

Report to the Community

2021-22



Arts
Commons

From empty halls to sold out performances, this season's journey was historic.

2021

September

PCL Blues shared on CKUA Radio's Friday Night Blues Party
Calgary Philharmonic has its first performance back in the Jack Singer Concert Hall
ArtsXpeditions shares socially distanced performances as part of Alberta Culture Days



October

Theatre Calgary performs BOOM YZ as their first live performance since prior to the pandemic

November

Arts Commons Presents has its first performance with live audiences, *Two Doors: Dispatches from the In Between*, in the Engineered Air Theatre capped at 50% capacity



December

Timmy's Happy Christmas, 1974 from Arts Commons Presents premieres in the Jack Singer Concert Hall capped at 50% capacity
Downstage returns to performances with a live audience with *Climate Change Theatre Action*



2022

April

One Yellow Rabbit launches Spring HPR with *Gilgamesh Lazyboy*
Lea Salonga performs with Arts Commons Presents to a full house, restrictions dropped, masking suggested but not required



March

First school class returns to Arts Commons for in-person learning
One Yellow Rabbit announces a Spring edition of its beloved High Performance Rodeo



February

The Province of Alberta lifts the Restrictions Exemption Program (REP)
Arts Commons extends the Audience Mask and Vaccination Policy
ArtsXpeditions participates in Chinook Blast to socially distanced outdoor audiences



January

One Yellow Rabbit makes the difficult decision to cancel the High Performance Rodeo



May

First in-person artist reception with RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program participants

June

Ragtime: A Concert Performance makes history with an unprecedented collaboration between Arts Commons, Calgary Philharmonic, and Theatre Calgary



July

Pakistani performers Atif Aslam & Farhad Darya and Punjabi Bollywood performer Neha Kakkar sell out the Jack Singer Concert Hall

August

Squonk: Hand to Hand performs outside on Olympic Plaza, welcoming Calgarians from all walks of life as well as our international community of arts presenters from the Western Arts Alliance conference



A Season of Renewal

2021-22

Despite countless unknowns when the season began, our optimism grew with each step in our reopening plan. Taken with care and consideration, we prioritized the needs of our patrons while keeping safety at the core of our every action. The rewards: an explosive return to our stages and spaces, emboldened by our community's eager desire to return to social events after two years of isolation. This year's Report to the Community chronicles an unprecedented season, filled with a return to live performance and unparalleled love for the arts.

Our family of resident companies:



Top row (left to right) Rick Miller in BOOM YZ © Trudie Lee. Wakefield Brewster performs © Sam Obadero. *Timmy's Happy Christmas, 1974* © Sam Obadero. Middle row (left to right) Lea Salonga © Kim Gordon. Sock puppets © Kiani Evans. *Chenelle Roberts* © Kiani Evans. Bottom row (left to right) RBC Emerging Visual Artist reception © Sara Kuefler. *Ragtime: A Concert Performance* © Will Young. *Squonk: Hand to Hand* performance © Mike Hopkins.

Letter from the President and CEO

Dear friends,

I always welcome this time of year as an opportunity to reflect. The past twelve months have been a journey of reconnection as we've re-opened our doors and shared experiences with one another again. We began this season sharing live performances virtually and closed it by hosting over 500 international guests at the Western Arts Alliance conference, as well as welcoming all of you to an outdoor performance that shook the paving stones of Olympic Plaza! I can't begin to express my feelings of wonder at the sheer passion and enthusiasm with which the community returned to the arts and to each other.

During our period of closure, we took the time to look inward, revisiting our mission and vision to better reflect who we are today, and who we want to be for Calgary in the future. We took the opportunity to gather as colleagues and share our unique perspectives on who we feel we are and what we have the power to do together, and weaved it into our collective statement. In those sessions, my heart was full as I witnessed the passion and love that everyone under our roof has for what we do.

There were tears of joy, and it made me thankful to be able to lead a team that is so heartfelt and deeply invested in creating a safe sense of belonging in, and through, the arts.

We leaned into our renewed commitment to each other as we gradually returned to a "new normal." Our cautious and multi-tiered approach to health and safety helped patrons feel safe to return to our campus. So many Calgarians expressed their gratitude at being able to attend a performance with comfort and security knowing the safeguards we had put in place. The ongoing limitations of being able to gather, however, did not thwart our efforts to strengthen our relationships with communities across Calgary: in fact, I will forever cherish that my first sold-out concert at Arts Commons was the pitch-perfect performance from superstar Lea Salonga, for which the Filipino community in Calgary came out in droves and filled the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

In June of this past year, I was honoured to be a part of realizing a dream that I shared with Stafford Arima, Artistic Director of Theatre Calgary: producing the world premiere

of *Ragtime: A Concert Performance*. This co-production between Arts Commons, the Calgary Philharmonic, and Theatre Calgary — the first in our organizations' histories — is proof that anything is possible when we come together, and would not have been possible were it not for the collaborative leadership of Maya Choldin, Executive Director of Theatre Calgary; Marc Stevens, CEO of the Calgary Philharmonic; and the dedicated staff members and boards of directors of all three organizations.

