Arts Commons
Presents

# 2018–19 SEASON

This season experience the uncommon!

artscommons.ca

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS • BD&P WORLD MUSIC • TD JAZZ • PCL BLUES • CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE • NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE • *AND SO MUCH MORE!*

# This year is for you.

When we curate a season, we always have you in mind. Each show and artist is reviewed and assessed not only on its merits, but also on the unique and memorable experience it can provide to you as a patron and member of Calgary's wonderfully diverse community.

In the 2018-19 season, we have programmed 27 unique performances spread across five distinctive series and four special presentations.

Women dominate the stage this year, with folk music trio I'm With Her and sitar virtuoso Anoushka Shankar making waves in traditionally male-dominated genres. Female luminaries like Thornetta Davis, Eden Brent, and Cécile Doo-Kingué make up half of our PCL Blues season, while women like National Geographic's Cheryl Knott prove gender is no barrier when exploring the untamed wilds of our planet. Lea Salonga, the voice of your favourite Disney princesses and one of Broadway's leading women, also brings her powerful voice to the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage for a one-night-only performance.

Performers like Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Goran Bregović, and José James prove that sharing your culture with the world can be both a remarkable privilege and opportunity to connect with others.

No show in our lineup was chosen without purpose. I hope, in this season, there is a performer that represents you – but more importantly, I invite you to seek out shows that couldn't be further from your cultural norm. I promise you'll find them inviting, insightful, and a whole lotta fun.

See you at Arts Commons!

**Jennifer Johnson**
Director, Programming

© Bernd Wackerhauer. Cover image Nehojsa Babic

© Jim Mneymneh

**SPECIAL** *Presentation*

ARTS COMMONS PRESENTS

# CIRQUE ÉLOIZE SALOON

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2018**

Swing open the saloon doors and lasso up some fun in the wild, wild west with Cirque Éloize. Theatre and circus collide in a tale of romance and action. Under the spell of the Saloon's beautiful Belle, our hero sets off on a chase worthy of history's greatest westerns, using strength, agility, and original choreography.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Concert 7:30pm**

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

National Tour Sponsor: Desjardins

Public Sector Support: Canada, Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Québec, Calgary, Conseil des arts de Montréal, Montréal

Cirque Éloize Saloon Partners: Théâtre à cœur, Saloon is a production of Théâtre T & Cie, Le Théâtre de Namur, PennState Center for the Performing Arts

Official Suppliers: Bella Rosa Estates, cbn Commercial Solutions

SPECIAL Presentation

© Gus Powell

ARTS COMMONS PRESENTS

## OK Go – The Live Video Tour

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2018**

More than a decade after breaking the internet by dancing on treadmills, OK Go's zany, impeccably choreographed act has only grown in complexity – and fun. The experimental rockers have turned a car into an instrument, built a giant Rube Goldberg machine, and even shot a video in zero-gravity, all of which they incorporate into their live show for an energetic, multimedia experience.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Concert 7:30pm**

***Check them out on:***

YouTube



SPECIAL Presentation

ARTS COMMONS PRESENTS

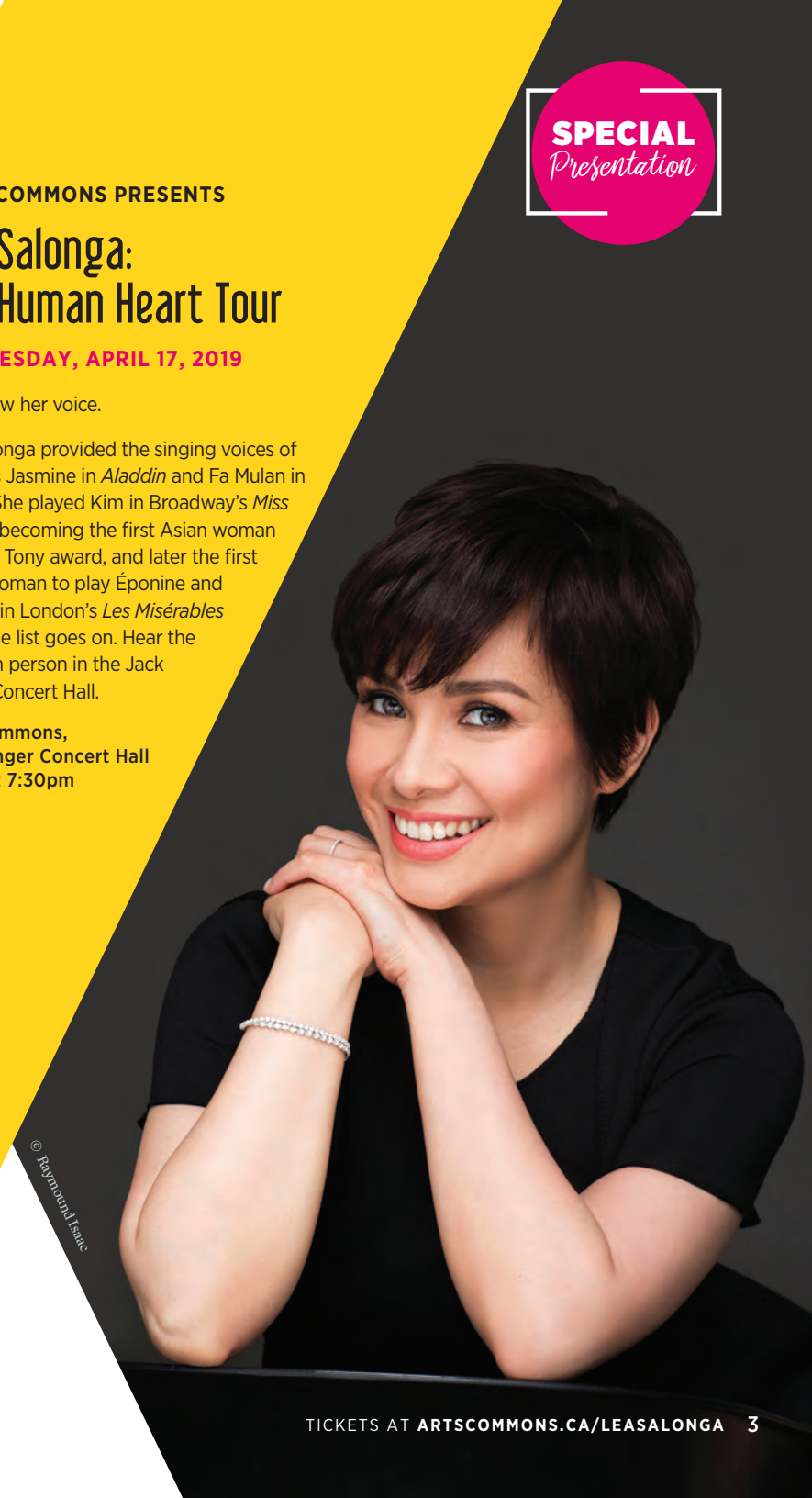
## Lea Salonga: The Human Heart Tour

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2019**

You know her voice.

Lea Salonga provided the singing voices of Princess Jasmine in *Aladdin* and Fa Mulan in *Mulan*. She played Kim in Broadway's *Miss Saigon*, becoming the first Asian woman to win a Tony award, and later the first Asian woman to play Éponine and Fantine in London's *Les Misérables* – and the list goes on. Hear the magic in person in the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

**Arts Commons,**
**Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Concert 7:30pm**



© Raymond Isaac

**SPECIAL** *Presentation*

"★★★★
**IT'S THE SINGLE FUNNIEST THING I HAVE SEEN IN AGES. YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS SHOW!"**
*Toronto Star*

# ALL SEVEN HARRY POTTER BOOKS IN SEVENTY HILARIOUS MINUTES!

**ARTS COMMONS PRESENTS**

## Potted Potter

**FEBRUARY 5 TO 18, 2019**

Potted Potter, the New York and West End smash hit has garnered rave reviews from New York to Nashville, Chicago to Mexico City, and Critics' Picks from the New York Times, New York Magazine, Time Out London, Boston Globe, Chicago Daily Herald, and the New York Post!

Potted Potter takes on the ultimate challenge of condensing all seven Harry Potter books (and a real life game of Quidditch) into seventy hilarious minutes. This fantastically funny show features all your favourite characters, a special appearance from a fire-breathing dragon, endless costumes, brilliant songs, ridiculous props, and a generous helping of Hogwarts magic!

Even if you don't know the difference between a Horcrux and a Hufflepuff, Potted Potter will make you roar with laughter. This brilliant family entertainment is perfect for ages six to Dumbledore (who is very old indeed).

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**

**Arts Commons, Martha Cohen Theatre**
***See website for all dates and times.***
***Evening and matinees available!***

2018-19 SEASON

**Subscriptions & Single Tickets ON SALE NOW!**

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*Single tickets start at $39 (incl. GST!)*

**TICKETS:** Call **403-294-9494** or visit **artscommons.ca/world**

© Shervin Lainez

## I'm With Her – Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz, Aoife O'Donovan

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2018**

An impromptu show at a Colorado opera house led to the formation of folk music's most heartfelt modern trio. Multi-GRAMMY® winners Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz, and Aoife O'Donovan create restless, romantic, and emotionally complex narratives with each song, woven together with a tight, family-like chemistry.

The Brother Brothers will open the show with their moody elements of Appalachian folk and bluegrass.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm**

© Nebojša Babić

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY!

# Goran Bregović Wedding and Funeral Band

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018**

A high-energy trans-Balkan musical extravaganza, the Goran Bregović Wedding and Funeral Band is lauded worldwide for their fusion of rock and Balkan folk music. Combining a Gypsy brass band with Bregović's rock star stage presence, get ready for a raucous Balkan party that will have you dancing in the aisles!

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm**

***"It is a mind-blowing return trip with no destination or port of arrival... A magnificent concert, one of the greatest marvels to be heard on stage today."***

**~ La Vanguardia**

# Celtic Nights – Oceans of Hope

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019**

Celtic Nights – Oceans of Hope brings an exhilarating and energizing combination of Celtic music, dance, and powerful storytelling to the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage direct from Ireland as we revisit the Irish immigrant story. Join Celtic Nights and Arts Commons Presents for a vibrant celebration of Irish history, dance, and music, brought to life by some of Ireland's greatest performers.

**Arts Commons,**
**Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm**
**/ Concert 7:30pm**

**BUY EARLY FOR THE BEST SEATS, AT THE BEST PRICE!**

# Habib Koité, Bassekou Kouyate & Ladysmith Black Mambazo

**FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 2019**

Mali's pop icon Habib Koité has a deep and varied musical vocabulary, blending Afro-pop with jazz, rock, and even classical. Koité is joined by a 6-piece band including: Malian musician and master of the traditional African lute, Bassekou Kouyate. In a double-bill performance, multi-GRAMMY® Award winning group Ladysmith Black Mambazo will also grace the stage for a night of modern African music.

**Arts Commons,**
**Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm**
**/ Concert 7:30pm**

© Ladysmith Black Mambazo Management



***"AMAZING... STRIKING... DAZZLING..."***

**~ The New York Times**

# Cuba Vibra! Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019**

Cuba Vibra! Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba is a dance party, a tribute to Cuban musical heritage, and a night of pure celebration all rolled into one amazing night. Featuring a full Cuban big band and a huge cast of dancers with vibrant costumes, this tremendous production is a must-see. Lizt Alfonso Dance has received numerous honours including being the first Cuban dance group to perform a run on Broadway.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm**

*"[Anoushka] is taking the sitar to a new level of accessibility with a fresh and original fusion sound rooted in strict indo-classical norms."*

**~ The Telegraph 'Hot Ticket'**

© Anushka Menon

# Anoushka Shankar

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019**

Multiple GRAMMY® Award nominee and virtuoso sitar player Anoushka Shankar knows how to transfix an audience. Daughter of the legendary Ravi Shankar, she pairs classical ragas with creatively experimental work to create a cross-cultural dialogue that showcases the versatility of the sitar across musical genres.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm**



# Why not *Design Your Own* series!

With so many great concerts and speaker presentations, why choose just one? The Design Your Own (DYO) series allows you to curate a custom package of shows while enjoying some of the benefits of subscribing.

- ✓ *A custom season of the best international and Canadian talent at a great price!*
- ✓ *Promotional discounts and offers throughout the season*
- ✓ *Flexibility to customize your own Arts Commons Presents experience*
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Buy 3 performances, **save the GST**
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Buy 7 performances, **save 15%**

*** Discount applied based on number of performances, not number of tickets purchased. While PCL Blues & NGL performances may be included in your DYO package, discount does not apply. Potted Potter is excluded.*

## Purchase your tickets today!

**Arts Commons Box Office** 225 8th AVE SE

OPEN **10** AM *to* **6** PM *Monday to Saturday*

*Sundays* CLOSED

**DYO subscriptions are available online, in person, or by phone**

**403-294-9494** or **artscommons.ca**

**Subscriptions & Single Tickets ON SALE NOW!**

2018-19 SEASON

ARTS COMMONS PRESENTS

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*Single tickets start at $39 (incl. GST!)*

**TICKETS:** Call **403-294-9494**
or visit **artscommons.ca/jazz**

## David Sanborn

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018**

With six GRAMMY® Awards, one Platinum, and eight Gold albums, David Sanborn Jazz Quintet blends instrumental pop, R&B, and traditional jazz to create a sound unlike any other. A collaborator with artists such as Paul Simon, James Taylor, and David Bowie, Sanborn is an artist who pushes the limits and continues to make music that challenges the mind and goes straight to the heart.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm**

© Janette Beckman

# Lean On Me: José James Celebrates Bill Withers

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018**

Suave and eclectic, José James fills stages large and small with his warmth, charisma, and soulful voice. His jazz has a unique flavour, infused with hip-hop and R&B, attracting a new generation of jazz lovers. For this concert he honours the late and great Bill Withers with his refreshing take on classics like *Ain't No Sunshine*, *Just the Two of Us*, and, of course, *Lean On Me*.

**Arts Commons,**
**Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm /**
**Concert 7:30pm**

***"It's the power of performance: you can make those songs come alive again and people feel it in a way they can't on a record."***

**~ José James**

**Audience participation encouraged!**

# Bobby McFerrin & Gimme5: Circlesongs

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019**

Ten-time GRAMMY® Award winning musician Bobby McFerrin takes audiences on a life-changing musical adventure. Bobby's exhilarating vocal vocabulary – call and response, polyphonics and percussion, global rhythms, soaring melodies, lush harmonies, funny noises, invented language, silence, prayers, and laughter - reminds us all of how much fun it is to be alive. Be prepared to become part of this joyful performance.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm /**
**Concert 7:30pm**

© Carol Friedman

# Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019**

The Monterey Jazz Festival comes to Calgary, starring the GRAMMY® Award winning vocal talents of Cécile McLorin Salvant and JUNO Award-winning trumpeter and vocalist Bria Skonberg in a jubilant celebration of jazz and jazz musicians. The longest continuously-running jazz festival in the world, which has presented masters like Duke Ellington, John Coltrane, Dave Brubeck, Oscar Peterson and so many more, features an all-star band that represents the future of jazz nationwide. In 2007, more than 40,000 attended the 50th Golden Celebration. Don't miss your chance to be part of the 60th Anniversary.

***featuring Cécile McLorin Salvant, Bria Skonberg, Melissa Aldana, Christian Sands, Yasushi Nakamura & Jamison Ross***

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm**




Arts Commons

The generous gift of your **Founders Circle membership** helps to support our arts learning programs and allows us to present internationally renowned artists in BD&P World Music, TD Jazz, and PCL Blues.

© Will Young

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Join Founders Circle today and gain access to behind-the-scenes experiences not available to the general public.

Donors receive a variety of special benefits and privileges designed to enrich and enhance your Arts Commons experience by connecting you directly with our celebrated artists.

