

2,057

seats were replaced
in the Jack Singer
Concert Hall

New seats being installed in the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

8,798,380

litres of water
were saved with
Arts Commons'
new water efficient
plumbing fixtures



*Building Operator Jason Nieskens
stands beside the new cooling coil
installed in the Arts Commons air
circulation system. © Alex Bonyun*

Our Mandate is...

to ensure optimal access and utilization of our assets

Arts Commons is a space for all; to gather, to feel welcomed, and to be part of our artistic community. Our volunteer community is strong and active, with increasing affinity towards the organization. This year, 1,724 volunteers contributed 23,599 hours of service to Arts Commons and its resident companies. In addition, thousands of visitors came through our doors to have lunch, grab a coffee, and peruse the art galleries.

Downstage Performance Theatre became the first resident company in Arts Commons to participate in the Good Host program;

hosting relaxed performances to allow those with sensory sensitivities to enjoy and participate in the arts. Arts Commons continues to work diligently to create maximum accessibility for the many events, performances, and speaker presentations that take place in the building.

We also welcomed non-profits, community groups, corporations, private functions, and special projects to be created within our walls, filling our spaces and reducing "dark days", keeping the space vibrant and the organization sustainable.

An integral part of our success is through our venue rentals. We are thrilled that our community feels at home at Arts Commons; hosting their weddings, holiday parties, town hall meetings, and a variety of other celebrations.

The Honourable Rachel Notley, Premier of Alberta speaks in the Jack Singer Concert Hall lobby.
© Alex Bonyun



1,724
volunteers engaged

23,599
volunteer hours
contributed



Arts Commons volunteer Ana distributes magazines and brochures. © Kaija Dirksen

1,379
events booked by Arts
Commons Event Services

Accenture Consulting
 Adult Recreational
 Choir Society of
 Calgary
 AEG Live Canada, Ltd.
 Alberta Association
 of Architects
 Alberta Health
 Services
 Alberta Theatre
 Projects
 AlphaMel Productions
 Ambrose University
 College
 Applause Festival
 Arts Commons
 Presents
 Asian Heritage
 Foundation
 Athabasca University
 Attic Players
 Avant-Garde Music
 Studio
 Ballet Classique
 Ballet de Moscou, Inc.
 Birnton Theatricals
 Bishop Carroll High
 School
 Borden Ladner
 Gervais LLP
 Bow Valley Chorus
 Bow Valley College
 Brendan John Stevens
 and Jacob Richard
 MacArthur
 Burnet Duckworth
 & Palmer LLP
 Calgary Civic
 Symphony
 Calgary Girls Choir

Calgary International
 Children's Festival
 Calgary International
 Film Festival
 Calgary Lithuanian
 Cultural Society
 Calgary Opera
 Calgary Philharmonic
 Chorus
 Calgary Philharmonic
 Orchestra
 Calgary Society
 of Independent
 Filmmakers
 Calgary Stampede
 Foundation
 Calgary Stampede
 Foundation: The
 Young Canadians
 School of Performing
 Arts
 Canada-China Culture
 and Art Association
 Canadian Civil
 Liberties Education
 Trust
 Canadian Heritage
 - BC
 Cantares Venezuelan
 Cultural Foundation
 Casa Mexico in
 Alberta Foundation
 CCGC
 Centre Stage Dance
 Children's School
 of Dance
 Chris Michell Jazz
 Christopher Sandvoss
 Chromatic Theatre
 City of Calgary -
 Community Standards
 City of Calgary -
 Environmental and
 Safety Management

City of Calgary -
 IT Department
 Company of Rogues
 Curiously Canadian
 Improv Guild
 Dance on Edge
 Dance Spectrum
 Dark Matter
 Productions
 DDA - Didier
 Morissonneau
 DeFakto Theatre
 Diversity Dance
 & Performing Arts
 Downstage
 Dr. E.P. Scarlett Music
 Parents Association
 Dreams Take Flight
 EJD Production Inc.
 Encana Corporation
 EnCorpse Dance
 Ernst & Young, LLP
 Experience Church
 Festival Chorus
 Fire Exit Theatre
 Company
 Foothills Academy
 Glenn Dixon
 Gordie Howe CARES
 Government of
 Alberta
 Governors of the
 University of Calgary
 Graham Percy
 Handsome Alice
 Theatre
 Hoodlum Theatre
 Honens
 Husky Energy
 Iglesias Productions