Our commitment to charting a new future for the arts community in Calgary extends well beyond what we put on our stages. Starting this season, we embarked on a journey with Dr. Reg Crowshoe and Elder Rose Crowshoe (both of whom were recently named to the Order of Canada) on the development of our Reconciliation Strategy. This year also saw the launch of our TD Incubator program, which seeks to welcome artists who are rethinking the future of the arts. Our desire to support multi-year initiatives like these is only outweighed by our deep desire to be transformed by them—only then can we truly be in dialogue with the many communities that surround us.

Not only are we paving the way for what a performing arts centre should be in the 21st Century, we are also laying the groundwork for the cultural landscape of tomorrow with the Arts Commons Transformation project, which saw incredible progress this year.

Through our efforts, we are not just bringing people back to the arts, but we are bringing people back to our downtown core — and to each other — to help imagine the future of the arts, and the future of Calgary.

It is because of the support of our community that we can increase the impact and reach of the arts in Calgary, ultimately ensuring their rightful place at the centre of civic life.

Thank you for joining us on this journey.

ALEX

Alex Sarian
President
and CEO

Our belief

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

Our responsibility

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

Our mission

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

Alex Sarian taking part in an Arts Commons Education activity © Will Young



Nurturing our Ecosystem

Arts Commons is an arts ecosystem, a community hub, and a home for the arts. Within our walls we house six galleries, five theatres, a concert hall, and some of the most beloved performing arts institutions in our city. As we welcomed Calgarians back into our home after a period of unprecedented change, our organization reaffirmed its commitment to artistic community and collaboration in Calgary.

This was no truer than in June of 2022 when a monumental collaboration and world premiere occurred in Arts Commons' most illustrious venue, the Jack Singer Concert Hall – *Ragtime: A Concert Performance*. The project was born out of conversations between Alex Sarian, President and CEO of Arts Commons, and Stafford Arima, Artistic Director of Theatre Calgary, in the darkest depths of the pandemic. Together, they shared their dreams of the future of performance at Arts Commons when audiences returned to live theatre once again, and one musical piece with a universal message consistently came to mind – *Ragtime*, the four-time Tony Award-winning musical.

Ragtime: A Concert Performance, hit the stage to sold-out audiences with a cast of 33 performers backed up by the full power of the Calgary Philharmonic. The award-winning score filled the Jack Singer Concert Hall with exuberant numbers, elegantly performed by the cast and the Calgary Phil. As the final notes faded, the audience leaped to their feet, cheering the performers as they left the stage. It was a performance of firsts, made possible by the Canada Council for the Arts, the Government of Alberta through Alberta Culture, and the City of Calgary, as well as support of Burnet, Duckworth & Palmer LLP, Downtown Calgary Association, and Enbridge, and it was just what our community needed at a time of anxiety and isolation.

The success of *Ragtime: A Concert Performance* exemplifies the strengths of the Arts Commons ecosystem. Over the past season, all of Arts Commons' resident companies have demonstrated their unflinching dedication to serving the Calgary community, particularly after a difficult, prolonged period of interruption.

Alberta Theatre Projects (ATP) began their 2021-22 season by welcoming Artistic & Executive Director Rohit Chokhani, an award-winning arts leader. In his first year, he saw ATP launch an energized season including *Kim's Convenience*, which set a record as one of the top five bestselling non-holiday shows at ATP throughout its entire history. ATP earned 14 nominations and five wins at the 2021-22 Betty Mitchell Awards, and also made a triumphant return to touring with *In Wonderland*, which entertained audiences in Alberta and British Columbia. ►



“This was an inspired performance, our first since the pandemic. Looking around, being surrounded by other people and being in the moment, brought me close to tears.”