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2018-19 SEASON

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PCL

# BLUES

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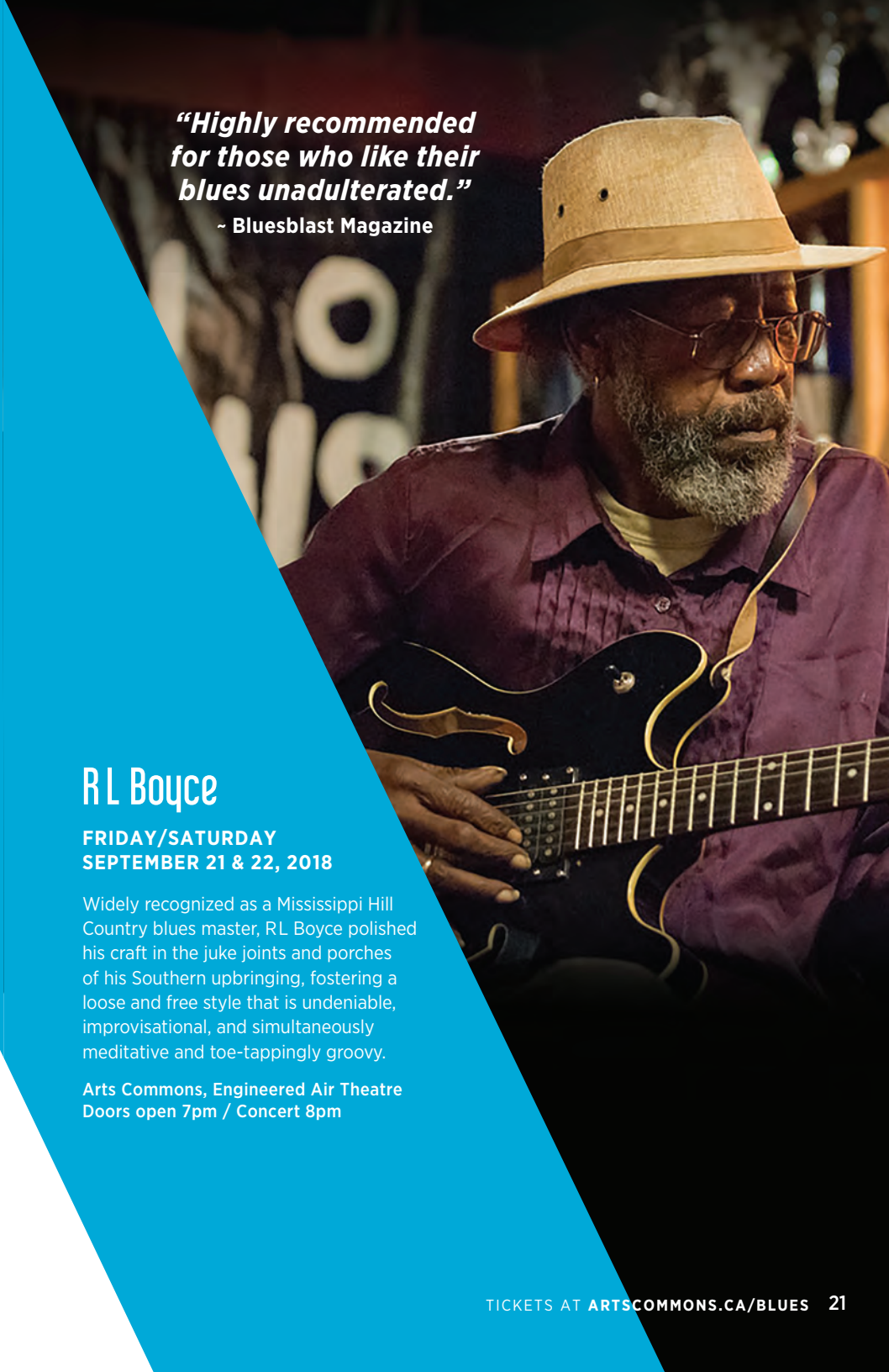
*Single tickets are just $45 (incl. GST!)*

**TICKETS:** Call **403-294-9494** or visit **artscommons.ca/blues**

**ALL PCL BLUES SHOWS ARE GENERAL ADMISSION SEATING**





***"Highly recommended for those who like their blues unadulterated."***
**~ Bluesblast Magazine**

## RL Boyce

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY**
**SEPTEMBER 21 & 22, 2018**

Widely recognized as a Mississippi Hill Country blues master, RL Boyce polished his craft in the juke joints and porches of his Southern upbringing, fostering a loose and free style that is undeniable, improvisational, and simultaneously meditative and toe-tappingly groovy.

**Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre**
**Doors open 7pm / Concert 8pm**

***"Just keep on truckin'. Loving the experience. Very interesting artists, many I've never heard of and really like."***

**~ PCL Blues Patron**

## Cécile Doo-Kingué

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY**
**NOVEMBER 9 & 10, 2018**

Montreal-based singer, songwriter, guitarist, and multi-Maple Blues Award nominee Cécile Doo-Kingué performs a brand of blues that is irrefutably captivating. Described as "one of Canada's most electrifying and versatile guitarists" by CBC, Doo-Kingué has made a name for herself as a powerful and raw talent.

**Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre**
**Doors open 7pm / Concert 8pm**



## The Duke Robillard Acoustic Trio

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY**
**JANUARY 18 & 19, 2019**

In a one of a kind opportunity, Duke Robillard comes to Calgary with his acoustic trio, performing takes on songs spanning his illustrious 50 year career in blues, including several selections from The Acoustic Blues & Roots of Duke Robillard, which won the 2016 Blues Music Awards Acoustic Blues Album of the Year.

**Arts Commons,**
**Engineered Air Theatre**
**Doors open 7pm /**
**Concert 8pm**

# Dom Flemons

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY**
**MARCH 8 & 9, 2019**

GRAMMY® Award-winning singer-songwriter Dom Flemons brings a modern sensibility and engaging charm to old-time acoustic blues. Playing the part of traditional troubadour with over 100 years of American ballads, folksongs, and melodies at his fingertips, Flemons embodies his nickname of *The American Songster.*

**Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre**
**Doors open 7pm / Concert 8pm**

***Experience something new this season!***

# Eden Brent

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY**
**APRIL 5 & 6, 2019**

Singer, songwriter, and boogie-woogie pianist Eden Brent comes to Calgary with her spontaneous and electric style of juke-joint blues. Multi-blues award winner including Acoustic Artist of The Year and Acoustic Album of The Year from the Blues Foundation, Brent's style borrows from everything from blues and jazz, to pop and rock 'n' roll for a sound that's irresistibly fresh.

**Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre**
**Doors open 7pm / Concert 8pm**

# Thornetta Davis

**FRIDAY/SATURDAY**
**MAY 3 & 4, 2019**

It's easy to see why Thornetta Davis is commonly called the *Queen of Detroit's Blues*. With over 30 Detroit Music Awards to her name, and having opened for some of the biggest names in the business including Ray Charles, Gladys Knight, and Buddy Guy, Davis performs with an incredible delivery that leaves her audiences wanting more.

**Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre**
**Doors open 7pm / Concert 8pm**

© Bob Schultz



# Be a Part of the Action

## Volunteer with Arts Commons

We would not be able to do what we do without the hard work and enthusiasm of our volunteers! As an Arts Commons volunteer, you'll have the chance to share your passion for the arts, whether it is by helping a patron find their way to a theatre, sharing interesting facts about everything that happens under this roof, or building your experience with marketing and development initiatives. No matter what you do, you will have fun while making a meaningful contribution supporting the arts in your community. Check us out and volunteer today!

To learn more, visit **artscommons.ca/volunteer**

**Connect with us and share your experiences!**

**Arts Commons Spotlight:** Sign up to receive exclusive presale information, monthly listings, contests, and more!

**Instagram:** Follow us for a visual showcase of cool #ArtsCommons happenings.

**Facebook:** Tired of the same old newsfeed? Get the inside scoop on innovative art and enjoy special offers only for our followers!

**Twitter:** Your one stop shop for short and sweet, up-to-the-minute YYCARTS news.

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2018-19 SEASON

Returning to Arts Commons by popular demand, **Classic Albums Live recreates** the experience of listening to your favourite album, each song meticulously performed live to be as close to the original as possible - ***note for note, cut for cut***.™ Founded in 2003 by Toronto musician Craig Martin, Classic Albums Live has earned an international reputation for immaculate recreations of classic albums, but without the cheesy costumes or shoddy impersonators.

## BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

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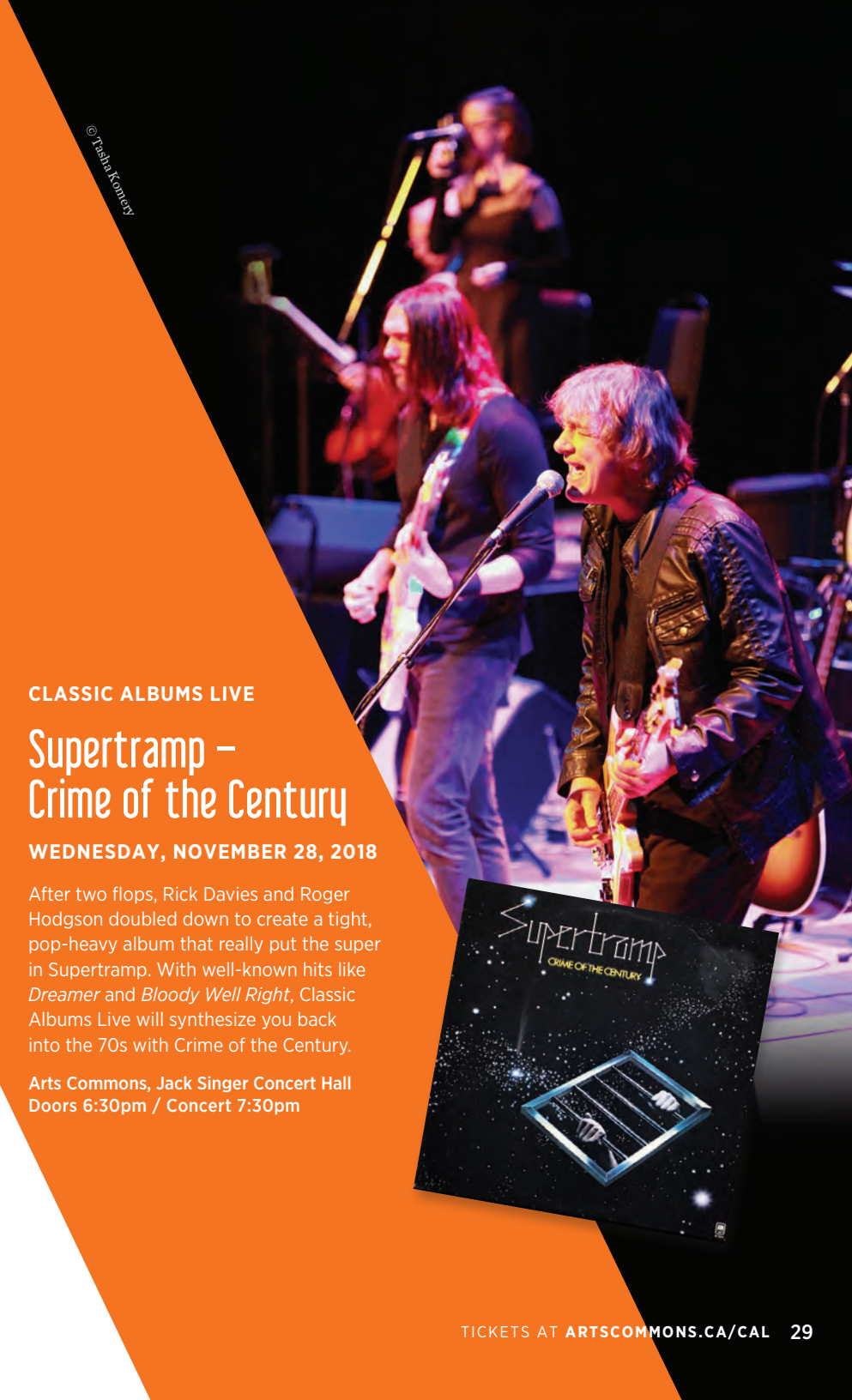
*Single tickets start at $39 (incl. GST!)*

**TICKETS:** Call **403-294-9494**
or visit **artscommons.ca/classicalbumslive**






© Tasha Komery

**CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE**

# Supertramp – Crime of the Century

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018**

After two flops, Rick Davies and Roger Hodgson doubled down to create a tight, pop-heavy album that really put the super in Supertramp. With well-known hits like *Dreamer* and *Bloody Well Right*, Classic Albums Live will synthesize you back into the 70s with Crime of the Century.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Doors 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm**

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE

# Led Zeppelin IV

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019**

*Stairway to Heaven* became the stairway to rock royalty for Zeppelin with their fourth, untitled album, which also included hits like *Black Dog*, *Rock and Roll* and *Going to California*. Feel every kick, snare and strum thunder through the Jack Singer's amazing acoustics.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Doors 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm**

Note for note.
Cut for cut.™

***"Great seats, great sound, and the artists are wonderful."***
**~ Classic Albums Live Patron**

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE

# AC/DC – Back in Black

**THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019**

An album born from grief – but with the energy of a raucous wake – members of AC/DC began working on the guitar riffs just days after lead singer Bon Scott's funeral. The band ended up creating one of the best-selling albums of all time. Hear every thunderous beat and electric riff perfectly recreated by Classic Albums Live!

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Doors 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm**

**Subscriptions & Single Tickets ON SALE NOW!**

2018-19 SEASON

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*Single tickets start at $32 (incl. GST!)*

**TICKETS:** Call **403-294-9494** or visit **artscommons.ca/NGL**

© Ronan Donovan

## Social By Nature
### with wildlife photographer Ronan Donovan

***SUNDAY/MONDAY NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 2018**

Charismatic, beautiful, and often strikingly like ourselves, social mammals build relationships, communicate, reproduce, establish territories, and adapt to shrinking resources. From Yellowstone to Uganda, biologist turned photographer Ronan Donovan has captured images and studied the lives of social mammals, their relationship to their ecosystem, and how we can save them.

Join Donovan as he takes you into the lives of wolves, chimpanzees, gorillas, and bears to discover our fellow social mammals and what we can learn from them.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Sunday 2pm / Monday 7pm**

****Don't forget Daylight Savings Time!***

© Guillermo Abramson

# The Search for Life Beyond Earth

## with astrobiologist Kevin Hand

**SUNDAY/MONDAY**
**JANUARY 27 & 28, 2019**

Astrobiologist and Planetary Scientist Kevin Hand works with NASA to search for life beyond Earth. His mantra, "follow the water," has led to him investigate Europa, Jupiter's fourth largest moon. Although his focus is a world millions of miles away, Hand also explores the extremes of Earth, like the north slope of Alaska and the glaciers of Mount Kilimanjaro, to see how microbes survive in harsh climates.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Sunday 2pm / Monday 7pm**

***"The fundamental questions we're trying to answer are... what is life and could it exist out there beyond Earth?"***

**~ Kevin Hand**

**SUBSCRIBE TODAY *and SAVE!***

# Wild Seas, Secret Shores

## with photographer Thomas Peschak

***SUNDAY/MONDAY**
**MARCH 10 & 11, 2019**

Dive beneath the waves and come face to face with hammerhead sharks, bottlenose dolphins, and black-footed penguins as marine biologist and photographer Thomas Peschak brings you up close and personal with both the charming and daunting animals found in the world's oceans.

Peschak shares his passion for conservation and environmental action through award-winning photography and powerful stories of his work in the field.

**Arts Commons,**
**Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Sunday 2pm /**
**Monday 7pm**

****Don't forget Daylight Savings Time!***

© CSOWEN

# Adventures Among Orangutans

## with photographer Tim Laman and anthropologist Cheryl Knott

**SUNDAY/MONDAY**
**MAY 5 & 6, 2019**

Biological anthropologist Cheryl Knott and wildlife photojournalist Tim Laman have been using innovative techniques and new technologies to gain a closer look at one of the most iconic, yet least understood of the world's primates, the orangutan. Get a glimpse into the secret world of these intelligent, unique, and resourceful primates through the eyes of two experts who have dedicated their life's work to studying, protecting, and sharing their love of these amazing animals.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall**
**Sunday 2pm / Monday 7pm**



Arts Commons

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As a Member or Associate Member of Explorers Circle, you'll have the privilege of meeting these remarkable storytellers while they are visiting us at Arts Commons.

To become a member today, visit **artscommons.ca/explorerscircle** or call **403-294-7455 ext. 1441**

Explorers Circle is made possible with the support of our friends at

HOTEL Arts

The generous gift of your membership helps to inspire people to care about one another and our precious planet.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE!

# Host Your Event

When you stand on a stage at Arts Commons, you're standing in the same place where rock musicians, world class actors, National Geographic Explorers, comedians, and even opera singers have stood. In this same space, your event could be transformed and come to life with the help of Arts Commons.

With more than 25 years of experience in the business of service and event planning, we have a proven reputation for providing our clients with one-of-a-kind events and exceptional service. Whether it's taking centre stage on your wedding day, or infusing your business reception with creativity, we have the right team and the right space for 18 – 1,800 people.

Learn more: **artscommons.ca/hostyourevent**

Arts Commons

© Ramsey Kunkel Photography



In the heart of Calgary's downtown core, we work proudly with our community and the City of Calgary on a variety of year-round, free, family-friendly events.

Learn more: **artscommons.ca/free**

Calgary

# Community giving

## *The Arts Belong to All Calgarians*

At Arts Commons, we strive to make the arts accessible to everyone. Through our partnership with TD Bank Group, we are proud to offer the TD Arts Access Pass, enabling us to make over 1,500 tickets available to new Canadians, newcomers, and individuals who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to see these fantastic artists perform live.

Arts Commons works closely with the Institute for Canadian Citizenship, CADME (Calgary Association for Development of Music Education), the Calgary Public Library, and Action Dignity to fulfill our shared vision of promoting civic participation of new communities in the arts.

Learn more about our community giving programs at: **artscommons.ca/community**

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TD

# Outreach and Engagement

Our aim is to engage with local artists and communities by supporting arts-based projects at every stage of development. Through our growing engagement initiatives, we're reaching out to ethno-cultural communities, ability-based communities, sexual minorities, gender-diverse communities, age-defined groups, and other under-represented communities.

Expect us to be curious, attentive listeners, ready to respond to opportunities, challenges, and barriers.

Raise your voice and engage in the arts, because we're in this together – your uniqueness is vital to growing our society, and our Arts Commons family.

Check our website for more information and calls for submission to these programs.