Independent Media
 Arts Alliance
 Inside Out Theatre
 International Festival
 of Animated Objects
 Investors Group
 ISC2
 Islamic Information
 Society of Calgary
 Jeff Parry Promotions
 Jeunesse Classique
 Ballet
 Jewish Family Service
 Calgary
 Jones Entertainment
 Group
 Judith Mendelsohn
 Kiewit Construction
 Services ULC
 Legacy Kitchens
 Live Nation Canada
 Inc.
 Luminous Voices
 Mercer (Canada)
 Limited
 Meridican Incentive
 Consultants
 Mike Chadwick
 Management
 Morin Music Studio
 Mount Royal
 University
 Mpaact Movement
 MS Society of Canada
 Musica Academy
 National Theatre
 School
 New West Symphony
 & Chorus
 New Works Calgary
 Nexen Energy ULC
 Nhac Chieu Guitar
 Orff the Wall
 One Yellow Rabbit
 Performance Theatre
 Otafest Film & Cultural
 Festival Planning
 Committee
 Paquin Entertainment
 Parks Canada
 (Yellowknife)

Paul Mercs Concerts
 Inc.
 Peripheral Theatre
 Philippine Festival
 Council of Alberta
 Philippine Student
 Association
 Pocket Ace
 Productions
 PowHERhouse
 PREPSKILLS INC.
 Productions Juste
 pour rire II Inc.
 Queena Yu and Sami
 Mahmood Alam
 Red Deer Symphony
 RedPoint Media &
 Marketing Solutions
 Revv52
 Rogers
 Communications
 Romanian-Canadian
 Cultural Association
 of Calgary
 Rozsa Foundation
 SAIT Student
 Association Civil
 Engineering
 Technology Students
 Club
 Seadreamer
 Productions
 Search Tower
 Company
 Shangrila Calgary
 Society (SCS)
 Shantero Productions
 Shoemaker Drywall
 Supplies
 Showtime Dance
 Promotions
 Shy-Ann Dance
 Productions
 Simon Fraser
 University
 Skipping Stone
 Foundation
 Soul to Sole Dance
 Sour Dog
 Springbank Dancers
 Square Cat
 Entertainment

StageCoach Theatre
 Arts Calgary
 Stratford Shakespeare
 Festival
 Studio C
 TCB Rock and Roll
 Legends
 TEDx YYC
 Theatre Alberta
 Theatre BSMT
 Theatre Calgary
 Theatre of
 Consequence
 Theatre Encounter
 Theatre Outre
 The Natural Step
 Canada
 Thug Work
 Tibetan Association
 of Alberta
 Tin Man Theatre
 Traugott Building
 Contractors
 Tundra Swans Dance
 Two Towers
 Ultimate Dance
 Company
 University of Calgary
 Orchestra
 University of
 Lethbridge
 University of Waterloo
 Urban Stories
 Vanier School
 Verb Theatre
 Viva Musica Studio
 Ltd.
 West Island College
 Western Canada High
 School
 Wild Rose Dance
 Arts Association
 Wood's Homes
 Foundation
 WordFest
 World Beauty Fitness
 & Fashion Inc
 YYComedy Collective
 Zurich Canada

175

organizations made
 use of Arts Commons'
 facilities



Michael Kaeshammer's concert comes to a triumphant close. © Lemonade Pictures



Happenings welcomes people of all ages from different walks of life for a free art party.



BD&P World Music artist Jake Shimabukuro (centre) poses for a photo with patrons in the Jack Singer Concert Hall. © Kaija Dirkson

Arts Commons Presents



“Excellent show and to add a celebration at the end for the 150th birthday was a highlight.”

~ Arts Commons Presents patron



Lightbox Studio hosts the exhibition Hunting, Gathering, Worshiping, by visual artist Lyndon Navaltà.



Oliver Miguel performs on the duet stage ahead of a TD Jazz performance.

