



2013-14

Report to the Community



EPCOR CENTRE
for the Performing Arts

Vision To engage
and inspire community
through the power of art.

Mission To ignite imagination,
co-create meaningful experiences
of excellence with our internal and
external communities, support
artists and celebrate the artistic
expression of everybody.

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Charlie Musselwhite and Ruthie Foster, BD&P World Music Series. Photo by Richard Lam.

COVER (top) Jon Batiste & Stay Human performing
on Stephen Avenue, EPCOR CENTRE's Jazz Series.
Photo by Richard Lam. (bottom) Fatoumata Diawara,
BD&P World Music Series. Photo by Meghan McMaster.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at the EPCOR CENTRE, we extend our sincere appreciation to all our stakeholders and supporters: our resident companies, community partners, artists, donors, sponsors, volunteers, all three levels of Government, media, and political leaders. But mostly: thank you to you – our visitors and patrons, young and old, for your inspired engagement with us and for creating meaningful memories with us.

Our facility offers world-class spaces, technology, and expertise, but without the ever expanding ways in which you express your creativity and your culture, this facility would be just a building. Your passion, energy, and imagination bring life and diverse experiences to our gathering space. During our 2013 - 14 fiscal year, we shared in the excitement of *Beakerhead*, enjoyed tango with *Union Tanguera*, supported One Yellow Rabbit on the *Making Treaty 7* project, heard sublime music performed by your Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, and enjoyed Broadway with Theatre Calgary's *Mary Poppins*. We also stayed up through the night with *Nuit Blanche Calgary*, and served breakfast to over 300 guests during the Stampede Parade!

These moments of human connectivity inspire us to continue to open our hearts, minds, and doors to you – and to so much more. More than 75,000 children and students attended performances and presentations in our facility this year. We are mindful of the positive impact that art has on young minds, and together with our resident companies, we will continue to prioritize our connection with the younger generation. Whether they attend a *National Geographic Live* presentation, or go *Around the World in 80 Days* with Alberta Theatre Projects, we hope to continue to stimulate senses and open minds.

Being a City-owned facility, we are very conscious of our accountability to apply resources responsibly, fairly, and in a transparent manner. We offer many opportunities for easy access to our programs through the TD Access Pass, and our sponsors generously support these efforts. A total of 1,726 Albertans used this program last year, which is dedicated to providing free access for new immigrants, lower income families, and others who would not normally be able to attend arts and culture programs.

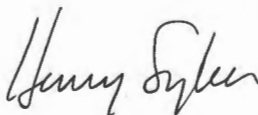
We are also a business, and the bottom line matters. As a result of deliberate and sustained strategies over the past few years to control expenses and increase revenues, 2013-14 ended with a very good result. This surplus against budget reflects our efforts to maximize the usage of our facilities, and to work with our resident companies to create usable "dark days" for third party users, which increases both access to communities and sustainability. We also entered into an unprecedented consulting agreement with the Calgary International Children's Festival, which enables them to continue to provide great programming for children while benefitting from operational synergies. The 2014 Festival results were very positive, and we will build on this to strengthen our year-round programming for young audiences and families.

As we enter into a year where the "EPCOR" name will be replaced by a new name and brand, we are inspired by the organic growth that brought us to this point, and grateful for your role in shaping this exciting new future.

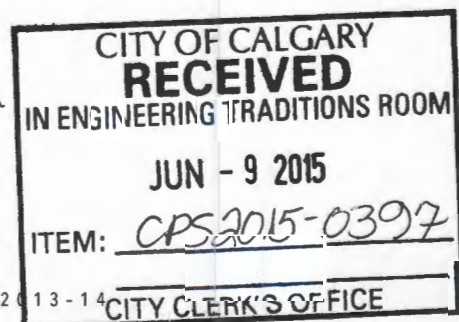
Sincerely



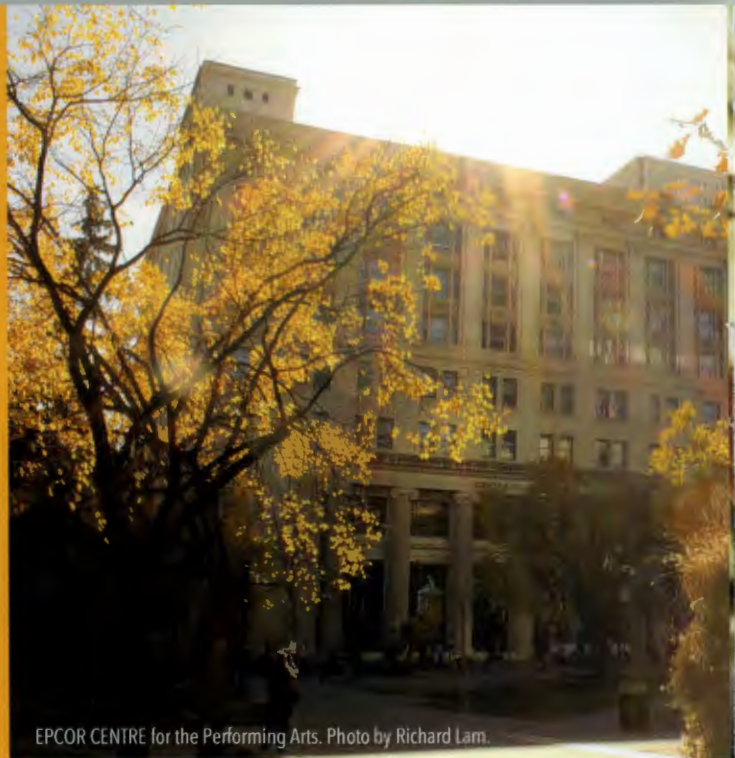
Johann F. Zietsman
President & CEO



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



The Calgary Centre for Performing Arts, currently known as EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts was created for Calgarians by Calgarians. In a collective vision of having a space to nurture the performing arts and a creative gathering place for the people of our city, all three levels of government, as well as a group of motivated citizens, brought The Calgary Centre for Performing Arts into being. Now, 28 years later, the Centre is proud to progress those ideals through our commitment to our **five strategic objectives**, and by providing an exceptional and expanded offering to all Calgarians and visitors to our city.



EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts. Photo by Richard Lam.



EPCOR CENTRE's
One Day Arts School.

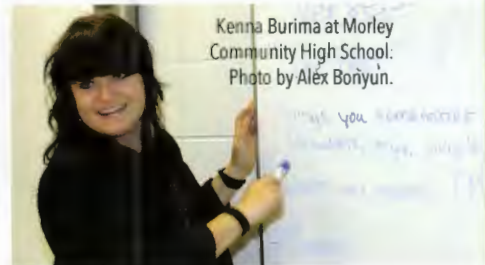


"...Thank you so much for hosting the students. It was an amazing experience for everyone and there were great conversations later about it. I know there were a LOT of the students who had NEVER ever experienced something like Ruthie Foster. A couple of the students even approached Charlie Musselwhite's drummer as we were leaving and got some tips apparently. So cool."

~ Kenna Burima after Stoney Education students attended the Charlie Musselwhite & Ruthie Foster BD&P World Music Series concert.



Morley Community High School students being mentored in lyric and songwriting by Kenna Burima and Shane Ghostkeeper. Photo by Alex Bonyun.



Kenna Burima at Morley Community High School. Photo by Alex Bonyun.

To be Creative and Engaging

EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts is home to Alberta Theatre Projects, Calgary International Children's Festival, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Downstage Theatre, One Yellow Rabbit, and Theatre Calgary. The artistic strength and diversity of offerings at EPCOR CENTRE stretches from popular music series such as the PCL Blues Series, to One Yellow Rabbit's ground-breaking grassroots theatre, and Broadway calibre productions with Theatre Calgary.

Through an innovative program launched in 2012, EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts also facilitated the appearance of two

musicians at Morley Community High School: Shane Ghostkeeper and Kenna Burima.

Shane and Kenna helped students express themselves through poetry and music. This legacy project of the TransCanada Alberta Music Series, and part of EPCOR CENTRE's Arts Learning initiatives, has reversed high levels of student absenteeism. In turn, EPCOR CENTRE has been invited each year by the Stoney Education Authority to expand the program. Today, we have nearly doubled the amount of time spent building relationships with students—a key factor in the program's success.



The cast of Theatre Calgary's production of Mary Poppins. Photo by David Cooper

"I can't begin to say thanks so much for the great hospitality and professionalism that you and the entire group of people at the Jack Singer. You are truly world class and it shows every time."

~ Paul Toth, Producer of the BLG Awards



New chiller enhancements being installed.
Photo by James Macintosh



EPCOR CENTRE's Jack Singer Concert Hall, special event.
Photo by Skogen Photography

A Leading Facility

EPCOR CENTRE'S passionate and dedicated staff take great pride in operating and maintaining the 560,000 sq-ft facility to the highest standards. The venue and event staff, the facility management crew, and the administrative team alike, are driven to give audiences and artists the best experience possible. During the 2013-14 season, all of EPCOR CENTRE'S facilities, theatres, and supportive infrastructure were upgraded through a \$2.15 million capital project spend, with contributions by all three levels of government. The enhancements upgraded the Centre's older systems, directly impacting the creative ambiance and functionality of

our facilities including the installation of digital audio systems in all of our theatres and the Jack Singer Concert Hall, enhancing both the flexibility of our facilities, and the capability of the sound systems overall.

In addition to this, EPCOR CENTRE worked with 162 organizations and touring artists to present their productions, concerts, corporate functions, and special events in the many theatres and facilities available in our building. This means a total of 959 events took place in EPCOR CENTRE during our 2013-14 season.

Our family includes resident companies, not-for-profit organizations, community groups and artists from across the spectrum that make use of our venues and facilities.

A Funny Thing Productions (JSCH)
 Absolute Dance Inc. (ALC)
 acQuire Technology Solutions Pty Ltd (FR)
 Adult Recreational Choir Society of Calgary (ALC, MCT)
 Alberta Emerald Foundation (MCT)
 Alberta Innovates - Technology Futures Heavy Oil & Oil Sands (EAT, JSCHL)
 Alberta Theatre Projects (JSCHL, JJYR, ALC, MCT)
 Artists' Collective Theatre (M)
 Athabasca University - Centre for Innovative Management (FR)
 Avenue Magazine (JSCHL, FR)
 Axé Society for Capoeira (EAT)
 Backside Tours (JSCH)
 Beakerhead (JJYR, JSRH)
 Bicycles for Humanity (EAT)
 Big Rock Eddies (JSCH)
 Borden Ladner Gervais Law Firm (JSCH)
 Bow Valley Chorus (JSRH)
 Bow Valley College (JSCH)
 Brenda Mehler (EAT)
 Brent Farnham & Joannie Pierre (JSCHL)
 BrightStar Live Events (JSCH)
 Calgary Civic Symphony (JSCH)
 Calgary Fiddlers Association (JSCH)
 Calgary Folk Music Festival (JSCH)
 Calgary Girls Choir (JSRH)
 Calgary Immigrant Women's Association (FR, JSCHL)
 Calgary International Children's Festival (JJYR, ALC, JSRH, JSCH, EAT, MCT, M)
 Calgary Philharmonic Chorus (JSRH)
 Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra (JSCH, JSRH, FR)