© Diane and Mike Photography

**COMMONSPACE**
We're offering access to basic rehearsal, workshop, and community gathering spaces for arts-based activities at little to no cost.

**PREAMP**
For early to mid-career artists, this one-week residency provides the time and resources needed for artists to test an idea, create opportunities to collaborate, and focus on the process over the product.

**AMPLIFY**
A celebration of artistic collisions and perspectives, this informal cabaret is a platform for artists from all backgrounds and disciplines to try-out short pieces with an audience hungry for the unexpected.

You're invited (IT'S FREE!)

**UNCOMMONS RESIDENCY**
This longer-term residency for independent artists and artistic collectives will build capacity by supporting a specific project, as defined by the artist. We provide space, expertise, and the resources needed to get the project in front of an audience.

**COMMUNITY PROJECTS**
Submit your community initiatives, projects, and events, and help us build a creative and compassionate society, inspired through the arts.

**NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY**
*(June 21, 2019)* A FREE, ALL-AGES celebration of the contributions and achievements of Indigenous Peoples through performances, music, and activities.

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH** *(February, 2019)*
During Black History Month 2019, Arts Commons celebrates the contributions of black artists with events from home and abroad.

# Galleries of Arts Commons

At Arts Commons, we present, support, and promote over 120 local emerging and professional artists through: exhibitions, site specific projects, workshops, screenings, residencies, and artist receptions.

Art is a universal language, and we make it universally available through the hallways and public areas of our building.

Curated by Arts Commons, our five exhibition spaces include the Ledge Gallery, Lightbox Studio, Broadcast Lab,+15 Soundscape, and Window Galleries. We are also proud to provide nine exhibition spaces to local Artist-Run Centres and organizations in the +15, that are curated by some of Calgary's most vibrant, cutting edge galleries.

We foster a diverse and inclusive community, where emerging and professional artists are empowered to engage and inspire meaningful discussions with the community.

The Visual and Media Arts at Arts Commons is FREE and open to the public so please, drop by and join the conversation!

© Third Mind

***GALLERY THEMES:***

**HOME AND CULTURE**
*September to November, 2018*

Our artists explore the notion of home and how we make these spaces significant through food, traditions, and signifiers of cultural experiences.

© Lindsay Sorell

**RELATIONSHIPS**
*December 2018 to February 2019*

Connections take on a variety of forms, from romantic relationships, to friendships, to stranger encounters, and to artist/audience relationships. There are many ways we connect with each other, and these art projects provide context to these impactful encounters.

**DREAMS AND FANTASY**
*March to May 2019*

These incredible exhibitions explore the theme of dreams and fantasy, geared for our youth and family programming.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**
**FREE**

**PERFORMANCE**
*June to August 2019*

Artists can actively remove barriers to connect with the public through performance art. Time spent in these spaces urges viewers to question their own sense of participation and belonging in the world.

**ARTIST RECEPTIONS**
*The Hub, 7-10pm*

| | |
|---|---|
| FALL | *Friday, November 30, 2018* |
| WINTER | *Friday, March 1, 2019* |
| SPRING | *Friday May 31, 2019* |
| SUMMER | *Friday August 30, 2019* |

Meet and mingle with artists, curators, and fellow art lovers at our recurring public artist receptions. This is a chance to celebrate our current exhibitions, presentations, projects, and residencies, and take part in a deeper conversation about contemporary art in Calgary.

Look forward to a cash bar and light refreshments.

# HAPPENINGS
## at Arts Commons

Part art-party, part community celebration, and a whole lot of fun, *Happenings* is our chance to open the doors and thank our incredible community! With something different at each event, plan to arrive curious – you never know what will happen at *Happenings*.

### HAPPENINGS: CITIZENS MARKET

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*
*4 - 9pm*

*Jack Singer Concert Hall Lobby /Founders Room*

This one day pop-up market and art-party will showcase the work of grassroots artists, craft makers, and artisans from diverse communities. We're welcoming families, newcomers to Calgary, and anyone with an adventurous streak to join us! There will be music, a bevy of activities, and maybe even that perfect something to take home. Arts Commons supports cross cultural exchange and celebrates arts and crafts with those who pour their hearts and souls into making it.

**You're invited (IT'S FREE!)**

### HAPPENINGS: ADULT LATE NIGHT

*Friday, May 17, 2019*
*8pm - midnight!*

*Engineered Air Theatre/*
*Arts Commons Parkade*

Taking its cues from the Surrealist and Dadaist events of the 1940's, this late night art-party is for adults with an appetite for the unusual. Performances, music, and activations will bring two distinct environments to life – but you'll have to join us to find out more. Come as you are – or even better, in period attire!

# Arts Education

Education at Arts Commons creates memorable learning opportunities that support more than 12,000 students, teacher, and education professionals each year by teaching core subjects through the arts, inspiring students to engage meaningfully with the world around them.

Young minds ignite as math, science, social studies, and language arts are investigated through theatre, dance, music, and visual arts. Learn about global citizenship through Ukrainian, Bollywood, or Indigenous dance; enrich literacy development through drama, puppetry, and visual journaling; and ignite a passion for science, the environment, and conservation through compelling storytelling and photojournalism by the world's most notable Explorers.

Book your class with our education team at education@artscommons.ca or call 403-294-7455 ext. 1458 for more info.

ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning Sponsor

ConocoPhillips Canada

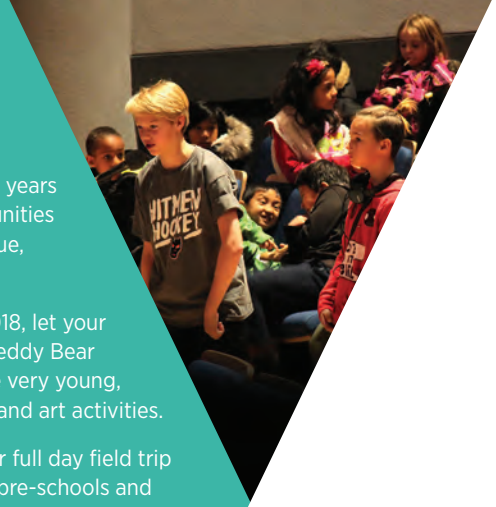
## ARTS FOR THE EARLY YEARS (INFANTS – KINDERGARTEN):

From first steps to six-years-old, our early years programming creates meaningful opportunities for kids to connect and socialize in a unique, playful way.

***Itty Bitty Arts Day*** – On September 29, 2018, let your little one loose at Itty Bitty Arts Day: a Teddy Bear Picnic and open house art party for the very young, complete with theatre, music, dance, and art activities.

***One Day Arts School*** – A half day or full day field trip exploring arts and curriculum for pre-schools and Kindergarten classes.

***Early Years Drop-In*** – Parents and caregivers with babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers can explore the world of the arts in a fun workshop with an early arts educator. Great for families and day home providers, this event runs every fourth Friday of the month from January to May 2019.



## SCHOOL PROGRAMMING (GRADES 1 - 12):

***National Geographic Live*** – Real National Geographic photojournalists, Explorers, and scientists engage with students on curriculum-based presentations, followed by Q&A sessions.

***ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning***– In partnership with Campus Calgary Open Minds, schools bring students in grades 1-12 to Arts Commons for a week of arts inspired inquiry and learning.

***One Day Arts School*** – Curriculum-linked, multi-disciplinary, day-long field trips for students K-12.

***Artist-in-Residence*** – From a single day to multiple weeks, these arts, drama, dance, and music residencies include customized, curricular themed projects – right in your classroom. Available to communities outside of Calgary.

***Professional Development*** – Transform your toolkit through arts enrichment resources with professional artists and arts educators, Join us for the 2019 Calgary City Teacher's Convention or inquire about customizing your own staff PD.

# 2018–19 SEASON

Arts Commons Presents

© William Burgess

## SEPTEMBER 2018

PCL BLUES
**RL Boyce**
Sept 21 & 22, 2018

© Lindsey Byrnes

## OCTOBER 2018

BD&P WORLD MUSIC
**I'm With Her**
(Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz, Aoife O'Donovan)
Oct 2, 2018

© Jim Meyynneh

SPECIALS
**Cirque Éloize – Saloon**
Oct 6, 2018

© Scott Chernis

TD JAZZ
**David Sanborn**
Oct 18, 2018

© Nebojša Babić

BD&P WORLD MUSIC
**Goran Bregović Wedding & Funeral Band**
Oct 23, 2018

© Ronan Donovan

## NOVEMBER 2018

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
**Social By Nature**
with wildlife photographer Ronan Donovan
Nov 4 & 5, 2018

PCL BLUES
**Cécile Doo-Kingué**
Nov 9 & 10, 2018

© Janette Beckman

TD JAZZ
**Lean On Me: José James Celebrates Bill Withers**
Nov 15, 2018

© Gus Powell

SPECIALS
**OK Go – The Live Video Tour**
Nov 17, 2018

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE
**Supertramp – Crime of the Century**
Nov 28, 2018

## JANUARY 2019

PCL BLUES
**The Duke Robillard Acoustic Trio**
Jan 18 & 19, 2019

© Guillermo Abramson

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
**The Search for Life Beyond Earth**
with astrobiologist Kevin Hand
Jan 27 & 28, 2019

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE
**Led Zeppelin IV**
Jan 31, 2019

## FEBRUARY 2019

SPECIALS
**Potted Potter**
Week 1: Feb 5 – 10, 2019
Week 2: Feb 12 – 18, 2019

BD&P WORLD MUSIC
**Celtic Nights – Oceans of Hope**
Feb 8, 2019

© Carol Friedman

TD JAZZ
**Bobby McFerrin & Gimme5: Circlesongs**
Feb 19, 2019

© Ladysmith Black Mambazo Management

## MARCH 2019

BD&P WORLD MUSIC
**Habib Koité, Bassekou Kouyate & Ladysmith Black Mambazo**
Mar 1, 2019

PCL BLUES
**Dom Flemons**
Mar 8 & 9, 2019

© Thomas Peschak

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
**Wild Seas, Secret Shores**
with photographer Thomas Peschak
Mar 10 & 11, 2019

BD&P WORLD MUSIC
**Cuba Vibra!**
Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba
Mar 20, 2019

## APRIL 2019

PCL BLUES
**Eden Brent**
Apr 5 & 6, 2019

© Mark Fitton

TD JAZZ
**Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour** featuring Cécile McLorin Salvant, Bria Skonberg, Melissa Aldana, Christian Sands, Yasushi Nakamura & Jamison Ross
Apr 11, 2019

© Raymund Isaac

SPECIALS
**Lea Salonga – The Human Heart Tour**
Apr 17, 2019

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE
**AC/DC – Back In Black**
Apr 18, 2019

© Laura Lewis

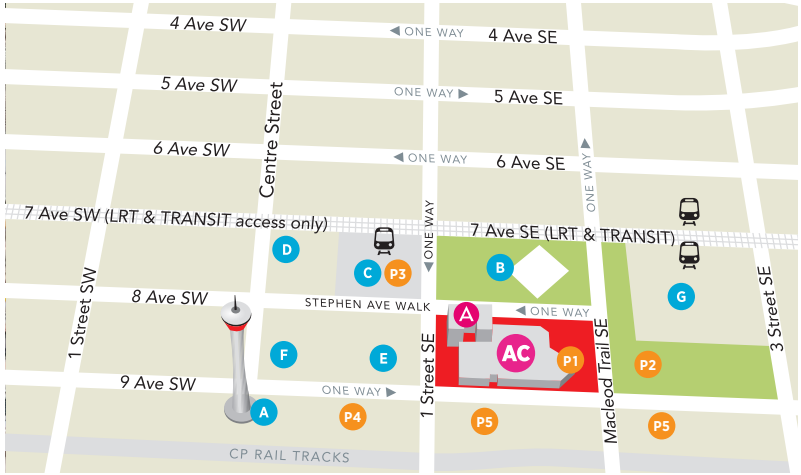
BD&P WORLD MUSIC
**Anoushka Shankar**
Apr 26, 2019

## MAY 2019

PCL BLUES
**Thornetta Davis**
May 3 & 4, 2019

© Tim Laman

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
**Adventures Among Orangutans**
with photographer Tim Laman & anthropologist Cheryl Knott
May 5 & 6, 2019




## OUR LOCATION

**AC** Our address is 205 8th Ave SE. Our main entrance is located on Stephen Avenue, one block east of the Calgary Tower and across from Olympic Plaza.

## ACCESSIBILITY

All Arts Commons venues offer wheelchair accessibility and wheelchair seating. Please phone ahead so we can accommodate your special needs.

## LANDMARKS

- **A** Calgary Tower
- **B** Olympic Plaza
- **C** TELUS Convention Centre
- **D** Hyatt Regency Hotel
- **E** Glenbow Museum
- **F** Marriott Hotel
- **G** City Hall

## GETTING HERE BY LRT

Calgary's LRT (light rail train) service has a station one block north of Arts Commons.

## GETTING HERE BY CAR

**P1** Arts Commons offers underground parking. Enter off Macleod Trail between 9th and 8th Avenues.

**$5 EVENINGS & WEEKENDS**

Other parking options include:

- **P2** Civic Plaza Parkade
- **P3** TELUS Convention Centre
- **P4** Palliser Square (access Arts Commons via the +15 network)
- **P5** Surface parking lots in the 200, 300 and 400 blocks on the south side of 9th Avenue SE

*NEW! Arts Commons is proud to be awarded the **Ultimate Host City Designation** by Tourism Calgary!*

Arts Commons

**Arts Commons**
205 - 8th Avenue SE
Calgary, Alberta Canada T2G 0K9
**403-294-9494 / artscommons.ca**

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PURCHASE TICKETS AT OUR BOX OFFICE: CENTRE COURT, 225 8TH AVE SE

*Monday to Saturday*

**OPEN** **10 AM** *to* **6 PM**

*Sundays* **CLOSED**

Tickets are also available online, or by phone

**403-294-9494** or **artscommons.ca**

From STEM to STEAM and the importance of arts learning. *p.4* | Is it possible to separate an artist's actions from their actual art? *p.12* | Relax; these performances are for everyone *p.22*

# Arts Commons

## MAGAZINE

FALL 2018 | #10

Arts Commons Presents

# CIRQUE ÉLOIZE SALOON

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

**Saturday, October 6, 2018**

***LIVE at the Jack Singer Concert Hall***

**403-294-9494 OR artscommons.ca/saloon**

National Tour Sponsor

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Cirque Éloize Saloon Partners

Theatre T & Cie · Saloon is a production of Théâtre T & Cie · Le Théâtre de Namur · PennState Center for the Performing Arts

Official Suppliers

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## LETTER FROM JOHANN

Arts Commons

***Our Mission is: "To bring the arts... to life."***

We believe the arts, and life, are inseparable. We are creative, curious, social beings, and any perceived separation between the arts and life is an artificial, sel -imposed construct. At Arts Commons, we work every day to break down those barriers (some great examples in this edition), and to create experiences that have meaning and IMPACT in the lives of everyday people. Personally, I believe we are here because you invited us. Arts Commons exists for someone like you, and more and more diverse communities are calling this "home."

People in general attend arts events for three basic reasons: to gather socially and have fun; to experience, discover, and learn something new; and to relieve stress. There are obviously more reasons to attend arts events, but our basic human desire to be social, as well as our natural curiosity, inspire us to seek out experiences to satisfy these impulses. The arts, and specifically LIVE per orming arts experiences, provide unique and important fulfillme t of these desires. Participating in such experiences leaves us happier, with more compassion, understanding, imagination, and knowledge.

We learn through the arts, as you will see in this edition. We witness daily why Einstein would have considered "imagination" to be more important than "knowledge." This influe tial physicist was also a gifted musician, and did his best "thinking" through music. Similarly, Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo Buonarroti were scientists, mathematicians, inventors, AND artists. While these men are referred to as "Renaissance Men," there are many contemporary examples of men and women who succeed because they have knowledge, skills, AND creative imagination. Such people in our own province gave us the Space Vision System, the SMART Board, Gluten-Free Foods, the ATCO Trailer, and even the Caesar Cocktail! This creative imagination – this spark that allows one person to take the same knowledge and facts available to us all, and turn it into a brand new invention – this illusive quality all employers seek when they interview candidates for a job – this special X-factor that gives one student an advantage beyond knowledge; this is a natural by-product of participation in arts experiences. As you will read in this edition, we firmly beli ve STEM education misses this vital point, and should be enhanced to include the Arts – as in STEAM education.

The artists here at Arts Commons are always looking for ways to unlock that creative potential in us all, and I hope you are inspired by their example, and that you will ignite your own creative spark through the arts.

***P.S. Arts Commons is proud to be awarded the ***
***Ultimate Host City Designation*** *by Tourism Calgary!*

**Johann F. Zietsman**
*President & CEO, Arts Commons*

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Artist Elyse Bouvier explores the history of Chinese-Western restaurants in rural Alberta, through conversations and photographs of mouth-watering meals.