Arts Commons Presents...

creates connections

In collaboration with One Yellow Rabbit's High Performance Rodeo, Arts Commons Presents welcomed Indigenous Australian supergroup, Black Arm Band, to Calgary. In addition to their amazing performance on the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage, the group performed at the Nakoda Elementary School in Morley, Alberta. Packed into the crowded auditorium, students of all ages sang and danced along with a culture from halfway around the world as they shared their traditional stories, creative energy, struggles, and triumphs as Indigenous Peoples. After the show, the students were eager to ask

their questions and even tried their hand at playing a digeridoo. The collaborative initiative was a huge success.

As part of the Arts Commons donor engagement program Founders Circle, blues artist Reverend Peyton was interviewed by local blues musician Tim Williams, speaking to a group of 80 music supporters in the intimate venue of the Engineered Air Theatre. Over the course of two hours, audience members gained eye-opening insight into the life of a touring musician and how they find a way to make a living doing what they love.

As a vital part of Arts Commons' engagement, the TD Arts Access Pass created the opportunity for thousands of students, new Canadian citizens, and families challenged by a variety of circumstances to attend Arts Commons Presents concerts and special events. We were so delighted to be able to share these moments with those who otherwise would have been unable to attend.



PCL Blues artist Reverend Peyton speaks to Arts Commons Founders Circle members in the Engineered Air Theatre. © Will Young

11,270

Complimentary
tickets provided
through the generosity
of Arts Commons
supporters

632

artists hired for
Arts Commons
Presents
programming



Black Arm Band engages with students at Nakoda Elementary School in Morley, Alberta.
© Alex Bonyun



"It was wonderful to be able to attend exciting events in my community and I am grateful to all the organizations that facilitated these opportunities"

- TD Arts Access Pass Patron

Arts Commons Presents...

inspires learning

In November 2016, seventy-five jazz music students watched with rapt fascination as jazz singer Dee Dee Bridgewater and jazz trumpeter Theo Croker took the stage to speak about what it means to be a jazz musician, and how they came to establish their careers. Organized by CADME in partnership with Arts Commons, the students eagerly shared their questions with the inspiring songstress, and were floored when she treated them to a private performance. Bridgewater even invited a few of the students to share their voices with her; smiling at the wealth of young talent eager to blossom.

As a fitting follow-up, Arts Commons distributed 200 tickets to CADME so their students could attend the Miles Electric Band performance, the last concert in the TD Jazz 2016-17 season.

Now on its fourth season, the incredibly beneficial partnership with Campus

Calgary enabled Arts Commons to welcome hundreds of students into the building to learn through the arts, at Arts Commons Hub for Inspired Learning. During the 2016-17 season, eight schools with 340 students were introduced to the program and explored their curriculum through dance, music, visual arts, and theatre. Students not only gained a one-of-a-kind experience learning outside of their classroom, but often found new creative ways of expressing themselves, gaining confidence, and fostering a new love for learning.

Crossing boundaries and removing barriers, the students of West Dover School were invited to participate in a drum circle and smudging ceremony guided by artist Chantal Chagnon from the arts outreach organization Cree8, sharing the culture of the Indigenous students with the rest of the class, and helping to create both a knowledge and respect for everyone present.



“On behalf of CADME, our sincere thanks for offering this wonderful opportunity for so many students to witness world class live music in our city.”

~ Chris Herard, Bishop Carroll High School



Hundreds of students learned through the arts at Arts Commons Hub for Inspired Learning.



Dee Dee Bridgewater with CADME students. © Alex Bonyun



10,158
students engaged



*"I learned that just
about anything can be
art as long as the piece
of art makes you feel
something."*

- Gr. 2 student



Students learn about Indigenous drums with artist Chantel Chagnon.