Curiously Canadian Improv Guild (EAT, JSCH)
 Dance on Edge (JSCH, JSRH)
 Dance Spectrum (JSRH, JSCH, MCT)
 Dance with France (JSRH, JSCH)
 Dancing Monkey Theatre (BST)
 Dark Matter Productions (JSRH)
 Deanne Matley (EAT)
 Dennis Garnhum (JJYR)
 digital zone media (JSCH)
 Diversity Dance & Performing Arts (JSRH, JSCH)
 Diversity Performing Arts (EAT)
 Do It Green (JSCHL)
 Downstage (JJYR, ALC, BST, M)
 Dr. E.P. Scarlett High School (JSRH) (JSCH)
 Dreamlash (ALC)
 ECSSN Career School (JSCH)
 Festival Chorus (JSRH)
 Fire Exit Theatre Company (EAT)
 Frula's Serbian Culture Society (MCT)
 Galaxy Performing Arts Society (JSCH, JSRH)
 GN Corporations Inc (ALC)
 Hallmark Tubulars (JSCHL)
 Heather Carroll & Jason Manna (JSCHL, JSCH)
 Heather Kennedy & Mike Wright (JSCHL)
 Honens (JSRH, JSCH)
 Hush Entertainment (JSCH)
 Husky Energy (JSCH)
 Hussein Charania & Shaheena Premji (JSCH)
 Immigrant Services Calgary (EAT)
 Inside Out Theatre (ALC)
 International Special Events Society - Calgary Chapter (JSCHL, JJYR)
 Investors Group, RO#606 - GV North (FR)
 Islamic Information Society of Calgary (JSCH)
 Ismaili Council for the Prairies (EAT)

Pirannah Productions Inc. (JJYR)
 Productions Juste pour rire II Inc. (JSCH)
 Prospect (JSCH)
 Recovery Acres Society (JSRH, JSCH)
 Red Deer Symphony (JSRH)
 Red Phone Theatre (M)
 Revv52 (JSRH)
 Rocky Mountain Church of Christ (EAT, ALC, JJYR)
 Royal Conservatory (JSCH, JSRH)
 Rozsa Foundation (JSCHL)
 Russian Theatre Foundation (M)
 Ryan Corry (EAT)
 Ryan Ockey (JSCH)
 SAI Productions (JSCH)
 Sakamoto Entertainment (JSCH)
 Search Tower Company (M)
 Service Management Art (EAT)
 Shantero Productions (JSCH)
 Sheldon Chumir Foundation
 For Ethics In Leadership (EAT, JSCHL)
 Shell Canada (JSCH)
 Sled Island (BST)
 Solium Capital Inc. (JSCHL)
 Soul Feet Productions (MCT)
 Soul to Sole Dance (MCT)
 Spiritus Chamber Choir (JSRH)
 Springboard Dance (JSRH)
 StageCoach Theatre Arts Calgary (EAT, ALC)
 Stage Left Productions (M)
 Tammy Wong (EAT)
 Taryn Chisholm (EAT)
 TD Bank (JSCHL)
 Teck Resources Limited (EAT)
 The Community (JSCHL)

959 Events booked by Event Services within EPCOR CENTRE

Calgary Public Library (JSCHL)
 Canadian Society for Training and Development (EAT)
 Canadian Society for Unconventional Resources (JSCHL, EAT)
 Canadian Society of Exploration Geophysicists Foundation (JSCHL)
 Capital Media (JSCH)
 CBRE Limited (JSCHL)
 Celero (JJYR)
 Cenovus Energy Inc (EAT)
 Cerebral Palsy Association in Alberta (JSCHL)
 Children's School of Dance (JSCH)
 Chinese Freemason Society of Calgary (JSCH)
 City of Calgary - Animal Bylaw Services (JJYR, FR, EAT, ALC, JSRH, JSCHL)
 City of Calgary - Business Advisory Services (EAT)
 City of Calgary - Customer Service & Communication (JSCHL)
 City of Calgary - Environmental and Safety Management (EAT, JJYR, ALC, JSRH)
 City of Calgary - Information Technology Services (EAT)
 City of Calgary - Infrastructure & Information Services (EAT, ALC)
 City of Calgary - IT Application Development (JSCHL)
 City of Calgary - IT Application Support (JSCHL)
 City of Calgary - IT Department (EAT)
 City of Calgary - Land Use Planning & Policy (JSCHL)
 City of Calgary - Planning & Building Department (JSCHL, FR)
 Corinne & Kayle (JSCHL)