**YES! THIS AMAZING ARTS COMMONS MAGAZINE IS AVAILBALE ONLINE!**
Expand your experience by sharing, reading, and enjoying this publication online. Visit **artscommons.ca**

**#artscommons**
**@yycarts**


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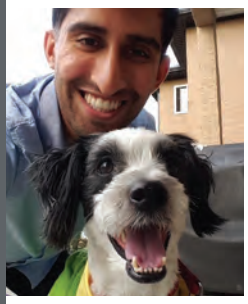
CBN, PLEASE
ADD FSC LOGO



## *Aaron Chatha*

Communications Manager, dog lover, and major comic book nerd – yes, Aaron Chatha is truly the complete package. With nine years of journalism experience under his belt, Aaron has worked for outlets including Metro, CTV, City TV, OMNI, and Sun Media, mainly covering Arts and Entertainment. You can currently catch him in the halls of Arts Commons.

## *Brodie Thomas*

Telling people's stories. Bothering politicians. Helping other writers strengthen their prose. Writing to deadline. These are just a few of Brodie Thomas's favourite things. Brodie has covered news as an editor for The Gulf News, Senior Reporter at Metro News Calgary, and is currently a writer with LiveWire Calgary.

## *Jessica Melnychuk*

A voracious learner, leader, and collaborator, Jessica is an avid storyteller. It helps that she has plenty of world experience to pull inspiration from, having travelled from Canada to the U.S., England, Germany, Italy, France, and beyond. Jessica is currently the Events Coordinator at *Local Drop* Magazine.

**ON THE COVER**

OK Go defined the viral music video by dancin on treadmills – and now have a reputation for impeccable choreography. ***Check out these amazing facts about the internet's coolest band on page 33***.

Photography © Gus Powell.

# From STEM to STEAM

...the **ARTS** need to join the party.

WRITTEN BY AARON CHATHA

How do we prepare young people to be scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and technologists – and ensure that we don't forego creativity?

There's been a growing movement to prepare today's youth for careers in STEM fields, with STEM representing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Think software developers, civil engineers, architectural managers, chemists, economists, and even environmental scientists.

However, with the growing movement is a growing debate: where do the arts fit in o this new curriculum, and should we expand from STEM to STEAM?

The A in this case stands for arts skills, which broadly encompasses language arts, social studies, fine arts, and music. hether acknowledged or not, many STEM field makes use of arts skills in their careers.

## THE BENEFITS

Let's start with the obvious: Calgarian Farhan Qureshi is a 3D artist who has worked on video games and is currently under contract with Amazon. Despite "artist" literally being part of his title, Qureshi's job is more associated in the field y its STEM attributes – knowledge of software and programming languages.

But when making video games or models for clients, art theory – which is learning how to lead the viewer by using space and the lack of space – becomes integral.

"3D art for games is a really cool blend of technical limitations and artistic skills," he explained. "When making environments, it's pretty crucial to know what a player sees on a fi st read, how to lead the eye, using negative space effici tly, how to make a scene cluttered yet still readable, and all the while trying to make the game as pretty as possible."

*"When you get into it, everything from graphic design to producing circuit boards and the way we do mechanical designs – a lot of art goes into it."*

A step away from Qureshi's work is the growing field of tart-up applications. It's easier than ever, with a little coding skill, to create a phone or PC app like Shazam, Evernote, or Slack and create a business from it.

Local programmer Bilal Karim was one of the forces behind MyHeat, an innovative tool that uses large-scale data processing to establish where heat is escaping from a building. At the click of a button, you can zoom into your house and see red areas where heat loss is occurring – and potentially make structural changes to increase your home's energy efficie y.

It's a lot of data crunching, and that's a major part of Karim's work – but when he's off the clock, Karim is also an avid photographer, and he values how his creative skills have a positive impact on his day job.

"Art, especially the field of Design, should be an important addition to STEM," he said. "Design helps with bringing a new perspective to your product, particularly enabling you to think from a user's perspective. Start-up founders often get too attached to the idea behind a piece of technology, which ultimately gets prioritized over the usability of products that are built. Putting design on the same table as other STEM fields can help overcome that problem."

The idea permeating through Qureshi and Karim's experiences is that having creative skills fills in the gaps b tween writing code

*Cont...*

*Roots 2 Stem* CEO and founder Dean White works with students to integrate the arts into STEM skills.

and creating a product. It's not enough to make something that works – it's key that users understand how to make it work in an intuitive way. It also helps if the product is aesthetically appealing – just ask any Porsche owner.

So then why the debate?

## THE HESITATIONS

According to Education Weekly, STEM education was born from a growing concern (especially in the U.S.) that today's employees lacked the skills and talent to succeed in the 21st century economy. So a movement spread to focus more on science and math in schools, fostering critical thinking and innovation in order to create technologies and solutions to real-world problems, using an engineering approach.

Whew, that's a mouthful, but essentially as society becomes more tech-oriented, we need people who understand the tech.

From education writer Janelle Cox, STEM supporters argue that there should be a separation between the arts and sciences to prevent anything from taking away from the core focus of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

STEM supporters would rather see arts filling in the gaps b tween STEM knowledge, as an ancillary exercise, while STEAM supporters would like arts learning to be integrated in the core subjects, so they can work in tandem.

While the debate is ongoing in schools, outside education programs like *Roots 2 STEM* have embraced arts learning into their curriculum.

A hands-on, experimental campus, *Roots 2 STEM* bolsters students' public school education in STEM fields y focusing on things like robotics and mechanical systems. Part of their mandate is to integrate arts learning into this process.

"Engineering is an art – for me," said founder and CEO Dean White. "It's so creative, so innovative. When you get into it, everything from graphic design, to producing circuit boards, and the way we do mechanical designs – a lot of art goes into it. The basics for all this drafting is the same as we teach in the arts. We teach different ways of communicating, and when we build something, it's our creation – it's our art we're building."

White explained the only reason why they've branded as STEM and not STEAM is because STEM is recognized as an officia U.N. acronym.

But as the world around us changes, and school curriculums begin to embrace a well-rounded education that makes arts as vital as science or math, that could very well change as well.

At Arts Commons, Calgary's largest arts hub, STEM skills are on full display – from engineering lights and world-class acoustics to trap doors and set construction – and yet everyone here knows the value of the arts in making technical decisions, and is therefore pushing full STEAM ahead.

ConocoPhillips
Canada

# Helping to Create Well-Rounded Citizens

Supporting youth and education is a vital part of ConocoPhillips' contribution to communities where we operate. That's why we support Arts Commons' efforts to bring arts and culture to students and teachers.

**www.conocophillips.ca**

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# Swing open the saloon doors
## *for a new kind of circus*

WRITTEN BY AARON CHATHA

Saddle up partna' and saunter down to the saloon for some sweet sarsaparilla and sensational, high-octane thrills, courtesy of Cirque Éloize.

The Montreal troupe have been leaders in contemporary circus arts since 1993, providing gasp-inducing acrobatics and hilarious pratfalls in their performances. Think Cirque de Soleil, but with a bigger emphasis on laughs and folk music.

*Saloon* tells the story of a young cowboy who falls under the spell of the beautiful Belle, and sets off on a chase orthy of history's greatest Westerns, set to the timeless tunes of Johnny Cash and Patsy Cline. The Wild West comes to life through live music, singing, and – of course – gun fig ts.

Artistic director and choreographer Annie St-Pierre cartwheeled by to tell us what to expect from Saloon when it premieres at the Jack Singer Concert Hall on October 6.

**Q:** What makes the Wild West such an exciting format to work with?

**A:** The idea was to represent all the possibilities; all the strength humans need to build a new world. Also "Love" is still something universal that everyone can relate to. The West also allowed possibilities also to celebrate music live on stage with festive instruments such as violins.

**Q:** I imagine you have to be in really good shape to pull off some of our stunts – what's the physical fitne s training for your performers like?

**A:** They have to keep training their own act on their apparatus. They also need to keep doing cardio and bodybuilding work related to their skills.

**Q:** There seems to be quite a bit going on all at once – how long did this show take to put together?

**A:** It's one year of preparation for the production team and the creative team. We did also some workshops with the artists before the actual rehearsal time. And when rehearsal starts it's 6 days a week for nine to 10 weeks of work.

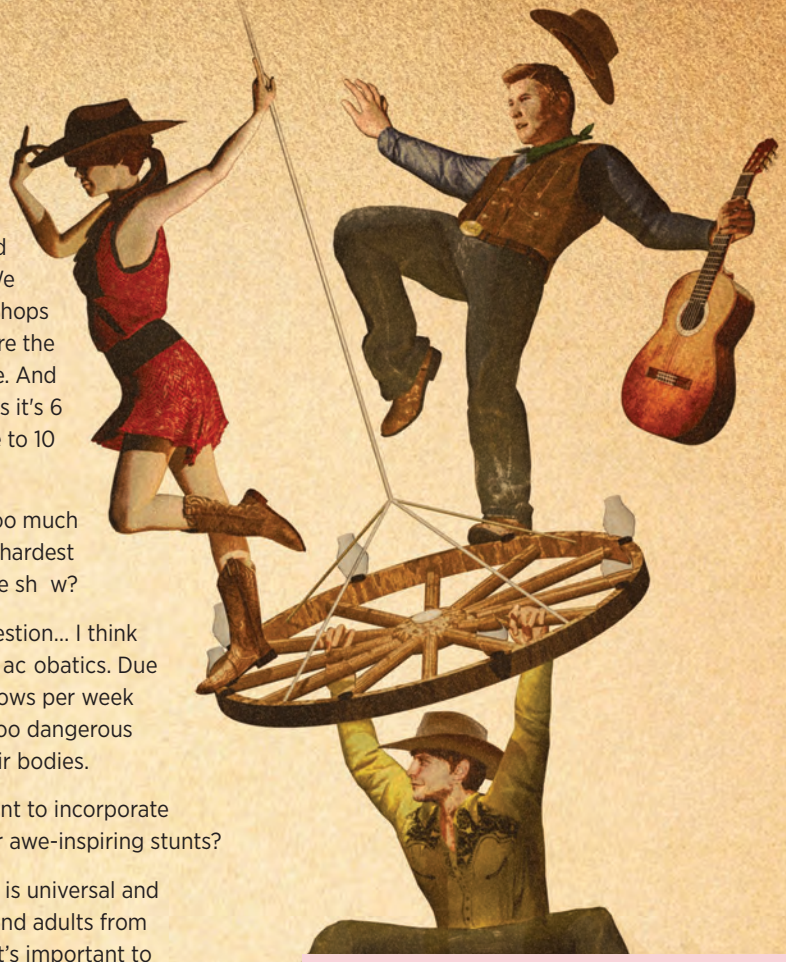
**Q:** Without giving too much away, what was the hardest trick to pull off in the sh w?

**A:** Mmmm good question... I think that was some floor ac obatics. Due to the amount of shows per week for the tour, it was too dangerous and too hard on their bodies.

**Q:** Why is it important to incorporate comedy into all your awe-inspiring stunts?

**A:** Because laughter is universal and can touch children and adults from different cultures... it's important to keep hope that art can touch people and make them feel nice for at least this moment.

The essential message from this show is this actually... It's to keep hope in the fact that art and love can "win" over war and fig ting. A



| | |
|---|---|
| WHO | Arts Commons Presents |
| WHAT | *Cirque Éloize: Saloon* |
| WHEN | **October 6, 2018** |
| WHERE | Jack Singer Concert Hall |
| TICKETS | 403-294-9494<br>artscommons.ca |

**Opposite & right:** Artists perform a variety of acrobatic stunts during a stage performace of *Cirque Éloize: Saloon.* Photos © Jim Mneymneh.

Arts Commons Presents
2018-19
SEASON
CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE
Supertramp - Crime of the Century
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018
Led Zeppelin IV
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2019
AC/DC Back In Black
THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019
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Arts Commons Presents
2018-19
SEASON
Social By Nature with Ronan Donovan
SUN/MON NOVEMBER 4 & 5, 2018
The Search for Life Beyond Earth with Kevin Hand
SUN/MON JANUARY 27 & 28, 2019
Wild Seas, Secret Shores with Thomas Peschak
SUN/MON MARCH 10 & 11, 2019
Adventures Among Orangutans with Tim Laman & Cheryl Knott
SUN/MON MAY 5 & 6, 2019
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Photo by Mark Thiessen

# SEPARATING ART FROM ARTIST

WRITTEN BY TASHA KOMERY

Many of us appreciate art for its ability to reflect the world around us, to provoke thought and conversation. Yet, isn't the art produced by any given artist an extension of themselves, a reflection of their world view, rather than our own? Can we appreciate art without considering the artist behind the work? Or can we (should we) appreciate art on its own merit?

In our current cultural climate, the overdue storms of the #metoo and #timesup movements have wreaked havoc on the careers of some of our favourite artists, starting with Harvey Weinstein. Between two production companies, Weinstein has received 341 Academy Award nominations and won 81 Awards.[1] Yet today, in the light of the scandal, he has been expelled from the Academy and his work is now eschewed and discounted. No one dares call one of his films their favourite today. Does the art suffer for the actions of the artist?

What about musicians? We have definitely seen the likes of Chris Brown and R. Kelly in news reports about domestic abuse

and sexual misconduct, yet their careers still seem to be thriving. So why hasn't the hammer come down as hard on them? While there is virtual certainty that it has something to do with the nominal value that is put on young, black women in our society, it may also have to do with how we want to hold on to our memories.

An article published in the New Yorker in November 2017 posits that if we condemned artists like these, many of our favourite artists from the past several decades would have to be taken down with them. "The genre has witnessed so much bad-boy behavior for so long that huge swaths of beloved sounds, from James Brown to the Rolling Stones, from Led Zeppelin to the many records produced by Dr. Dre, would be out of bounds if listeners didn't separate the art from the artist."[2]

In the New York Times op-ed article, "Good Art, Bad People", published in June, 2012, the author firmly a serts that, " ...people who think and behave in ways most of us find abhor ent, make good art all the time... In the case of the artist, badness or goodness is a moral quality or judgment; in the case of his art, goodness and badness are terms of aesthetic merit, to which morality does not apply."[3]

Rich Theroux, educator and head Caveman at RumbleHouse disagrees. "You have an obligation to acknowledge the artist as part of the work. I love Nina Simone but I've read she didn't like white people... I don't care how good Hitler's paintings were, we never admit it... I feel sick to my stomach when I enjoy a Woody Allen film, and Bill Cosby is retroactively not funny anymore."

Local artist and ACAD instructor Mark Vazquez-Mackay agrees. "True art should be a refle tion of self, therefore the person's character should be visible in the work. Take Picasso for example, he created the most important anti-war painting in the history of art (*Guernica*) that is loaded with empathy for people suffering under an unjust dictator... while in his personal life he was abusive to women and even to his own offspring. So when I see Pica so represent a woman I see a Misogynist's representation and when I see *Guernica*, I see a Humanist's painting."

*"Can we appreciate art without considering the artist behind the work? Or can we (should we) appreciate art on its own merit?"*

Looking at visual artists, many are unaware that the halls of some of our most respected art galleries and museums are filled with orks by misogynist and abusive men (and some racist women), celebrated despite how they act or acted in their personal lives. And I'm not even going to try to attempt to discuss how the monetary value plays into all this, although it is pertinent. On this subject, Vazquez-MacKay once again considers Picasso: "I might even make a distinction between living and dead artists. In the case of Picasso, royalties are going to the family he abused, so that is a good thing."

When asked if there are artists whose work we should continue to revere despite their deplorable personal lives, Natasha Jensen, visual artist and Visual and Media Arts Specialist for Arts Commons, lists, "Picasso, Renoir, Jeff oon, Jerry Salt, Rembrandt, Sally Mann, Jackson Pollock, Edouard Manet, Paul Gauguin, Yves Klein, Marcel Duchamp, all of the surrealists, just to name a few. All of your favourite historical artists were terrible misogynists, racists, and deplorable people in their personal lives but there is no way that we will ever devalue their work now, it's worth too much. But we might be able to create a new context around how we talk about their work."

And perhaps context is key. Time and place are important factors in how we assess art and artist. What we consider repugnant today is very possibly behaviour that was considered normal yesterday. Or what we consider unacceptable in North America is absolutely ordinary in other parts of the world. I believe we can appreciate art made by someone we today consider a deplorable person, if we are willing to accept the darkness that is potentially at the root of that artwork and the context of when and where the art was created.

Where I believe the struggle truly lies is in an artist, who is a disgraceful human being, profiting f om their art. We all hate it when the "bad guy" wins. Therefore, as the observer, investor, or collector, we cannot put blinders on, but rather we must make the artist part of the discussion, the assessment, and the context. A

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*Share your thoughts on social media! Tag us* ***@yycarts*** *and use* ***#artvsartist*** *to continue the conversation.*

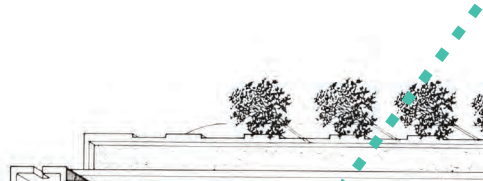
[1] https://www.forbes.com/sites/maddieberg/2017/10/13/here-are-all-of-harvey-weinsteins-oscar-wins/#23cd5d93d946 | [2] https://www.newyorker.com/culture/cultural-comment/why-has-r-kellys-career-thrived-despite-sexual-misconduct-allegations | [3] https://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/22/opinion/global-agenda-magazine-good-art-bad-people.html

# two green thumbs way up

WRITTEN BY AARON CHATHA

**Alberta is making strides to go green – and no, I don't mean the budding weed industry.**

**Oil companies, industry leaders, and the Alberta government are working to reduce the province's carbon footprint, and Arts Commons is no exception. We may not be the biggest contributor to climate change, but we too have a responsibility to help maintain our environment. And that sense of responsibility has led to some very cool initiatives.**



## *Boiling up efficiency*

Before Arts Commons can get green, it needs green – and government has been there to support.