Mavis Staples performs to an appreciative crowd at the Jack Singer Concert Hall © Kaija Dirksen



Ludovico Einaudi performs as part of BD&P World Music. © Will Young



Michael Kaeshammer rips up the keys for a night of boogie-woogie fun. © Lemonade Pictures

38,989

total attendance to ticketed
Arts Commons Presents
performances

Arts Commons Presents...

uplifts and energizes

Despite a suffering economy, it was clear that our community still held high value for the inspiration that the arts provide. Arts Commons Presents hosted a full house to see the legendary Mavis Staples, a daughter of the civil rights movement and unmistakable voice of her generation; revelled in the ethereal sounds of pianist Ludovico Einaudi, who had previously and notoriously performed his beautiful compositions amongst crumbling icebergs in the Arctic; and rejoiced when trombone player Trombone Shorty brought the Jack Singer Concert Hall audience to its feet in excitement as he led his band through the crowd. We learned new things about our evolutionary ancestry from National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence and paleoanthropologist, Lee Berger. And we can't forget the Canada 150 celebration with Canadian musician Michael Kaeshammer, who brought the house down with his boogie-woogie piano playing, a roaring rendition of our national anthem, ending in excitement as hundreds of balloons cascaded from the

ceiling of the Jack Singer Concert Hall. It was hard to tell who was having more fun, the audience or Michael Kaeshammer himself, who remarked that he would come back to the Jack Singer Concert Hall again and again if invited.

During the Canada Day celebrations, an estimated 8,000 people packed Olympic Plaza for the free outdoor concert, in partnership with the City of Calgary, featuring Alberta Ballet, Bach Tots, Calgary Opera, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, GlobalFest Urban Arts Crew, and the Rattle and Strum band; culminating in a *Strum n Sing* participatory rendition with Ian Tyson of his hit song *Four Strong Winds*. If it wasn't clear before, it certainly was then – this song will forever be Alberta's unofficial anthem.

The City of Calgary, in turn, won the Cultural Events Award presented by the Creative City Network of Canada, for hosting this and other city-wide events, in celebration of Canada 150.



Ian Tyson leads the crowd on Canada Day for a group strum n sing of Four Strong Winds, Alberta's unofficial anthem.



"You could not have done any better!!!! Thank you!"

~ Arts Commons Presents patron

Arts Commons Presents... **is for you**

Happenings at Arts Commons moved into its second year during our 2016-17 season and this free quarterly event welcomed many new and seasoned arts lovers. Hands on, immersive, and fun, *Happenings* is an evening of live music, artist chats, participatory art activities, and self-guided walking tours of the current exhibitions. Attendees learn more about the artists and are offered a deeper context for the work they create.

This season for *Happenings* 8, Arts Commons was pleased to partner with Market Collective to bring local Calgary artisans into the space to share and sell their work. It was hugely well-received,

and everyone was excited to see the new dynamic added to the event. It also had the added benefit of exposing both the artists and artisans to a new audience of people who were keen to learn more about their craft.

The Arts Commons Presents presentation of comedian Margaret Cho also gave us the chance to throw one heck of a Naughty Pre-Party. Featuring Canada's preeminent queer-feminist-ukulele-comedy band; the longest running gay organization still operating in the City of Calgary; a cultural enthusiast DJ, and a 3'10" trail-blazing comedian, we danced, laughed, and celebrated, transforming

the Jack Singer Lobby into a no-holds-barred party zone.

These events couldn't happen without involvement from our greater community. A special thank you goes out to our volunteers. From the moment patrons step out of their car and enter through our doors, Arts Commons concierge volunteers have been helping to direct guests, answer questions, and make everyone feel welcome. Arts Commons is grateful to the 426 volunteers who continue to donate their time to the arts, and make every Arts Commons experience exceptional.

426

volunteers engaged in
Arts Commons Presents
programming



Naughty Pre-Party before Margaret Cho in the Jack Singer Concert Hall lobby. © Erin Belton



Patrons participate in crafts at Happenings 8.
© Mike Tan



Market Collective brought a whole new vibe to the Arts Learning Centre during Happenings 8.



Happenings 8 stage performer
Jess Knights. © Mike Tan

1,449
volunteer hours contributed
to Arts Commons Presents

Demonstrates sustainability

Sustainability in challenging economic times

As we continue to navigate through challenging economic times, our 2016-17 planning and budgeting process focused on ways to mitigate risk to our current revenue streams, as well as absorbing increasing costs. We were also motivated by the desire to give back to our community by working with our many partners to provide increased opportunities for free tickets and public programming.