Jaguar Music Group (JSCH)
 Jeffrey Paul Mehr (EAT)
 Jones Entertainment Group (JSCH)
 Kathy Kay (JSCHL)
 Kelly Chernetz & Gavin Bates (JSCHL)
 Kimberly & Erick (JSCHL)
 Kwabena Owusu-Abrokwa (JSCH)
 Legacy Kitchens (JSCH)
 Let's Talk Entertainment Inc. (JSCH)
 Live Nation Canada Inc. (JSCH)
 Live Nation Global Touring (JSCHL, JSCH)
 Long View Systems (JSCHL)
 LPCA - Calgary Centre (EAT)
 McLaren McCann Calgary (JSCH)
 Made With Love (JSCHL)
 Madstone Productions (JSCH)
 Major Matt Mason (Motel)
 Mariko Miyagishima & Cian Macken (JSCHL)
 Mawer Investment Management Ltd. (JSCH)
 Mercer (Canada) Limited (JSCHL)
 Metric Productions (JSRH)
 Microsoft (JSCHL)
 Mortgage Design Group (FR)
 Mpaact Dance (MCT)
 MS Society of Canada (JSCHL)
 Muscular Dystrophy Canada (EAT)
 Musica Academy (EAT)
 National Theatre School of Canada (JJYR)
 New West Symphony & Chorus (JSCH)
 One Yellow Rabbit (JJYR, EAT, ALC, BST, M)
 Off the Wall (JSCH)
 Pathway Connectivity (EAT)
 Paul Dowell (EAT)
 Paul Hines & Simone Dhillon (JSCHL)
 Paul Mercs Concerts Inc. (JSCH)

The Dance Centre (JSCH)
 The Union Ltd. (JSCH)
 Theatre Calgary (JSRH, ALC, EAT, MBT)
 Theatre BSMT (M)
 Theatre Outre (M)
 Third Street Theatre (M)
 This Is My City Art Society (ALC)
 Tiffany Chan & Jimmy Nguyen (JSCHL)
 Tightly Whities (M)
 Treaty 7 (BST)
 Tom Benz (FR, JSCH)
 Tomali Productions (FR, JSCH)
 Two Towers (JSCHL)
 Ukraine Millennium Foundation (JSRH)
 Ultimate Dance (MCT)
 University of Calgary - Alumni Relations (EAT)
 University of Saskatchewan (JSCHL)
 Urban Dance Projects (JSCH, JSRH)
 Urban Stories (M)
 Urban Systems (EAT)
 Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation in Calgary (JSRH, JSCH)
 Warner Music Canada (EAT)
 Warren & Kate (JSCHL)
 West Island College (JSCH)
 Western Canada High School (JSRH, JSCH)
 Wild Rose Dance Arts Association (JSCH, EAT)
 World Beauty Fitness and Fashion Inc. (MBT)
 WordFest (ALC)
 WowFest (M)
 Wright Studio (JSRH, MCT)
 Young Canadians (JSRH, JSCH)
 Youth Singers of Calgary (EAT)
 Yum Yum Catering Ltd. (EAT)
 YYComedy Collective (JSCH)



National Geographic Live speaker Kobie Boykins. Photo by Richard Lam.



Chris Thomas King, PCL Blues Series. Photo by Richard Lam.

Wow! Wow! Wow! Oh my word Epcor Centre @yycARTS = amazing performances tonight! Probably the best live show we've ever been to! Thank you!

~ Twitter comment, Messages from Mali

Deliver Quality Programming

EPCOR CENTRE is a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians and our city visitors. In complement to the top-quality theatre and music our resident companies presented, EPCOR CENTRE presented the consistently sold-out *National Geographic Live* and *PCL Blues Series*, the *BD&P World Music Series*, and the new *Jazz Series*.

Through these, and generous sponsor and donor support, EPCOR CENTRE was able to bring amazing performers and speakers from close to home and around the world to make a positive impact in the Calgary community.

"...I must say to you, that these evenings at the EPCOR CENTRE are heaven. A few hours away from care and responsibility, transported by great music and great artists. Your concerts are magnificent."

~ Patron attending both Madeleine Peyroux and Messages from Mali concerts

"Loved the Polar talk by Paul...what a great story teller. It truly does make one want to put both "Poles" and "Polar Bears" on a bucket list. What a GREAT series, it is our first year so thanks for the continued years of educational pursuit."

~ Teacher, Student Education Presentation of National Geographic Live Polar Obsession



Fatoumata Diawara, BD&P World Music Series.
Photo by Meghan McMaster.



Stop-motion filmmaker Lyle Pisis working in his home studio.
Image courtesy of Lyle Pisis.