The governments of Canada and Alberta are each contributing up to $400,000 to renew the main electrical switch in the building. This is in addition to the City of Calgary's contribution of $1,818,000 to the projects, with Arts Commons picking up with remaining $259,859 of the project costs.

"Vibrant cultural spaces like Arts Commons are a cornerstone of strong communities and a better economy for Calgary," said Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi. "The City of Calgary is the primary funder for this critical maintenance project because we know that Arts Commons is part of the heart of our city."

The work involves renewing the main electrical switch and all its primary distribution systems. In addition, we've also added lighting dimmers in the Max Bell – just because we always keep it at 100, it doesn't mean our lights have to.

Along with the electrical, another enormous undertaking at Arts Commons is the replacement of our aging boiler system.

Doesn't sound too exciting? Well, let's turn up the heat on this story.

The building is actually switching from boilers to a Disrict Energy thermal system, which will improve energy efficie y by 35 per cent and reduce annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 1,198 metric tonnes per year. Total GHG reduction over the 25-year life span of the new heating system is estimated at 29,950 metric tonnes. That's the same as removing 6,300 cars from Alberta's roads!

And it's made possible by a $1 million contribution from the Alberta Government, through the Community Facility Enhancement Program.

"Arts Commons is Calgary's cultural epicentre, hosting more than 600,000 visitors to over 1,800 performances each year in the heart of the city's downtown," said Ricardo Miranda, Alberta Minister of Culture and Tourism. "Upgrades to the facility will help reduce energy costs and ensure that Calgarians, Albertans, and visitors to the city can continue to share in the vibrancy of Alberta culture while supporting local business and helping grow tourism in our province."

## *Take a seat*

In the last few years we've replaced the aging seats in the Max Bell, Martha Cohen, Engineered Air Theatre, and – most recently – the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

The metal frames from the old seats have been melted down, recycled, and turned into new products, while the wood from the seat backs have found a variety of homes: some have been converted into an acoustic ceiling to enhance the Jack Singer Rehearsal Hall, while others have been given to local woodworking artists as free materials.

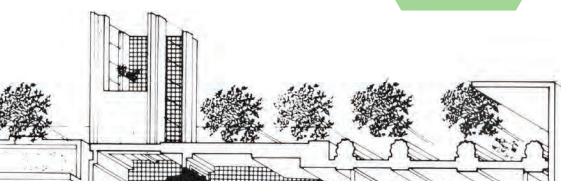
A number of the beautiful oak, curved plywood seatbacks from the Jack Singer Concert Hall were also used to upgrade the Arts Commons Artist Lounge.

The unique curve of the wood was incorporated into drawers and cabinets, to ensure history lives on in a useful way. You can even still see the outline in the wood where the placards would go.

Facilities Operations Manager Lance Olson hopes projects like these will inspire other organizations to be creative with their resources.

"I think it's the responsibility of everyone to be green, not just a select few," he said. A

**Above:** The main electrical switch renewal involved dozens of pros working to power the entire building from one complicated, central unit. **Left:** The ceiling of the Jack Singer Rehearsal Hall has been fitted with recycled seat backs to enhance the acoustic integrity of the space



# little chinese café on the prairie

WRITTEN BY JESSICA MELNYCHUK

Pickup trucks, rolling green hills, wide open spaces, and big blue skies: that's the typical image when thinking of small town Alberta. But photographer and artist Elyse Bouvier sees much more to rural Alberta than fi st meets the eye.

"There are a lot of misperceptions about rural life," Bouvier explained. "There are actually a lot of immigrants and a lot of diversity in small towns, more than people might expect."

*"...if we could all sit down for a potluck, maybe we could find some common ground."*

In her photo-based documentary project, *Royal Cafe* – which appears at Arts Commons over the Fall – Bouvier explores the intersection of food and Canadian cultural identity, while refle ting on the prevalence of Chinese cafés in rural Alberta.

Some may be unaware of the significan e behind this quiet prevalence. While Chinese have been immigrating to Canada since the gold rush of the mid-nineteenth century, and were labourers on the Canadian Pacifi Railway in the late nineteenth century, the Chinese Immigration Act (known today as the Chinese Exclusion Act) of 1923 prohibited Chinese immigration to Canada altogether. While emigration from many countries was often regulated, it was only the Chinese who were completely barred from immigrating to Canada. Though the act was repealed in 1947, its impact was long-lasting.

Despite their hurdles, the Albertan Chinese continued to invest and grow their businesses, making Chinese restaurants a prominent sight in rural Alberta. However, they often remain overlooked in the typical image of the prairies.

"When I started with this project, I thought it would be fun and quirky, but I was also trying to understand some of my own identity," she said. "When people see these photographs, I want them to think back on their own memories, perhaps in a different way."

The project's namesake is a small little café in Vulcan, Alberta, reminiscent of the many Chinese cafés scattered across the province. Throughout her travels (and many delicious delights), Bouvier quickly realized what an influen e all those childhood meals in small town cafés had on her identity and the topics she's now so passionate about exploring in her art. She hopes those who experience *Royal Cafe* have a similar realization.

"I want people to think, 'what does it mean to be an Albertan?'" she says.

Bouvier is currently in the process of turning *Royal Cafe* into a book, while continuing to explore another culinary phenomenon that has had a considerable impact on Calgarian identity in particular: pancake breakfasts.

Whether people are sitting down to eat at their local Chinese restaurant, sharing homemade dishes with friends or gathering together to enjoy some pancakes, Bouvier says food creates community. It brings people together and starts conversations – conversations that help us learn and even help shape who we become.

"There are a lot of clashing opinions in Canada right now," Bouvier notes. "But if we could all sit down for a potluck, maybe we could find some ommon ground." A

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*See Royal Cafe at the Arts Commons Window Galleries from September 3 to November 30, 2018.*

| | |
|---|---|
| WHO | Elyse Bouvier |
| WHAT | *Royal Cafe* |
| WHEN | **September 3 – November 30, 2018** |
| WHERE | Arts Commons Window Galleries |
| INFO | artscommons.ca |

Photography © Elyse Bouvier.

Arts Commons Presents

2018–19 SEASON

I'm With Her (Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz, Aoife O'Donovan)
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2018

Goran Bregović Wedding & Funeral Band
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2018

Celtic Nights – Oceans of Hope
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019

Habib Koité, Bassekou Kouyate & Ladysmith Black Mambazo
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019

Cuba Vibra! Lizt Alfonso Dance Cuba
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019

Anoushka Shankar
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019

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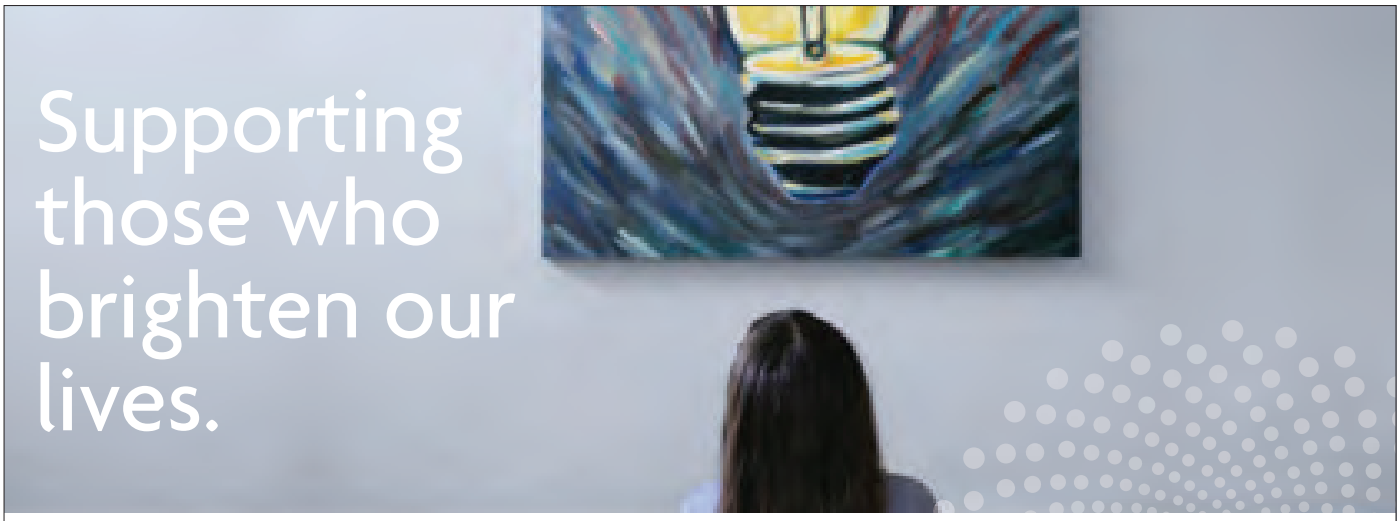


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# Learning from the past in **Honour Beat**

WRITTEN BY AARON CHATHA

Tara Beagan was raised to think of the generations before her, and after her.

This thoughtfulness permeates through many of the Calgary playwright's works, so it's lucky that she has such a rich and diverse background: Beagan is of Ntlakapamux and Irish ancestry.

"My blood impacts everything I do," she said. "My ancestors are very present in my writer self and I'm grateful for that. In a diverse society, every voice must be heard. In this country, it is especially important that Indigenous voices are given well-resourced platforms wherein we control our creative processes. It is the only way to begin to right the imbalance and achieve true harmony."

*"Family is universal, and the complex stories of family have been told by generations throughout the decades."*

Beagan's latest offering, *Honour Beat*, premiering at Theatre Calgary in September, really lets her unique writer's voice shine with a perspective that is sadly too absent from prevalent Canadian media.

"With *Honour Beat*, we're offering a microcosm world of those values: what are Elders leaving for the young ones, and what are the responsibilities for those left behind once an Elder has passed on?" Begean pondered. "The colonized nation of 'Canada' is a young one, and the powers that be still have much to learn from the myriad First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples, who carry wisdom of this land."

*Honour Beat* features four rich, fleshed out, Indigenous characters. On the surface, it's about two grown sisters facing off ver their mother's death bed. They confront each other, their own identities, and what will remain when their mother departs from the world.

"Much like this country, they must open themselves to what lessons they can glean from their mother's journey and how that can contribute to the greater good. Unlike the mom in this story, we remain on this earth and we wish to ensure this world is well served by the human presence. This is only possible with open dialogue."

Of course, you don't need to come from an Indigenous background to connect with the characters.

"Family is universal, and the complex stories of family have been told by generations throughout the decades," said artistic director Stafford Arima. "*Honour Beat* is a touching and humorous play that reminds us that relationships within families are fragile, forgiving, and most importantly, resilient."

The play has attracted some top-tier talent in the form of actress Michelle Thrush, who won awards for her performance in the TV series *Blackstone*. Here she takes the director's chair to bring *Honour Beat* to the stage.

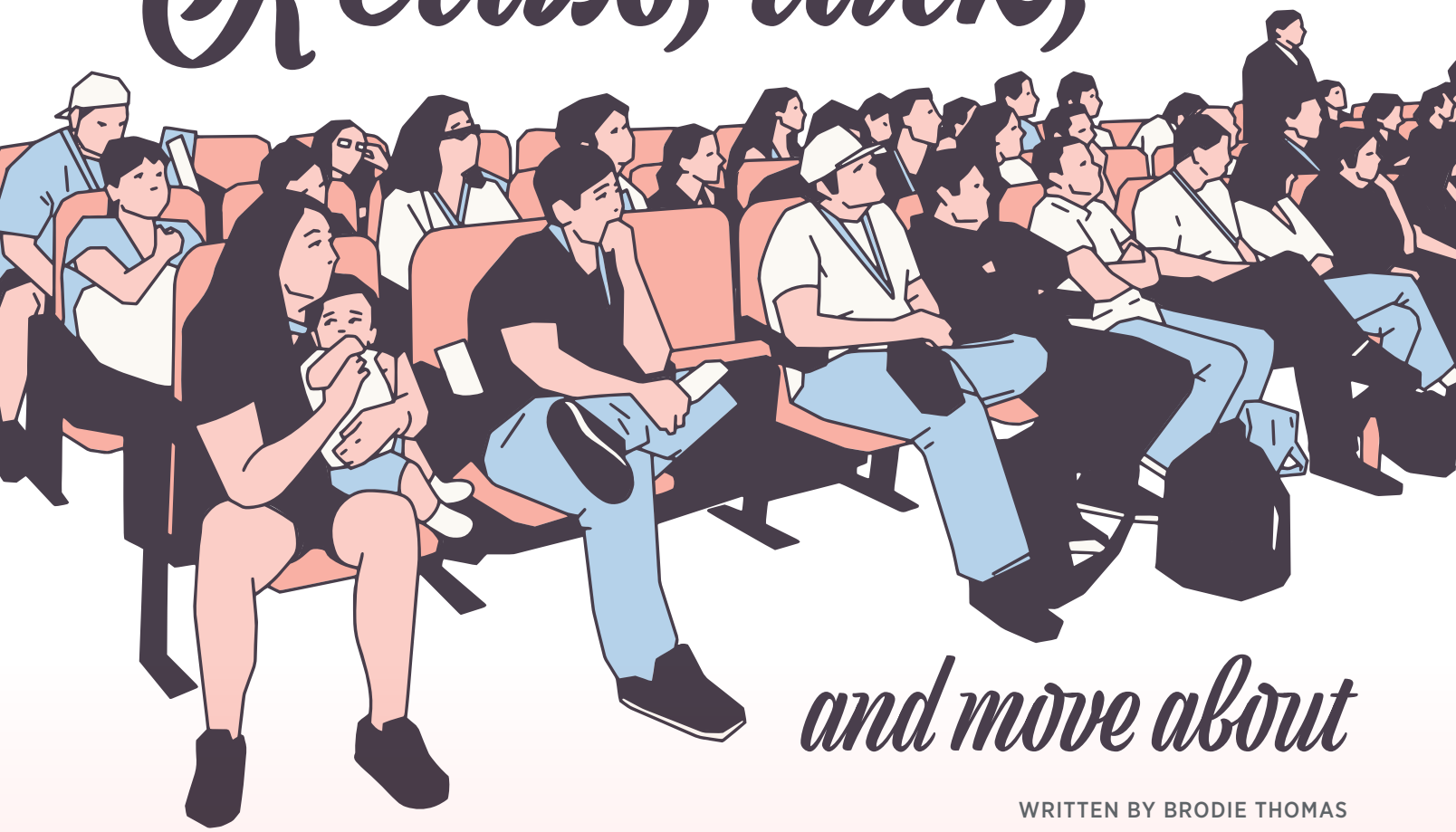
As a writer, Beagan's mixed background proves to be an advantage, allowing her to marry two differing perspectives in the Canadian mosaic.

"Our hope is that *Honour Beat* will inspire empathy in audience members, and the desire to hear more Indigenous led stories," she said. "An expansion of empathy is a win for humanity, and that can only lead to more good." A

| | |
|---|---|
| WHO | Theatre Calgary |
| WHAT | *Honour Beat* |
| WHEN | **September 4 – 29, 2018** |
| WHERE | Max Bell Theatre |
| TICKETS | theatrecalgary.com |

Photography © Andy Moro.

# Relax, talk, and move about



WRITTEN BY BRODIE THOMAS

Whether it's fair or not, theatre can have a reputation for being... well... a bit stuffy.

Few other forms of live entertainment have such strict rules about making noise or getting out of your seat during a performance. Now, a group in Calgary is helping facilitate a style of theatre performance that's all inclusive.

Col Cseke, Artistic Director with Inside Out Theatre, explained how relaxed performances are getting more people out to the theatre in Calgary.

"We make some slight adjustments to performances to make them less intense, more relaxed, and more welcoming to a big, broad community of folks who would otherwise find the t aditional, strict, theater-going rules inaccessible," he said.

A relaxed performance is one show during a production's run where the theatre-going rules are relaxed. Involuntary noises are not a problem. Cseke said people are welcome to talk with the person next to them, if they are so inclined.

Members of the audience are even able to get up out of their seat and leave the room if they feel the need. Some lighting in the seating area is left on to make navigation possible. They even provide a "chill out room" just outside the theatre.

"It's a quiet space where folks can go to take a breath, or have a sip of water, and come back into the theatre whenever they're ready," he said.

It starts by bringing in a consultant who has lived experience with autism to watch a regular performance of whichever show they're adapting. The consultant recommends areas that might need to be toned down – loud noises or startling moments in the play. Attention is also paid to bright or flashing lig ts.

It's one thing to make a theatre accessible by making allowances for wheelchairs, or the hearing impaired, but Cseke said sitting silently in the dark for two hours just isn't possible for many people who still want to attend the theatre.

Although the relaxed performance program only officially launched this ear in the city, Cseke said it has been widely embraced by a number of theatres and performance groups in recent years.