Fiscal Year 2016-17 Results

Despite budgeting for a break-even year, we ended the fiscal year with a modest surplus in operations of \$165,603 through focused efforts on increasing both earned and contributed revenues.

Year over year comparisons

Revenues:

Overall, in 2016-17 we saw recovery in many of our revenues streams as compare to the prior year:

- Contributed – a healthy increase of 10% in corporate sponsorship helped achieve an overall 1% increase
- Earned
 - Venue bookings increased by 3%
 - Ticket sales increased 12% - significant given current economic pressures
 - Increase in ticket sales also helped boost ticketing service revenues by 22%
 - Arts learning and education programs increased by 34%
 - Front of house revenues were down year over year by 1%

Expenses:

In 2016-17 we faced increasing costs when compared to the prior year:

- With a sizable part time and casual work force, our labour costs continue to rise with the increasing minimum wage putting pressure on all departments, but especially front of house and ticketing services.
- Higher artist fees and exchange rates led to an overall 5% increase in programming expenses
- Expenses for Facilities increased 4% year over year due in part to increased utility and security costs, offset by savings in engineering and supplies. Support services expenses increased 4% as well, primarily in the areas of marketing, software and labour burden costs.



Arts Commons staff with National Geographic Explorer Charlie Hamilton James (centre). © Tasha Komery



"It's a pleasure to work with such a competent and caring team."

- Arts Commons staff

1%
increase in
contributed
revenues (YOY)

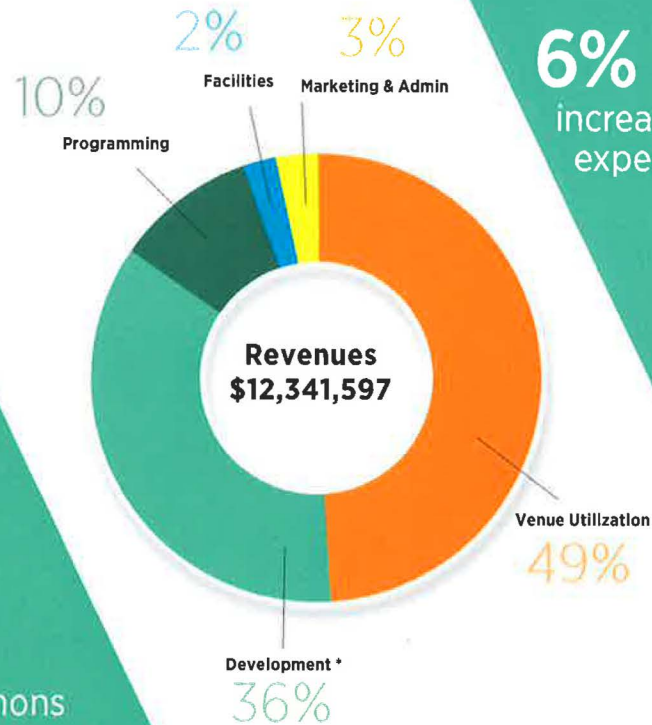
7%
increase
in earned
revenues (YOY)

85
Arts Commons
equivalent staff

Looking forward

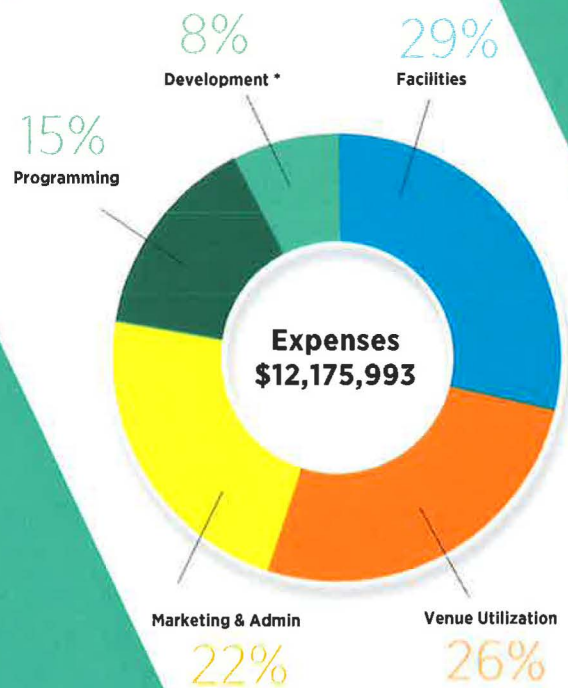
As we look forward to our 2017-18 season, we are excited to see our new season come to life, to invite the community to utilize our spaces in new and inventive ways, and to maintain and improve our facilities while managing the risks of our economic realities.