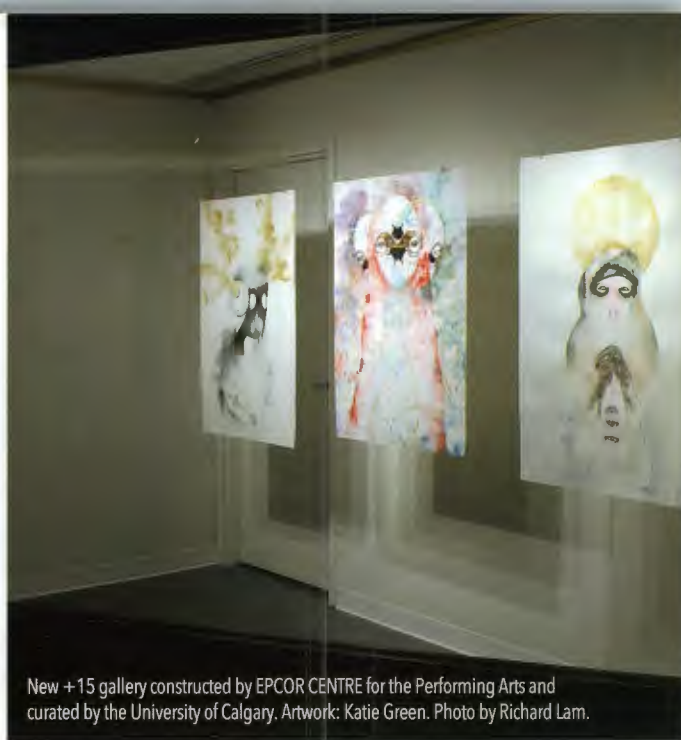
Support Artists

EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts works each year to find innovative ways to use the existing facility to generate new opportunities for creative connections. This year, the Centre created two new galleries to be curated by the University of Calgary and Alberta Craft Council. During the 2013-14 season, EPCOR CENTRE featured 192 local artists in its existing galleries (Windows Galleries, Gallery of Alberta Media Arts (GAMA), and the Ledge Gallery) as well as through participation in special projects, such as Papergirl and Intersite Festival. In addition, upwards of 50 artists a year are showcased in the +15 Galleries which

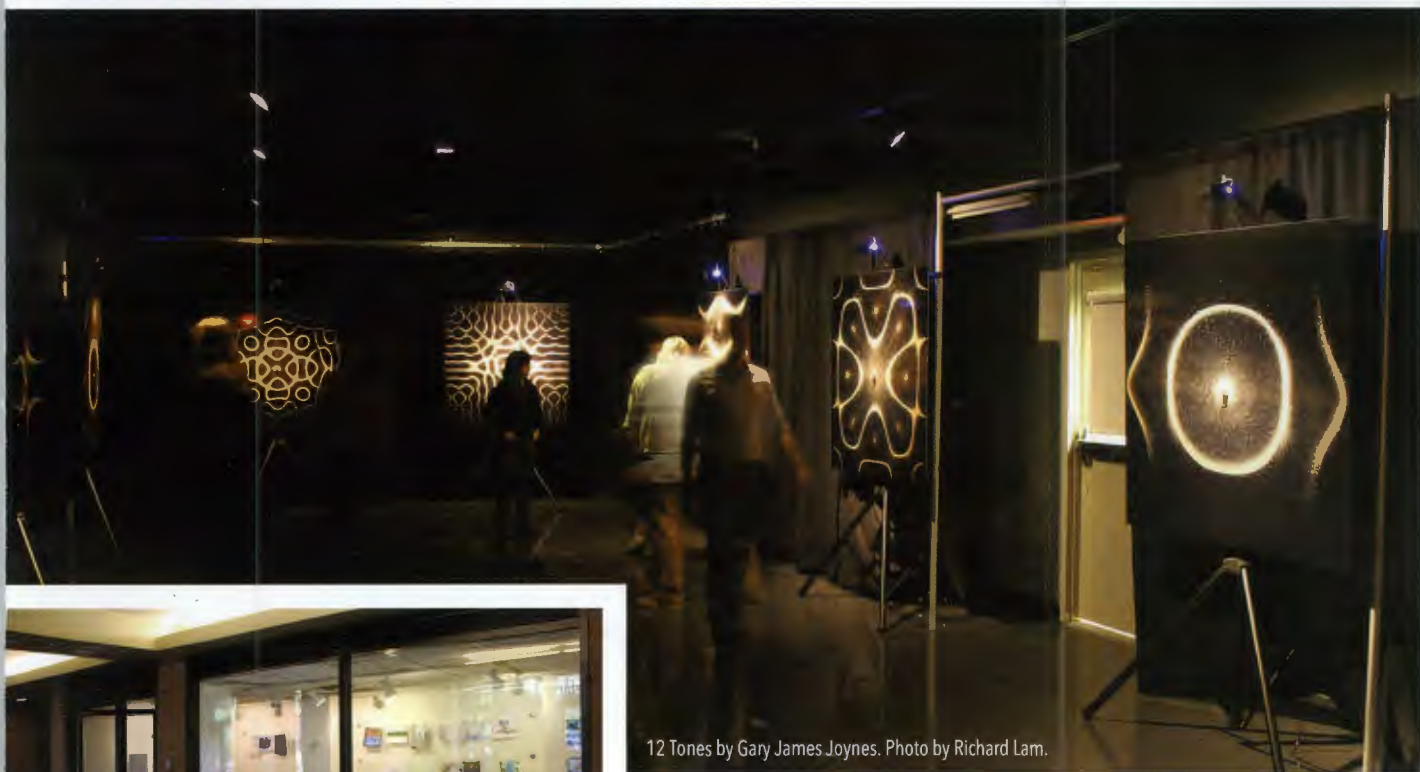
are curated by local artist-run organizations: Alberta Printmakers Society, Marion Nicoll Gallery, The New Gallery, Stride Gallery, TRUCK Contemporary Art, University of Calgary Faculty Arts and Untitled Contemporary Art.

Sharing our stories with the community, Stephen magazine featured over 100 artists and arts organizations, celebrating the achievements of performers, visual artists, directors, designers, and all of the behind-the-scenes people who make it happen.

Ledge gallery artist Kristine Zingeler, *Human Histories*.



New +15 gallery constructed by EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts and curated by the University of Calgary. Artwork: Katie Green. Photo by Richard Lam.