Downstage Theatre's production of *Crime Does Not Pay* was one of the fi st relaxed performances organized between Inside Out and Downstage, in 2017.

Ellen Close, artistic director with Downstage, said having a consultant come in was a big help.

"We had marquee lights that sometimes, when they turned on or off c eated a strobe effect, so our consultant recommended we cut that for the relaxed performance, which was not something we would've caught."

As a theatre company that primarily works with artists with disabilities, Inside Out facilitates relaxed performances with many companies in the city. In the 2017-18 season, more than 40 shows and events were adapted to include at least one relaxed performance.

*"Sitting silently in the dark for two hours just isn't possible for many people who still want to attend the theatre."*

Cseke said other groups around the world have done one thing or another to make shows more accessible, including holding relaxed performances, but Inside Out is the fi st to facilitate so many relaxed performances in a single season.

"The idea of this program – one that spans a bunch of different theatre companies all over the city with a bunch of accessibility programs, that's been our innovation," he said.

Cseke said the reaction from people and families of people now able to take in these shows has been overwhelming.

One family told him how they were able to bring a father who had dementia to the theatre he had regularly attended years ago.

"We had one mom whose son came to one of our events," said Cseke. "She was quite emotional. She found her son can be tolerated at public events, but this was the fi st time she felt he was really embraced." A

## Enjoy *National Geographic Live* in a more inclusive setting!

Certain *National Geographic Live* shows in the upcoming season will have an American Sign Language (ASL) translator on the side of the stage, so more people can learn and be inspired by our speakers – especially those who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to do so!

Our next speaker is wildlife photographer Ronan Donovan, who explores the social lives of wolves, chimps, gorillas, and bears in *Social By Nature*. Visit our website for more information on ASL performances of *National Geographic Live*.

## Check out Alberta Theatre Project's upcoming relaxed performance of *ZORRO: Family Code* on Dec. 11, 2018

In 19th century Spanish California, the heroic (but aging) masked outlaw known as el Zorro gets some unexpected help defending the small village of Los Angeles against his arch nemesis, Sergeant Pablo Gonzales.

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# what's on

What's new and what's notable this Fall season

## September 1 – 7, 2018

MUSIC

Honens

### Honens International Piano Competition

Honens brings the world's finest emergin pianists to Calgary for an internationally renowned piano competition and ten days of extraordinary music-making.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN Show times vary
INFO honens.com

## September 3 – October 29, 2018

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Arts Commons Presents

### THE STIMULANT

A pop-up dark room, *THE STIMULANT* is an environmental developer and printing solution for refined black and white photography by Seities Studio's Bruce Hildesheim, Sanja Lukac, and Francis A. Willey.

WHERE Lightbox Studio
WHEN Studio times vary
INFO artscommons.ca

FREE

©Katelyn Liakos

## September 3 – November 30, 2018

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Arts Commons Presents

### Chestnut Cookies, THE BLUES, and Murmurs

Three visually powerful short films fro Andrée-Anne Roussel, Katelyn Liakos, and Caroline Blais come to the Broadcast Lab monitors in Arts Commons, telling stories through sensory cinema, abstract colour, and Super 8 film

WHERE Broadcast Lab
WHEN Always open
INFO artscommons.ca

FREE

## September 3 – November 30, 2018

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Arts Commons Presents

### The Third Mind: Recording Studio

Artists Rebecca Reid and Brendan Kane transform the Ledge Gallery into a mini recording studio, leading up to a small-scale music video production.

WHERE Ledge Gallery
WHEN Studio times vary
INFO artscommons.ca

FREE

©Rocio Graham

## September 3 – November 30, 2018

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Arts Commons Presents

### Royale Cafe, Other Last Suppers, and When I Think of Home

Arts Commons showcases unique exhibitions in the Window Galleries from artists Elyse Bouvier, Rocio Graham, and Lindsay Sorell, using photography, watercolours, and organic materials.

WHERE Window Galleries
WHEN Always open
INFO artscommons.ca

FREE

# september

## September 3, 2018 – February 28, 2019

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Arts Commons Presents

### Hunting Self

pr0phecy sun threads together conscious and unconscious choreographies, sound, and environment to explore works that invoke deep body memory.

WHERE +15 Soundscape
WHEN Always open
INFO artscommons.ca

FREE

## September 4 – 29, 2018

THEATRE

Theatre Calgary

### Honour Beat

Two grown sisters face off over their mother's death-bed. Together they confront one another, their own identities, and what will remain when their mom leaves this world.

WHERE Max Bell Theatre
WHEN Show times vary
TICKETS theatrecalgary.com

## September 11 – 29, 2018

THEATRE

Alberta Theatre Projects

### The Virgin Trial

After the death of both her parents, 15 year old Elizabeth I must defend herself against accusations of plotting to kill her brother, the king, and having an illicit affair wit her stepfather.

WHERE Martha Cohen Theatre
WHEN Show times vary
TICKETS atplive.com

## September 14 & 15, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Classical Mystery Tour: A Symphonic Evening of The Beatles

What would it have sounded like to hear The Beatles play live in concert with a symphony orchestra? Experience *Classical Mystery Tour* — featuring original members of the Broadway sensation *Beatlemania* — performing your favourite Beatles hits.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

## September 19, 2018

FILM

Calgary International Film Festival

### Calgary International Film Festival Opening Gala

The annual Calgary International Film Festival kicks off 12 days of film with a opening night gala presentation, which includes a walk across the red carpet.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryfilm.co

## September 21, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Symphonics 101: Guide to the Orchestra

Prepare to be dazzled, moved, and blown away by the musical dynamo that is the CPO. Associate Conductor Karl Hirzer hosts and directs this programme of stunning classical repertoire – including works by Haydn, Beethoven, Mahler, and Debussy – designed to show you the full spectrum of what a live symphonic performance has to offer

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

## September 21 & 22, 2018

MUSIC

Arts Commons Presents

### PCL Blues: R.L. Boyce

Widely recognized as a Mississippi Hill Country blues master, R.L. Boyce fosters a loose and free style that is simultaneously meditative and toe-tappingly groovy.

WHERE Engineered Air Theatre
WHEN 8pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

©William Burgess

## September 26, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### An Evening with Renée Fleming

Crowned "the People's Diva" and beloved the world over, four-time GRAMMY® Award-winning soprano Renée Fleming returns to Calgary for one of the most highly anticipated concerts of the Season. Acclaimed as having "the most sheerly beautiful soprano voice on the planet," her rich-hued tone, diverse repertoire, and breathtaking artistry have made Ms. Fleming one of the greatest musical ambassadors and vocal legends of our time.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

©Andrew Eccles/Decca

## September 28 & 29, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Worlds Collide: Haydn, Ho + Kuzmenko

Joseph Haydn's final symphony pairs evocatively with JUNO nominated composers Larysa Kuzmenko's *Behold the Night* and Vincent Ho's highly anticipated *The Sandman's Domain: Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra* – two enchanting works that journey into the realm of magic!

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

©Young Ko Hang

## September 29, 2018

FAMILY EVENT

Arts Commons Presents

### Itty Bitty Arts Day: A Teddy Bear Picnic

Let loose with your little one at our first Teddy Bear Picnic, an immersive art-party created for families with babies, toddlers, and young children!

WHERE Engineered Air Theatre
WHEN 9:30am & 1:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 2, 2018

MUSIC

Arts Commons Presents

### BD&P World Music: I'm With Her (Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz, Aoife O'Donovan)

Aoife O'Donovan, Sara Watkins, and Sarah Jarosz create restless, romantic, and emotionally complex narratives with each song, woven together with a tight, family-like chemistry.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 5, 2018

MUSIC

Love We Share Foundation

### La Prima Donna Sumi Jo

Praised for the remarkable agility, precision, and warmth of her voice, and for her outstanding musicianship, Sumi Jo has established herself as one of her generation's most sought-after sopranos.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

sept/oct

## October 6, 2018

CIRCUS

Arts Commons Presents

### Cirque Éloize: Saloon

America is expanding. The railroad is stretching westward to lands of untold promise. In the middle of the desert, a town comes to life. The Saloon doors swing open to reveal a motley cast of individuals, each with a tale to tell.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 6, 2018

MUSIC

Clicquot Trio

### Clicquot Trio

This classical-jazz crossover trio will swing the night away with this one-night only performance of classic gems.

WHERE Engineered Air Theatre
WHEN 8pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 7, 2018

PAGEANT

Pilipinas Canada

### Pilipinas Canada: 2018 Pageant

The annual Miss Pilipinas Canada pageant gives contestants that chance to win cash, crown, trophy and sash – and the chance to compete in international competitions.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN Show times vary
INFO artscommons.ca

## October 9 – 21, 2018

THEATRE

Alberta Theatre Projects

### Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead

Tom Stoppard's classic Tony Award-winning black comedy that follows the hilarious and heartfelt antics of two minor characters from Shakepeare's *Hamlet* as they question their place in the story and their inevitable fate.

WHERE Martha Cohen Theatre
WHEN Show times vary
TICKETS atplive.com

## October 12 & 13, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Keyboards: Marc-André Hamelin + Neil Cockburn

Gramophone Hall of Fame-inducted and globally acclaimed pianist, Marc-André Hamelin, dazzles in Ravel's deliciously raucous *Piano Concerto in G major*. Opening with the composer's enchanting *Mother Goose Suite*, the concert builds to a triumphant close with Saint-Saëns' *Organ Symphony*, resounding fully with playing by celebrated organist Neil Cockburn.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 13, 2018

MUSIC

Nhac Chieu Guitar

### Nhac Chieu Guitar

Calgary Vitnamese group Nhac Chieu Guitar presents an unforgettable music show, with songs selected and performed in Vietnamese by local singers and musicians, bringing audiences back to the beloved far-away country.

WHERE Engineered Air Theatre
WHEN 8pm
INFO artscommons.ca

## October 16 – November 10, 2018

THEATRE

Theatre Calgary

### Mary and Max – A New Musical

Join lonely 10-year-old Mary from Melbourne as she writes her way into the life of Max, a 44-year-old man with Asperger's Syndrome in New York City.

WHERE Max Bell Theatre
WHEN Show times vary
TICKETS theatrecalgary.com

## October 17 – 21, 2018

THEATRE

Fire Exit Theatre

### Freud's Last Session

As air raid sirens sound and Britain enters World War Two, CS Lewis and Sigmund Freud clash about love, sex, the existence of God, and the meaning of life. An Off-Broadwa sensation, this imagined meeting between two of the 20th century's greatest minds delivers surprising emotional impact and human insight.

WHERE Engineered Air Theatre
WHEN Show times vary
TICKETS fireexit.c

## October 18, 2018

MUSIC

Arts Commons Presents

### TD Jazz: David Sanborn

With six GRAMMY® Awards, one Platinum and eight Gold albums, as well as a collection of original music spanning over 24 albums, David Sanborn and his jazz quintet blend instrumental pop, R&B, and more traditional jazz.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 21, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Peter and the Wolf

In Prokofiev's imaginative masterpiece for young audiences, Peter and his animal friends decide to capture a wolf that's been prowling about the village! With instruments serving as characters, and the entire story brilliantly narrated, this is a time-honoured children's introduction to the Orchestra. The CPO delights in Saint-Saëns' *The Carnival of the Animals*, described even by the composer as "such fun!"

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 3pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

©Mikhael Ognev

## October 22, 2018

SPEAKER

Pangburn Philosophy

### An Evening With Richard Dawkins and Carolyn Porco

Richard Dawkins is one of the most respected scientists in the world and the biggest draw in secularism, while Carolyn Porco has co-authored over 125 scientific papers on a variety of subjects in astronomy and planetary science.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 8pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 23, 2018

MUSIC

Arts Commons Presents

### BD&P World Music: Goran Bregović Wedding & Funeral Band

The Goran Bregović Wedding & Funeral Band is a high-energy trans-Balkan musical extravaganza! Lauded worldwide for his fusion of rock and Balkan folk music, Bregović has composed over 30 film scores collaborating with musicians such as Iggy Pop and Gogol Bordello, and performing on the soundtrack for mockumentary film *Borat*.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 24 – 26, 2018

THEATRE

Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society

### KIITISTSINNONIKS (Our Mothers)

From a gathering of Elders, these never-before heard stories of hope, resilience and ancestry are the guiding force of Kiitistsinnoniks. Written, directed, and designed by an all-female crew, our newest production is in solidarity of our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women.

WHERE Martha Cohen Theatre
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

# october

## October 25, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Rush Hour: Hits

Famously described as "a cross between a dignified unicorn and an exuberant sprite," Gemma New is one of the world's most exciting new conductors. "Fully in command of all her forces," New brings her unique podium style and dynamic presence to this line-up of masterworks, featuring music by Mozart, known to fans familiar with the film *Amadeus*, and Edvard Grieg, the composer who is to Norway what Shakespeare is to England.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 6:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

## October 26, 2018

MUSIC

Shantero Productions

### Murray McLauchlan

Murray McLauchlan is one of Canada's most highly regarded singer/songwriters, and with good cause. Over a 45-year career, he has released 19 albums and been awarded 11 Junos. His songs *Farmer's Song*, *Down by the Henry Moore*, *Whispering Rain*, and *Sweeping the Spotlight Away* are now considered Canadian standards.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 27, 2018

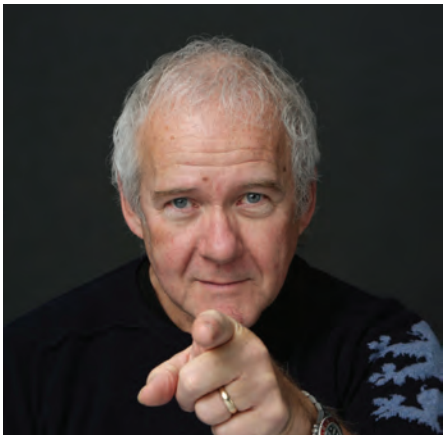
MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Greatest Classical Hits

"This is Italy!" exclaimed composer Felix Mendelssohn of his delightful *Fourth Symphony*, bursting with sunlight and exuberant Italian folk rhythms. Gemma New, a "powerful and unique presence," guest conducts this programme of masterworks, beginning with Mozart's iconic *Eine kleine Nachtmusik* and showcasing up-and-coming Canadian pianist Jaeden Izik-Dzurko in one of the most popular concertos in the repertoire.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 6:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com



## October 28, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Civic Symphony

### Romantic Russians

Come hear Calgary's own internationally recognized star pianist and periodontist, Thomas Yu, playing Rachmaninoff's mos celebrated piano concerto. Tchaikovsky's mighty *Fifth Symphony* rounds out this romantic Russian program.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 2:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## October 29, 2018

MUSIC

AEG Presents Canada LTD

### The Milk Carton Kids

Waltzing into disaster and its aftermath, The Milk Carton Kids' "All the Things That I Did and All the Things That I Didn't Do" arrives from ANTI- Records.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
INFO artscommons.ca

## October 30, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Folk Music Festival

### Reuben and The Dark

Calgary's Reuben and the Dark is a collection of five multi-instrumentalists and vocalist led by Reuben Bullock. The group makes chilling, emotive folk and soul driven by dark, introspective lyrics that explore the duality of misery and joy.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 8pm
INFO artscommons.ca

## November 2 & 3, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### JoAnn Falletta Conducts Spanish Guitar

Guitarist Petrit Çeku teams with pioneering American conductor, JoAnn Falletta, acclaimed as "one of the finest of her generation" by The New York Times, in a dazzling tribute to Spanish music. Rodrigo's smouldering Aranjuez guitar concerto, triumphant masterworks by Ginastera and Rimsky-Korsakov, and Debussy's thrilling homage *Iberia* boldly proclaim: ¡Viva España!

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

## November 4 & 5, 2018

SPEAKER

Arts Commons Presents

### National Geograpic Live: Social by Nature with Wildlife Photographer Ronan Donovan

Charismatic, beautiful, and often strikingly like ourselves, social mammals build relationships, communicate, reproduce, establish territories, and adapt to shrinking resources.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN Sunday 2pm & Monday 7pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## November 5, 2018 – January 7, 2019

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Arts Commons Presents

### It's Also a Souvenir

Artist Brittany Nickerson transforms the Lightbox Studio into an immersive still life, to examine the idea of a souvenir as a material trace for authentic experience through a feminist lens.

WHERE Lightbox Studio
WHEN Studio times vary
INFO artscommons.ca FREE

©Neal Herbert

## November 9 & 10, 2018

MUSIC

Arts Commons Presents

### PCL Blues: Cécile Doo-Kingué

Montreal-based singer, songwriter, guitarist, and multi-Maple Blues Award nominee Cécile Doo-Kingué performs a brand of blues that is irrefutably electrifying.

WHERE Engineered Air Theatre
WHEN 8pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## November 9 & 10, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Verdi Requiem

Giuseppe Verdi is one of the most beloved vocal composers in history. His Requiem is a work of colossal symphonic and vocal forces, and remains an exaltation of humanity and one of its greatest musical-spiritual encounters.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 8pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

## November 12, 2018

DANCE

Live Nation

### World of Dance

NBC's smash series, "World of Dance" will be going on a live tour. Showcasing the best dancers from all genres, audience members are truly in for a treat.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 8pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

# november

## November 14 – 25, 2018

THEATRE

Chromatic Theatre and Arts Commons Presents

### Winners and Losers

A game in which two artists and friends debate whether people, places, and things are winners or losers. An all-female cast offers re-interpreted exploration of sisterhood that circles around friendship, female patterns of behaviour, and systemic racism.