\$1.975M
was raised in addition to our
operating revenue, in support of
Arts Commons life-cycle projects.



6%
increase in
expenses (YOY)

1.3%
operational
surplus
(CURRENT FY)



**Includes \$289,130 of goods
and services in kind*



Thank you benefactors

Through the ongoing support and generosity of corporations, foundation, governments, and individuals, Calgarians, as well as visitors to our wonderful city have access to Arts Commons, Calgary's preeminent gathering space. Arts Commons is where creativity comes to life, remarkable experiences are shared, and meaningful memories are made to last a lifetime.

We are extremely grateful to those that believe in the vital role Arts Commons plays in helping to make our community a better place to live by continuing to invest in our programming priorities. Of note, during the 2016-17 Season we would like to recognize sponsors who have generously made multiple year commitments. Burnet, Duckworth

& Palmer LLP renewed their title sponsorship of the award-winning BD&P World Music series for another three years, and Repsol Oil & Gas Canada Inc. is maintaining its support of our distinguished speaker series, *National Geographic Live*, through to the 2018-19 Season. We're also encouraged by the vote of confidence so clearly demonstrated by new sponsors, Keyera Corp. and Imperial Oil Limited, that decided to align their community investments with Arts Commons programming initiatives during the 2016-17 Season.

It's only because of the ongoing generosity of Calgary's corporate community, local foundations, all three levels of government, and our



thoughtful Explorers Circle and Founders Circle members that Arts Commons is able to continue be a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, intellectual life, and well-being of Calgarians and visitors.



"Arts Commons is such a vital part of our community. Every event we attend is amazing. It's an honour and a privilege to be part of Calgary's cultural centre."

- Founders Circle Legacy Builder



"I recommend joining Explorers Circle because it is a wonderful opportunity to meet Explorers, while supporting National Geographic and Arts Commons in the work they do to give back to the community."

- Explorers Circle Engagement Sponsor

Private and Public Sector Support

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to the following corporations, foundations, governments, and passionate community leaders who gave generously to support Arts Commons as we played a key role in the social, economic, cultural and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians and visitors throughout the 2016-17 Season.

Corporate Sponsors and Foundation Partners



Supporting Sponsor,
BD&P World Music
and TD Jazz



Official Brewery



Title Sponsor,
BD&P World Music



Gift from the
Arts Commons
Endowment Fund



Media Sponsor



Official Printer



Student Engagement
Sponsor, *National
Geographic Live*



Major Sponsor,
Arts Commons Box Office
Sponsor, Arts Commons
Young Minds Initiative
Sponsor, Hub for Inspired
Learning
Student Engagement
Sponsor, *National
Geographic Live*



Official Hotel



Sponsor, EXPLORE
National Geographic,
National Geographic Live



Title Sponsor,
PCL Blues



Media Sponsor



Series Presenting
Sponsor, *National
Geographic Live*



Sponsor, EXPLORE
National Geographic,
National Geographic Live



Sponsor, EXPLORE
National Geographic,
National Geographic Live



Supporting Sponsor,
BD&P World Music



Title Sponsor,
TD Jazz
Title Sponsor,
TD Arts Access Pass

Corporate Sponsors and Foundation Partners Cont.

Calgary Foundation/Community
Fund for Canada 150th
Supporting Partner, Arts Commons
Presents Visual and Media Arts
Untold Stories

Coca-Cola Refreshments
Canada Company
Official Supplier

Dinner Optimist Club of Calgary
Supporting Partner,
Hub for Inspired Learning

Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation
Supporting Partner,
Hub for Inspired Learning

Imperial Oil
Lead Sponsor, Arts Commons
Presents Visual and Media Arts
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