12 Tones by Gary James Joynes. Photo by Richard Lam.



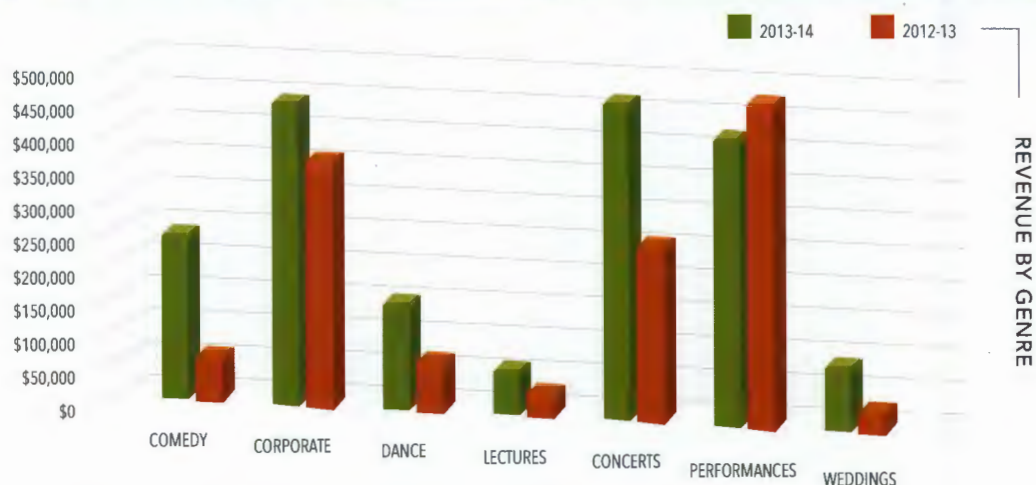
Light Box Studio. Children's Flood Art. Photo by Natasha Jensen



Stephen Magazine, Winter issue 2014



Wedding reception, Jack Singer Concert Hall lobby. Yueko Photography



To be Sustainable

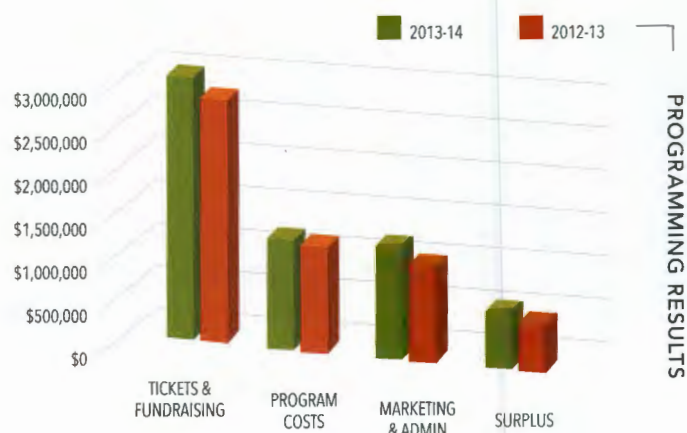
In our 2013-14 fiscal year, we continued to focus on short and long-term revenue opportunities, while maintaining a competitive cost structure, resulting in a surplus of \$153,172 for the year.

This success was a result of our ongoing efforts to maximize venue capacity wherever possible, as well as expand programming and develop strong funding relationships. Year over year we saw increases in all key revenue streams:

Earned revenues - venue usage	22.7%
Retail rents and facility revenues	34.7%
Fundraising revenues	4.6%
Programming revenues	5.4%

As illustrated in the chart above, the key to increased venue revenues by external clients is a focus on maximizing genres which generate commercial rates, such as corporate functions, music and comedy shows. Another primary focus has been to ensure that the venues are utilized during historical "dark days" such as the summer months. Providing venue space for dance shows and weddings has also helped keep the venues active year round.

The introduction of EPCOR CENTRE's Jazz Series, as well as expansion of our *National Geographic Live* speaker series, increased programming revenues from both a ticketing and sponsorship perspective which allowed

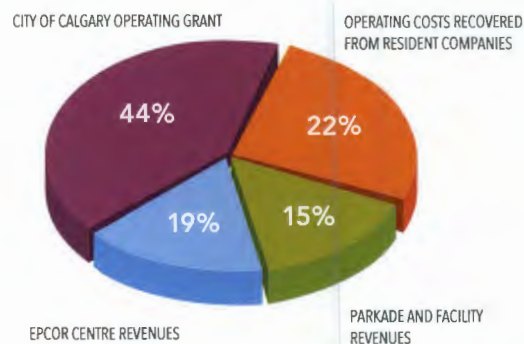


overall programming initiatives to achieve a \$458K surplus, a 21% increase over the prior year (illustrated in the chart above).

Despite continued challenges from rising costs, we were able to keep the expense of running core facility functions to a 3.6% year over year increase. In addition, we were able to advance almost \$200K in facility improvements over and above 2013-14 operating budgets.

And finally, the positive financial results from our 2013-14 activities also made it possible to continue to support our resident companies.

In addition to sharing operating grants, parkade and facility revenues, EPCOR CENTRE, through programming and earned revenues, contributed 19% of overall core facility operating costs, based on facility usage, which kept resident company contributions to only 22%.





Mayor Nenshi riding Mondo Spider, Beakerhead.



Jon Batiste works with students in an interactive Jazz Lab. Photo by Richard Lam.



Music on Screen. Photo by Richard Lam.

Four Seasons of Storytelling

As the leaves began to change in Fall 2013, EPCOR CENTRE presented and partnered on a number of community-focused initiatives.