WHERE Engineered Air Theatre
WHEN Show times vary
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## November 15, 2018

MUSIC

Arts Commons Presents

### TD Jazz: Lean On Me: José James Celebrates Bill Withers

Suave and eclectic, José James fills house with his take on the hits of Bill Withers. His jazz has a unique flavour, bringing a hip-ho and R&B vibe to the genre while wowing audiences both internationally and in his home country of the United States.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## November 16, 2018

BALLET

Moscow Ballet

### Great Russian Nutcracker

Celebrate this Christmas with the one and only Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker! Featuring brand new over-the-top production and world-class Russian artists.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

©Gus Powell

## November 17, 2018

MUSIC

Arts Commons Presents

### OK Go - The Live Video Tour

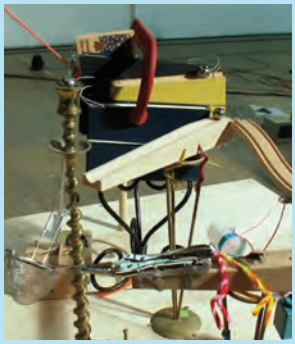
OK Go, the rock band famous for their wildly creative videos, brings their unique magic to the stage in 2018. As you might expect from the pioneering band who danced on treadmills and in zero gravity, this show is unlike any you've seen before: it's a fil screening and a rock concert rolled into one.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

### FIVE THINGS I BET YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT OK GO!

1. In the video for *This Too Shall Pass,* it took about 60 people to build the Rube Goldberg-type device, which was timed to the song, and more than 60 takes to get one that worked well enough to use. A major issue was getting the car tire to go down the ramp correctly, about 30 seconds in.
2. The band's name comes from Tim Nordwind and Damian Kulash's arts camp teacher, who would lay out the day's instructions and say, "OK – go!"
3. The video *Last Leaf* used 2,430 pieces of toast – all of which were bought past their expiration date.
4. OK Go became a certified viral hit after dropping the treadmill danc video, *Here It Goes Again*, in 2006. It was directed by Kulash's sister, Trish Sie, who continues to co-direct many of their videos.
5. The video for *Obsession* featured the band performing in front of 567 printers, each programmed to print in time to the music.

**Below, left to right:** Still from the music video for *Obsession* | Detail of the band's Rube Goldberg machine from the music video for *This Too Shall Pass*.



## November 18, 2018

MUSIC

Jeff Parry Promotion

### Sharon & Bram

September 2018 will mark the 40th anniversary of *One Elephant, Deux Elephant*, the ground-breaking and career producing first album of Sharon, Lois and Bram. Afte 40 years, this is their farewell tour.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 2:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## November 19, 2018

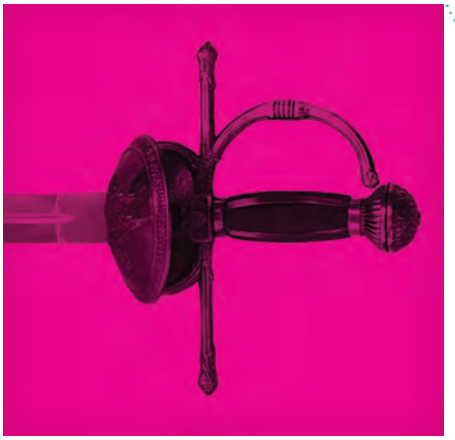
MUSIC

Geek SOS Productions

### Rocky Mountain High – An Evening of John Denver

Featuring John Denver's original conductor/arranger, Lee Holdridge, together with Canadian recording artists Rick and Steve Worrall, and an all-star Canadian band, this amazing production will take you back and have you reliving the songs as they were originally heard at the height of Denver's career.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca



## November 24, 2018

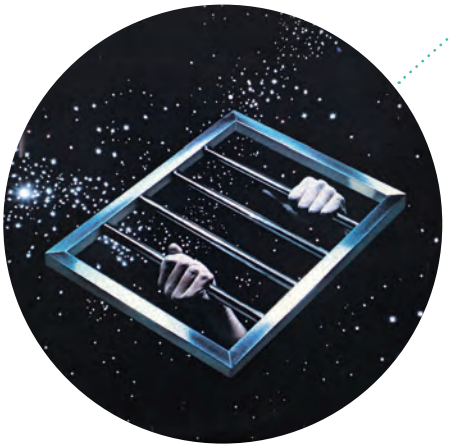
MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### The Hits of The Who with Jeans 'n Classics

The Who managed to be punk, mod, and pop – but most of all an iconic rock band. For one night only, Jeans 'n Classics joins forces with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra to bring you hits like *Baba O'Reilly*, *My Generation*, and selections from the rock opera *Tommy*. Don't miss out as classic rock meets orchestra in celebration of one of the most influentia rock bands of the 20th century.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com



## November 26, 2018

MUSIC

Jeff Parry Promotion

### Barra MacNeils

The Barra MacNeils, one of Canada's favourite bands, will bring a taste of Christmas on the East Coast to the heart of Alberta just in time for the holidays.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

## November 27 – December 30, 2018

THEATRE

Alberta Theatre Projects

### Zorro: Family Code

In 19th century Spanish California, the heroic (but aging) masked outlaw known as el Zorro gets some unexpected help defending the small village of Los Angeles against his arch nemesis, Sergeant Pablo Gonzales.

WHERE Martha Cohen Theatre
WHEN Show times vary
TICKETS atplive.com

## November 28, 2018

MUSIC

Arts Commons Presents

### Classic Albums Live: Supertramp – Crime of the Century

Classic Albums Live has become the ultimate destination for music lovers wanting to hear the greatest albums performed live without all the gimmickry and cheesy impersonations – this time taking on Supertramp's seminal album, Crime of the Century.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

nov/dec

## November 29 – December 23, 2018

MUSIC

Theatre Calgary

### A Christmas Carol

Celebrating 32 years of spirited tradition! Join the Spirits of Christmas Past, Present, and Future as they take Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey through time from darkness to light.

WHERE Max Bell Theatre
WHEN Show times vary
TICKETS theatrecalgary.com

## November 30 – December 1, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### A Nat King Cole Christmas

Ring in the holidays with the CPO and honey-toned jazz sensation/Canadian crooner Denzal Sinclaire. A veteran collaborator of jazz legends like Wynton Marsalis, Dee Dee Bridgewater, and the Count Basie Orchestra, this National Jazz Award recipient and multiple JUNO Award nominee brings to life Nat King Cole's timeless songbook in a symphonic Christmas special that will be unforgettable.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

## December 2, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### 'Tis The Season: Kids' Holiday Special

From Abigail Richardson, the UNESCO Award-winning composer that brought Canada's beloved story *The Hockey Sweater* to musical life, comes the highly anticipated world premiere *Making Light*, just in time for the holidays. Howard Blake's classic wintry animation *The Snowman*, whose enchanting song *Walking in the Air* has captivated generations of children, is narrated by *Heebee-jeebees* star Jonathan Love.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 3pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

## December 6, 2018

MARKET

Arts Commons Presents

### *Happenings:* Citizens Market

This one-day, family-friendly event includes performances, activities, and a pop-up market that will showcase the work of grassroots artists, craft makers, and artisans – all just in time for the holiday season too!

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall Lobby
WHEN 4–9pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca FREE

## December 7, 2018 – February 28, 2019

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Arts Commons Presents

### Sloping Suburbia, In Still Time, and Magic Mountain

Three visually powerful short films fro Jenna Anne Turner, Leslie Supnet, and Devon Beggs come to the Broadcast Lab monitors in Arts Commons, telling stories through multimedia sources, 16mm film and 3D modelling software.

WHERE Broadcast Lab
WHEN Always open
INFO artscommons.ca FREE

## December 7, 2018 – February 28, 2019

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Arts Commons Presents

### Come Find Me

An experimental studio residency project by Ryan Daniel Owen documenting an encounter with queer history, with a proposition to stop and look closer, using text work, photography, and a series of public actions.

WHERE Ledge Gallery
WHEN Always open
INFO artscommons.ca FREE

## December 7, 2018 – March 1, 2019

VISUAL AND MEDIA ARTS

Arts Commons Presents

### The only thing I can accept is this, Oracles of Nature, With Her, I Am, and Nashpati

Arts Commons showcases unique exhibits in the Window Galleries from artists Chelsea Yang-Smith, Francis A. Willey, Samantha Charette, and Sana Makhdoom, along the theme of exploration of the various forms of relationships.

WHERE Window Galleries
WHEN Always open
INFO artscommons.ca

FREE

## December 7 & 8, 2018

VARIETY SHOW

Kelly Brothers Productions

### Dave Kelly Live with TYC – Christmas Show

A night of stories, songs, and laughs with Dave Kelly and some special guests to warm up your holidays.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
INFO davekellylive.com

## December 9, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Civic Symphony

### Holiday Stories

Bring your family to this holiday concert featuring Christmas stories told and sung.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 2:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

©Francis A. Willey

## December 11, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Home For The Holidays With Johnny Reid

Over an illustrious career, multi award-winning singer-songwriter Johnny Reid has captured the hearts of fans and audiences around the world. The critically acclaimed singer is widely known for his lyrical honesty and musical ability, which will be on display in this intimate holiday concert with the CPO.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

## December 13, 2018

MUSIC

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

### Rune's Classical Christmas

A new Calgary holiday favourite is born! *Rune's Classical Christmas* combines the finest in winter-inspired orchestra writing with traditional carols. Featuring Swedish composer Lars-Erik Larsson's picturesque and whimsical *Winter's Tale*, and Tchaikovsky's *First Symphony (Winter Daydreams)*, the earliest signs of the genius who would give us *The Nutcracker*, winter never sounded so radiant.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS calgaryphil.com

## December 15, 2018

MUSIC

New West Symphony & Chorus

### New West Symphony & Chorus

New West Symphony & Chorus was founded in 2010 by Jonathan & Kristin Schorr. The now 70 member choir and orchestra began with only 30 members, and has quickly gained recognition throughout Calgary.

WHERE Jack Singer Concert Hall
WHEN 7:30pm
TICKETS artscommons.ca

december

Arts Commons Presents

# 2018-19 SEASON

David Sanborn
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018

Lean on Me: José James Celebrates Bill Withers
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2018

Bobby McFerrin & Gimme5: Circlesongs
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Monterey Jazz Festival on Tour
featuring Cécile McLorin Salvant, Bria Skonberg, Melissa Aldana, Christian Sands, Yasushi Nakamura & Jamison Ross
THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

Buy early for the best seats at the best price!

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall

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*National Geographic Live*

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Sponsor, VIP Receptions, BD&P World Music

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## GOVERNMENT

**Government of Canada** through the Departments of Canadian Heritage, and Service Canada

**Government of Alberta** through the Department of Culture and Tourism, and Alberta Foundation for the Arts

**The City of Calgary** through the Department of Community Services and Protective Services

Arts Commons would also like to express our gratitude to The City of Calgary for a grant through the Capital Civic Partner Grant Program, the Government of Alberta for a grant through the Community Facility Enhancement Program, and the Government of Canada for two grants through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund and Infrastructure Canada that enables us to undertake critical lifecycle initiatives that enhance the effectiveness, efficie y, and sustainability of the 560,665 square foot Arts Commons facility.

## *Founders Circle*

Founders Circle is the premier donor engagement program at Arts Commons

### HONOURARY MEMBERS

Dr. Martha Cohen, CM, LLD (in memoriam)
Sandra LeBlanc
Vera Swanson, OC (in memoriam)

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Henry Sykes, QC & Molly Naber-Sykes
Maureen Williams

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Ken Havard
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John McWilliams, QC & Susan McWilliams
Brian Mills & Susan Tyrrell
Randy & Luba Pettipas
C.A. Siebens
Roderick Villanueva & Jennifer Kingsbury
Tharrie & Johann Zietsman

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Holly Schile & David Nielsen
Alane Smith
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Please note that only gifts of $10,000 or more are listed above. For a complete list of corporate, foundation and government supporters of Arts Commons, please visit our website at artscommons.ca.

To inquire about becoming a supporter of Arts Commons, please contact Ms. Shone Thistle at 403-294-7455, ext.1468 or sthistle@artscommons.ca.

## *Explorers Circle*

Members of Explorers Circle help Arts Commons bring the *National Geographic Live* speakers' messages of exploration, discovery, and conservation to Calgary, and help National Geographic to inspire people to care about the planet

**ENGAGEMENT SPONSORS**

Doug Flaig & Helen Timmons,
*Social By Nature*
with wildlife photographer Ronan Donovan

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*The Search For Life Beyond Earth*
with astrobiologist Kevin Hand

Michel Bourque & Bryan Clarke,
*Wild Seas, Secret Shores*
with photographer Thomas Peschak

Ken Havard & Rosalind Reid,
*Adventures Among Orangutans*
with anthropologist Cheryl Knott
& photographer Tim Laman

**TRAILBLAZERS**

Antony, Kathleen & Alexander Deakin

**EXPLORERS**

Anonymous (1)
Maureen Armitage & Shane Matthews
Sandra & Simon Barker
Cabra Consulting Ltd.
Holly Clark & Jon Handforth
David & Roxanne Dunlop
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Greg Epton & Greg Robertson
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# *More than your day job*

WRITTEN BY SHONE THISTLE

If someone had asked me, "what do you get when you combine a sociology student, motorcyclist, and art lover?" I would never have guessed that I'd get the President and CEO of a mining and mineral company. Shame on me, because like most multifaceted humans, Rodney McCann is so much more than his day job.

Sitting comfortably relaxed in the window of his simply stated boardroom, McCann tells me he's not entirely comfortable with the title of businessman, which leads me to wonder what titles he is comfortable with – to dig into his values and learn why he and his family have been such long supporters of the arts.

When it comes to supporting the arts, McCann states plainly, "It's just good business. Vibrant communities cultivate and retain world class talent. Dynamic, vibrant cities have thriving arts communities, and what's happening in this city is something we should all be proud of."

For McCann in particular, it's the impact on young people that's been drawing his support of Arts Commons for nearly seven years. "At a time when young people are being defined y so many external forces, exposure to the arts opens their minds. It helps them build confiden e and learn to take risks."

When I ask about the other organizations he supports, such as the Rosedale Hospice, and St Mary's Feed the Hungry, he immediately begins talking about his mother, Myrna. It's clear that McCann admires and looks to both of his parents for inspiration, identifying they had different strengths. He notes his father as the source of his business acumen and his mother as the source of much of his leadership style. When he talks

Rodney McCann, President and CEO of Saskatchewan Mining and Minerals.

about Myrna, he uses words like alert, aware, dynamic, and caring. She was a compassionate and magnetic person. When I ask about other mentors he talks about his business partner, John Kearney, another mining executive and lawyer he found a connection with and calls a friend. He also says he draws inspiration from artists and poets, specifically notin Canadian poet Shane Koyczan.

"When you draw on some of life's more painful experiences from deep within yourself, the way he does, it becomes so powerful and relatable."

It's at this point that McCann also alludes to his faith, noting he credits his ability to try new things to a "strong spiritual understanding" and a sense of connectedness.

I left my meeting with McCann still wondering which titles he might be more comfortable with, and since I don't know the answer to that, I've assigned a few of my own. He's grounded, authentic, open and humble, leads with his heart and his mind, and he's a true patron and supporter of the arts. Oh, and he owns part of a tequila distillery that he visits on his motorcycle, so he's also cool! Our heartfelt thanks go to Rodney McCann and everyone at Saskatchewan Mining and Minerals for their generous leadership and support of Arts Commons.

# THIS IS HAPPENINGS

WRITTEN BY AARON CHATHA

What's happening? Let me tell you what's happening: a brand new *Happenings* format!

For the past few years, Arts Commons has celebrated the artists displaying work in the building by holding free art parties in the building.

This year, we're still going to celebrate those artists with quarterly artist receptions, so the public can meet the people who are featured in our Window Galleries, Lightbox Studio, Ledge Gallery, Broadcast Lab, and +15 Soundscape, the next of which is on Friday, November 30.

But we're turning *Happenings* on its head by transforming it into two large-scale events this season.

"*Happenings* at Arts Commons is all about celebrating Calgary's diverse culture and communities in an authentic way," explained Visual and Media Arts Specialist Natasha Jensen. "We are opening our doors to our community to create experiences that matter to you; that surprise you and bring value to all of our lives. Welcome to our home!"

The fi st new *Happenings* event will be a one day pop-up market, showcasing grassroots artists, welcoming newcomers to Calgary, and inviting anyone curious enough to join us for music and a bevy of fun activities. Just in time for Christimas, this market pops up on December 6, 2018.

*"...we're turning Happenings on its head by transforming it into two large-scale events this season."*

Then, on May 17, 2019, we take cues from the surrealist and Dadaist events of the 1940s to create a late-night adult art party. Prepare to satiate your appetite for the unusual with performances, music, and activations to bring two distinct environments to life. Feel free to come in costume – there's a great community to be found here.

"I look at *Happenings* as one of the most forward facing opportunities we have to put the 'Commons' in Arts Commons," said Joshua Dalledonne, Producing and Engagement Associate. "*Happenings* creates a shared experience and a temporary community; it provides a chance for folks to be reminded that we're more similar than different, and I think that alone is more important now than it has been in a very long time."

Check out **artscommons.ca** for more information. Ⓐ

## OUR LOCATION

Our address is 205 8th Ave SE. Our main entrance is located off Stephen Avenue, one block east of the Calgary Tower and across from Olympic Plaza.

## GETTING HERE BY LRT

Calgary's LRT (light rail train) will take you to City Hall station, one block north of Arts Commons.

## GETTING HERE BY CAR

Arts Commons offers underground parking. Enter off Macleod Trail between 9th and 8th Avenues.

**$5** | EVENINGS & WEEKENDS

Other parking options include:

- P2 Civic Plaza Parkade
- P3 TELUS Convention Centre
- P4 Palliser Square (access Arts Commons via the +15 network)
- P5 Surface parking lots in the 200, 300 and 400 blocks on the south side of 9th Avenue SE

## LANDMARKS

- A Calgary Tower
- B Olympic Plaza
- C TELUS Convention Centre
- D Hyatt Regency Calgary
- E Glenbow Museum
- F Marriott Hotel
- G City Hall

Arts Commons

Located in the heart of Calgary's vibrant downtown core, **Arts Commons** is home to the city's premier performance venues. Offering public art spaces and six distinct performance venues, including the Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons is home to a variety of artists and an array of resident companies that include the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and annual events such as the Calgary International Children's Festival.

**SEE A SHOW**

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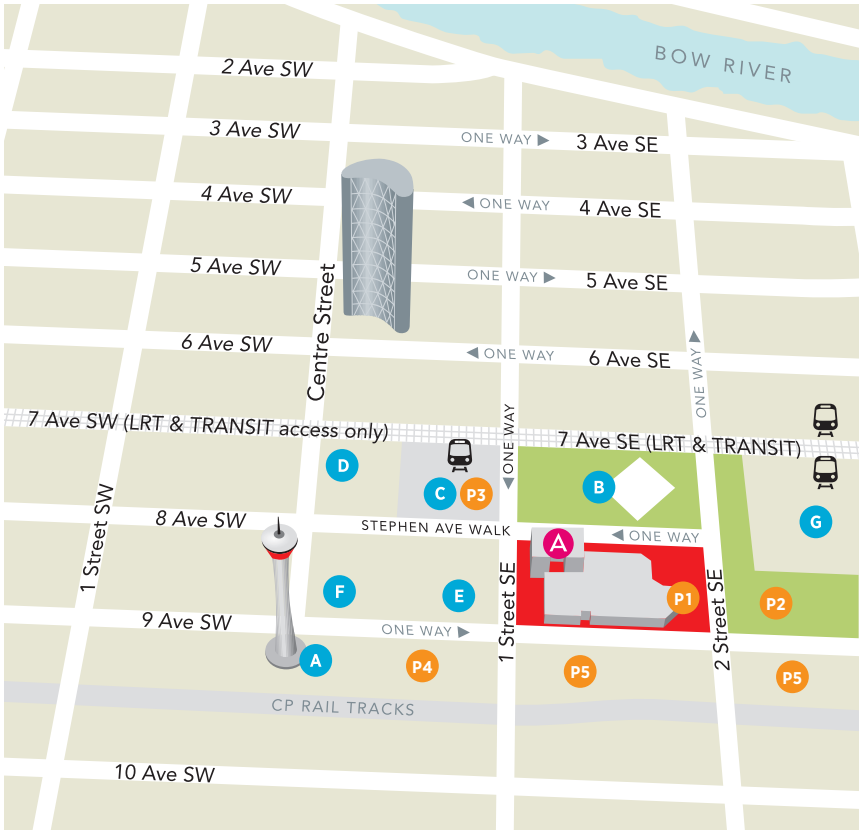
CENTRE COURT, 225 8TH AVE SE

**OPEN** 10 AM *to* 6 PM | **CLOSED** *Sundays* | **403-294-9494** **artscommons.ca**

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# ALL SEVEN HARRY POTTER BOOKS IN SEVENTY HILARIOUS MINUTES!

## FEATURING A LIVE GAME OF QUIDDITCH!

"★★★★
IT'S THE SINGLE FUNNIEST THING I HAVE SEEN IN AGES. YOU'RE GONNA LOVE THIS SHOW!"
*Toronto Star*

"GLORIOUSLY GOOFY.
CASTS THE PERFECT SPELL OVER THE AUDIENCE!"
*The New York Times*

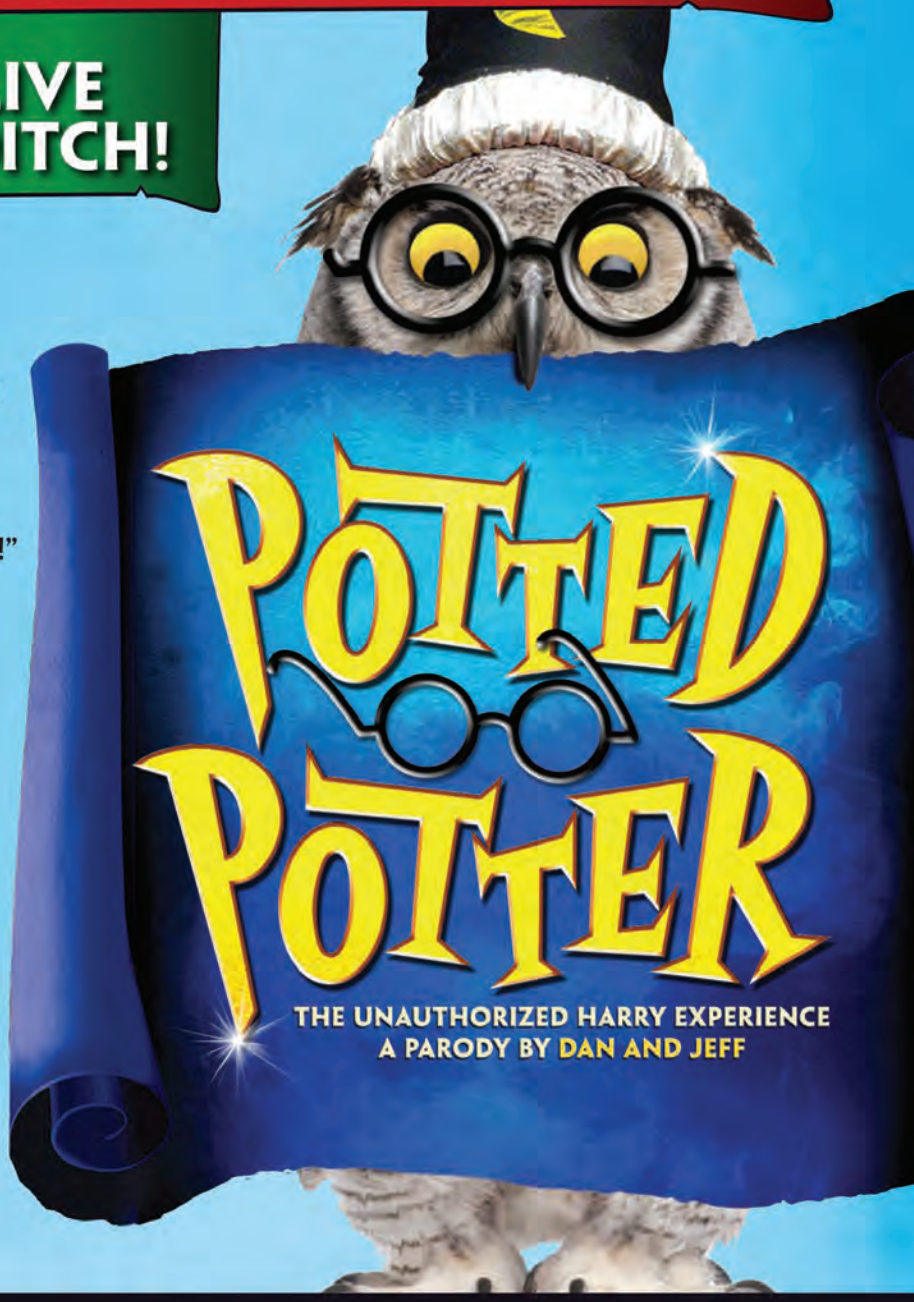
The New York Times — CRITIC'S PICK

The Boston Globe — CRITIC'S PICK

New York Magazine — CRITIC'S PICK

Chicago Daily Herald — CRITIC'S PICK

## BACK BY MAGICAL DEMAND!




ARTS COMMONS,
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# 2016 2017

Arts Commons

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Arts Commons

## 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.*

# This is **YOUR** Arts Commons

**Our Vision:**
A creative and compassionate society, inspired through the arts.

**Our Mission:**
To bring the arts ...to life.

*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*



Arts Commons

## 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*

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

*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

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

**408,984**
total attendance to a ticketed event at Arts Commons

ALBERTA THEATRE PROJECTS

Arts Commons Presents

THE CALGARY INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra

DOWNSTAGE THEATRE THAT CREATES CONVERSATION

ONE YELLOW RABBIT PERFORMANCE THEATRE

theatre: CALGARY

## 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.*

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

**8,798,380**
litres of water were saved with Arts Commons' new water efficient plumbing fixtures

## 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*

*Arts Commons volunteer Ana distributes magazines and brochures. © Kaija Dirkson*

**1,724**
volunteers engaged

**23,599**
volunteer hours contributed

**1,379**
*events booked by Arts Commons Event Services*

**175**
organizations made use of Arts Commons' facilities

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
Mpact 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

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

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

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

# 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 Navalta.*

*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*

**632**
*artists hired for Arts Commons Presents programming*

**11,270**
*Complimentary tickets provided through the generosity of Arts Commons supporters*

*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.

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

*"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

*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 Dirkson*

*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."*

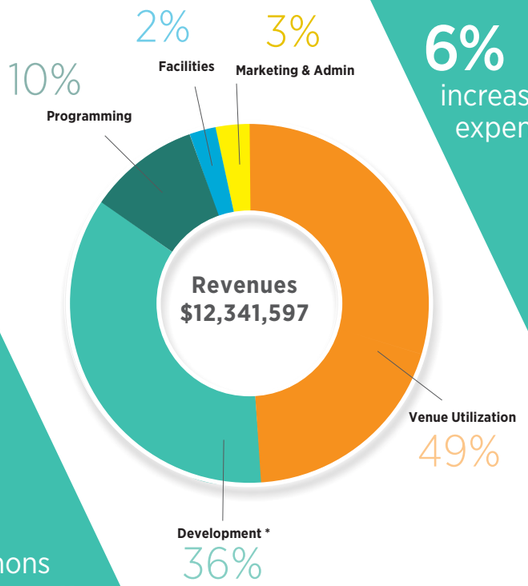
~ Arts Commons staff



**1%** increase in contributed revenues (YOY)

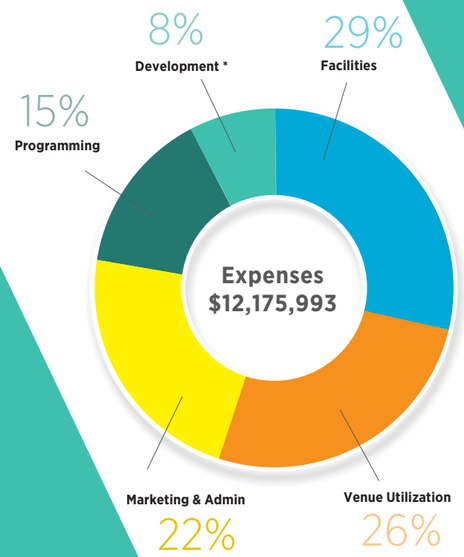
**7%** increase in earned revenues (YOY)

**85** Arts Commons equivalent staff




**6%** increase in expenses (YOY)

**1.3%** operational surplus (CURRENT FY)




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

### 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.

# 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.

*National Geographic Live*

*"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

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## 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
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Imperial Oil
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- Sponsor, Founders Circle

## Government

Operating/Program Support
- Government of Canada through the Departments of Canadian Heritage, and Service Canada
- Government of Alberta through the Department of Alberta Labour, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts
- The City of Calgary through the Department of Community Services

Capital Support
- Government of Canada through Employment and Social Development
- Government of Alberta through the Department of Alberta Culture and Tourism
- The City of Calgary through the Department of Community Services

## Arts Commons FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Members of Founders Circle support Arts Commons education programs, which make the arts more accessible to young minds through a variety of impactful initiatives, such as the Hub for Inspired Learning. They also help us bring renowned artists to perform in the BD&P World Music and TD Jazz, to name only two of the music series programmed through Arts Commons Presents.

*Founders Circle members enjoy dinner at Teatro. © Will Young*

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## Arts Commons EXPLORERS CIRCLE

All members of Explorers Circle help National Geographic to inspire people to care about the planet and they aid Arts Commons in bringing the distinguished *National Geographic Live* speaker series to Calgary for the enjoyment of students and public audiences.

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Ken Havard - *The Mystery of Our Human Story* by Explorer-in-Residence and Paleoanthropologist Dr. Lee Berger

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*Charitable Registration Number 11882 3269 RR0001 (Registered as Calgary Centre for Performing Arts)*

*Cover: TD Jazz, Trombone Shorty, performing on the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage. © Will Young*
*Back cover: TD Jazz, Dee Dee Bridgewater with Theo Crocker. © Will Young*

# Arts Commons Transformation (ACT)

*Transforming the **Cultural Heart** of Calgary*

Calgary, Alberta, Canada, is a vibrant urban community that is ranked as the 5th most livable city in the world. It is an undisputed global energy centre that embraces social inclusion and shared prosperity.

At the heart of every great city lies access to the Arts and Cultural industries that are key contributors to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of its citizens and visitors. **In Calgary, the premier destination for arts and cultural experiences is Arts Commons**.

> *"The quality of a community's **cultural infrastructure** has a direct impact on quality of life and therefore on the **competitiveness** of communities in **attracting people and investment.***
>
> *Canadian Council of Chief Executives*

**Building Resilience, Accessibility and Capacity**

*"The City of Calgary understands the **importance** of a strong arts and cultural sector – not only for its value in the expression of our **cultural creativity**, but also as a positive **economic contributor.***

**MAYOR NAHEED NENSHI**

**Arts Commons Transformation Phase 1:**

## Construction of Arts Commons North 2019 - 2023

| | |
|---|---|
| **Municipal Investment** | |
| Municipal Sustainability Investment | **$25 M** |
| Calgary Municipal Land Corporation | **$47 M** |
| **Provincial Investment** | |
| Alberta Infrastructure | **$68 M** |
| **Federal Investment** | |
| Investing in Canada Plan | **$68 M** |
| **Total** | **$208 M** |

***92%** believe that arts experiences are a valuable way of bringing together people from different languages and cultural traditions.*

To better serve the long-term needs identified by our community, Arts Commons, in partnership with **The City of Calgary** and with the support of the **Calgary Municipal Land Corporation**, are actively advancing **Arts Commons Transformation (ACT) Community Infrastructure Strategy**.

**Phase1**

- convert an adjacent brownfield into 440,000 square feet of cultural space housing three purpose-built mixed-use venues (1,200 seat proscenium theatre, 250 seat black box theatre and an 80 seat black box theatre) that will enhance Arts Commons sustainability;
- residential tower;
- enable Arts Commons to increase its diversity, equity and inclusion efforts through immersive arts experience initiatives; and,

**Phase 2**

- renew and transform Arts Commons aging 33 year-old facility from a dated "performing arts" model into a hub for arts and community alike.

*"The ACT project will **enhance the current facility** and performance space, as well as amplify the vitality of the **downtown core**. We support this project and believe it will be a **welcome investment** in our urban infrastructure.*

**MARY MORAN,**
**PRESIDENT & CEO,**
**CALGARY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

ACT has successfully met priority criteria and fits within the three pillars of the **Government of Alberta's Capital Plan**, which includes provision of key social programs and services that Albertans rely on.

Once complete, a transformed Arts Commons campus will accommodate the diverse needs of a world-class city, aligning with Calgary's and Alberta's long-term strategic objective to build a culturally vibrant and healthy community.

Arts Commons

**Aspirational Stats:**

- 2,451 full-time person years of employment (during construction)
- 1 million square foot complex
- 7 purpose-built mixed-use venues
- urban densification of the core
- year-round park/gathering space
- outdoor stage
- outdoor screen
- retail kiosks
- 989 full-time equivalent jobs annually
- $95.77M economic impact annually

*86% believe that live performance spaces in their community contribute to the quality of life.*

Arts Commons and ACT is central to the vision for Calgary and Alberta and is represented in the following strategic documents:

- Calgary City Centre Planning
- Calgary's Cultural Plan
- Calgary Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Calgary Economic Summit
- Living a Creative Life
- Tourism Calgary, Destination Calgary

*ACT will catalyze a true* **creative hub** *where artistic risks can be taken, barriers to entry lowered, where experience is* **enriching** *not rarified – a singular civic institution that is warm,* **welcoming and generous to all**.


*For more information please contact*

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Arts Commons

**artscommons.ca**