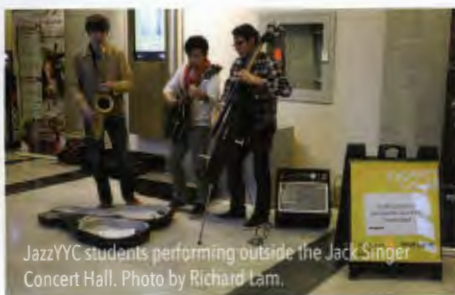
A new jazz series was launched with Jon Batiste and Stay Human that included outreach with young people and reached more than 640 students. This interactive Jazz Lab helped students develop active listening skills, while giving them the opportunity to explore the social and musical history of jazz. Part of this project included collaboration with the Calgary Downtown Association and Calgary Transit to bring Jon Batiste's "Love Riot" to transit riders and downtown denizens.

Beakerhead performed their inaugural opening ceremonies at the Jack Singer Concert Hall. A unique fusion of science and art, *The Tremendous and Curious World of Beakerhead* featured special guest, astronaut Chris Hadfield, as well as a robot band and a physicist-opera singer. Beakerhead exists to make science and engineering accessible through art in more than 40 events, including live performances, engineering demonstrations, speakers, art walks, and networking events.

The Music on Screen series was launched in Fall 2013 to give our audiences free access to quality, award-winning films, shown



Union Tanguera Tango Milonga. Founders Circle Event. Photo by Erin Wallace.



JazzYYC students performing outside the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Photo by Richard Lam.



Kids lining up for National Geographic Live Student Event. Photo by Richard Lam.



Kobie Boykins at Langevin School. Photo by Will Young.

8,629 students attended the *National Geographic Live* speaker series

throughout the year within the Centre. After a successful first season and a desire to expand on non-ticketed public programming, Music on Screen was moved into the larger venue of the Engineered Air Theatre and rebranded Art!Flicks.

EPCOR CENTRE created a unique community event with participation of BD&P World Music artists Unión Tanguera and Calgary Tango communities. Through this collaboration, a traditional Argentinian Milonga (social tango dance) was held in the Jack Singer Rehearsal Hall.

City of Calgary returned during the 2013-14 season to host over 40 events in the Jack Singer Concert Hall, including: the Mayor's Safety Expo, Calgary's premier event aimed at promoting safe environments at home, school and play, and the Mayor's Environ-

mental Expo, which inspires students and families to take simple actions to protect our environment.

In February, EPCOR CENTRE expanded the education shows for *National Geographic Live* from one to two shows with Kobie Boykins. The Jack Singer Concert Hall was filled with over 3,400 students, over two days, to listen to him speak about his amazing experiences with NASA and Mars exploration. Boykins also visited Langevin school, which draws students from all over the city for its Science Alternative Program, to speak to students in their classroom.

Throughout the season, EPCOR CENTRE created access to rehearsal space for the JazzYYC Youth Lab band at a reduced rate. In a further expansion of this partnership, EPCOR CENTRE facilitated a workshop and



JazzYYC students rehearsing in the Jack Singer Rehearsal Hall.



Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo cosplayers go full zombie in EPCOR CENTRE's photo booth. Photo by Richard Lam.



Charlie Musselwhite and Ruthie Foster, BD&P World Music Series. Photo by Richard Lam.



performance for the JazzYYC Youth Lab Band and Edmonton counterparts Little Birds in Jack Singer Rehearsal Hall.

Calgary Civic Symphony performed their highly popular *My Name is Bond* symphony in the Jack Singer Concert Hall marking over 15 years of presenting quality symphonic performances at EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts. Calgary Civic Symphony's musicians hail from all walks of life and each year, they present a series of five main concerts.

Charlie Musselwhite returned to Calgary having last performed here in 2003 in the Engineered Air Theatre. This year, he and Ruthie Foster, as part of the BD&P World Music Series, filled the Jack Singer Concert Hall with over 1,700 audience members.

EPCOR CENTRE was excited to launch a new app and mobile site, increasing online accessibility of the website from cellphones and tablets. Since its launch, it has facilitated 1,107 transactions totalling \$147,804.54 in revenue.

In April, EPCOR CENTRE participated in the "Parade of Wonders", in collaboration with Calgary Downtown Association and as part of the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo celebration. Led by Mayor Nenshi and a host of geeky guest stars, a crowd of enthusiastic cosplayers gathered at Olympic Plaza for a great opening ceremony event.

In May of 2014, EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts entered into a "Mutual Strategic Consulting Agreement" with The Calgary International Children's Festival, with a shared vision to connect all young



Ben Caplan, PCL Blues Series. Photo by Richard Lam.



KORE performs at the Calgary International Children's Festival for a rapt audience. Photo by Rocket House.



Jazz Series, Duet Stage artist Johanna Siljanpaa. Photo by Richard Lam.



EPCOR CENTRE's new digital sound boards. Photo by Richard Lam.



people with the arts through the delivery and connection to world-class performing and creative arts experiences. In turn, the Calgary International Children's Festival presented by Qualico Communities, experienced one of its most successful years yet. At 119% of budgeted ticket revenues and an 18% increase year over year in sponsorship revenue, as well as huge amounts of media coverage and positive buzz, it was a resounding success.

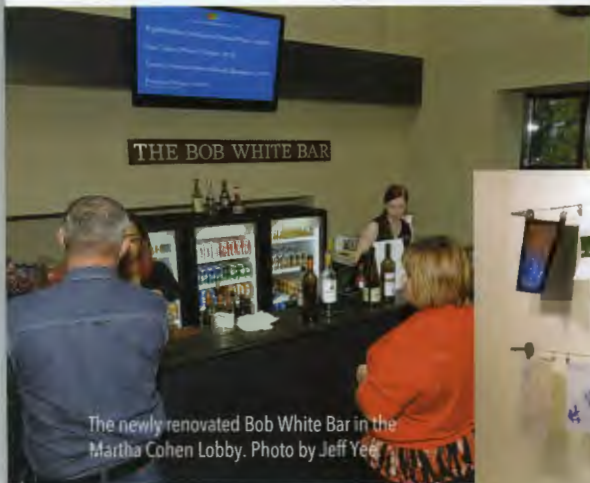
Since 2011, the PCL Blues Series has sold-out prior to opening each show, and this season, three out of the six shows doubled their capacity with a second night. Ben Caplan, the Halifax native whose music ranges from poetic ballads to the roughest of bar room stomps, performed, for the first time, three sold-out nights as part of the PCL Blues Series.

In May, the newly launched Jazz Series concluded with the announcement that TD Bank Group was signing up to be title sponsor of the series, renaming it the TD Jazz Series.

Over the summer, system upgrades were carried out in EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts including an overhaul of the audio systems in the building, lighting upgrades, new fire panels, a digital radio system throughout the building, HD capable video systems, resealing of the outer envelope of the building, rigging and hoists, and a new 55ft projection screen for the Jack Singer Concert Hall. The Jack Singer Rehearsal Hall received a huge upgrade as well, with specialized lighting and a new floor, for all of the artists that use the room. This provided appropriate brightness and temperature for reading scores to



Wedding reception - Jack Singer Concert Hall. Troy Young Photography



The newly renovated Bob White Bar in the Martha Cohen Lobby. Photo by Jeff Yee



Children's Flood Art is showcased in the former "Just the Ticket" space. Photo by Richard Lam.

specifically benefit the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra in their rehearsals. A new bar was also installed in the Martha Cohen Theatre, improving the environment for our patrons. All of this was made possible by all three levels of government through the Canada Cultural Spaces Fund, Community Facility Enhancement Program, the Capital Civic Partner Grant Program, and through funds from our own capital reserve fund.

Event Services set a new all-time high for the number of weddings booked in one season at EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts with 13 weddings in total.

A new retail tenant from Teatro Group was secured to occupy a section of Centre Court. Ca'Puccini, expanding from its originally seasonal kiosk set up, is slated

to open in 2015 and will provide a beautiful café and restaurant, year round, for our patrons' culinary enjoyment.

The former "Just the Ticket" space next to the Martha Cohen Theatre was converted into a new interactive space for public and artists alike. Through this initiative, short-term exhibitions and studio space is now offered to artists providing them direct interaction with the public who use and move through the building. The inaugural installation was Children's Flood Art, in collaboration with City Hall - an initiative championed by Mayor Nenshi and jointly exhibited in the City Hall Atrium.

450,160 tickets distributed for all venues in EPCOR CENTRE

Looking Forward

Our arts centre is a place of community, belonging, and expression. It's a place where everybody can gather to connect in creative ways and on many different levels. It's a place for you.

In spring 2014, EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts entered into a rebranding exercise, directed by Karo Group, in response to the need to replace the outdated name of a lapsed sponsor, to reshape perceptions around our complete offering, and to modernize our public-facing brand that better reflects the Centre's current position and future goals.

Our Centre – your Centre – has developed beyond being just a "Centre for the Performing Arts." Today, we are the new Arts Commons. In addition to supporting great performing arts, we welcome and are open to so much more: we embrace visual and media arts, we present and host numerous cultural events reflecting the rich diversity of our city, we host community and corporate events, and our "family" includes more than 160 user groups who gather here time and again, to express themselves, share in their unique stories and experiences, inspire change, and more.

Though the rebranding process for the Centre has been a deeply involved one, the Centre and staff are excited to reveal our new identity and welcome you to your new arts organization.

Please join us in celebrating our shared culture within the new Arts Commons.

"Everything we do here at your Arts Commons is inspired by the boundless creativity of people, like you, who make our community the great place it is."

~ Johann Zietsman, President and CEO

Jon Batiste & Stay Human, EPCOR CENTRE's Jazz Series. Photo by Richard Lam.

support

EPCOR CENTRE wish to express our sincere appreciation to the following corporations, foundations, governments and passionate community leaders who give generously to support EPCOR CENTRE as we play a key role in the social, economic, cultural and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians and visitors.



BD&P private reception, Jack Singer Concert Hall upper lobby.

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National Geographic explorer, NASA engineer Kobie Boykins sharing a story with engagement sponsor Ken Havard. Photo by Will Young

"RBC is an enthusiastic supporter of EPCOR CENTRE's distinguished speaker series, National Geographic Live. Every presentation is an important reminder of why we remain committed to protecting fresh water resources around the globe. We're proud to be able to help bring such exceptional voices from the front lines of research, education and conservation to Calgary audiences."

~ Jeff Boyd, Regional President, Alberta & Territories, Royal Bank of Canada

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BACK COVER (above) EPCOR CENTRE's Jazz Series. Kenny Garrett. Photo by Richard Lam. (below) A shot from the stage of the *National Geographic Live* audience. Photo by Paul Nicklen.



EPCOR CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
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