Patron, *Ragtime: A Concert Performance*

← Jessica Eckstadt and Misha Maseka in *Ragtime: A Concert Performance* © Will Young

↓ Graham Percy, Natascha Girgis and Sarah Roa in Alberta Theatre Projects' 2021 production of *In Wonderland* © Benjamin Laird

↙ James Yi and Brianna Kim in *Kim's Convenience* © Moonrider Productions





→ Marshall Vielle and Cory Beaver perform in *Napi and the Rock* © Calgary Phil

↘ (top) Filsan Dualeh of *The Green Line* © LAO'D Productions

(bottom) Kevin Chen, Mariko Kondo, and Kelley McKinlay in *The Memory Room* © Nigel Goodwin

↓ (l to r) Patricia Darbasie, Laura Parken, Donnon Root, Norma Lewis in *Steel Magnolias* © Trudie Lee



← *The Bear and the Wild Rose* © Calgary Phil

The Calgary Philharmonic returned to in-person concerts, reminding audiences of the awesome power of experiencing a live, full orchestra. In addition, the Calgary Phil continued to release free, high-quality digital projects. *The Bear and the Wild Rose* was an ambitious, collaborative project with much-loved Canadian musician and humanitarian Tom Jackson and multi-disciplinary artists providing original music exploring themes of love, home, dreams, magic, and resilience. Produced in collaboration with Making Treaty 7 Cultural Society and Indigenous artists, the Blackfoot story *Napi and the Rock* saw huge success sharing its uplifting message with Calgary, including seven thousand students. Celebrating other successes, the Calgary Phil's after-school music education program for under-served students and their families, PhilKids, expanded into new schools, and Band Together was launched, providing one thousand free music lessons to band students across the city.

Downstage celebrated its season back to live performance with the world premiere of *The Green Line*, co-produced by Chromatic Theatre, which was critically praised and received nominations at the Betty Mitchell Awards for Outstanding Production as well as Best Direction. Playwright Makram Ayache won

for Outstanding New Play while Filsan Dualeh won for Outstanding Supporting Performance in a Drama. Downstage also embarked on staged readings of *Climate Change Theatre Action* in collaboration with Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation (ICAI), followed by a panel conversation with community leaders Heather Campbell, Chantal Chagnon, and Subashini Thangadurai which was facilitated by Vicki Stroich. It was a stunning display of the forward-thinking city-builders in our community.

One Yellow Rabbit (OYR) creatively struck a balance between the challenges of the global pandemic and optimism for the upcoming festival season. In response to the uncertainty of the COVID pandemic, OYR made the difficult decision to cancel the 36th annual High Performance Rodeo (HPR). Consulting closely with stakeholders, OYR pivoted to create a Spring Edition of the festival, which was a resounding success. Among the many highlights of HPR: Spring Edition, OYR collaborated with Alberta Ballet's Artistic Director, Jean Grand-Maitre, to create a one-night-only performance, *The Memory Room*. And OYR's educational initiative, beautifullyyoungartists, showcased a new generation of talent in the all-new presentation of *She Sat Down & Wept*. Helmed by legendary artist Denise

Clarke with support from Kunji Ikeda, the sold-out performance celebrated the vitality of this ground-breaking mentorship program.

Theatre Calgary's 2021-22 season saw the Max Bell Theatre stage reignite as they took their audience on a journey from the world premiere of *BOOM YZ*, to the spirit of *A Christmas Carol*, to the heartfelt emotion of *Steel Magnolias*, and ending with the rock-and-roll spectacular *Million Dollar Quartet*. Along the way, Theatre Calgary teamed up with Calgary Pride for *TC Sings for Pride* and re-opened their theatre with a celebration performance called *TC Returns*. Theatre Calgary's commitment to developing new voices and talent continued with their TD Page to Stage New Works play development program, along with their young emerging artists taking Shakespeare on the Go's *The Comedy of Errors* on the road to numerous Calgary communities for the summer.

Arts Commons Presents, the presenting arm of Arts Commons, also saw an excited and energized return to live performance. Learn more on page 14.

In every way, for every company, it was a season for the history books, and an amazing return to live performances and to each other.

Keeping our Community Healthy and Safe

Calgary's well-being is our top priority and Arts Commons believes that keeping our community safe is a shared responsibility. As we collectively and gradually moved towards welcoming back audiences and lifting restrictions, we approached each milestone with care and stakeholder consultation.

In the first half of the 2021-22 season, we officially reopened our venues, requiring masks and proof-of-vaccination for artists, staff, contractors, and all audience members attending resident company performances. This re-opening strategy required a huge effort from our production, event services, front of house, security, and ticketing teams. This all-hands-on-deck approach ensured a smooth transition in a time of unprecedented disruption. Prior to re-opening our doors, we implemented large-scale ventilation system upgrades, installing hospital-grade MERV-14A filtration and Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation which were further upgraded to MERV-15A by December of 2021.

These precautions and upgrades were accompanied by a comprehensive health and safety strategy that included frequent cleaning of high-traffic surfaces, hand sanitization stations, and a relaxed refund policy.

On February 10, 2022, Arts Commons made the decision to extend our mask and vaccination policy in response

As infection numbers continued to fall through the spring, we kept in close conversation with our resident companies as well as with community stakeholders. On April 8, Arts Commons dropped masking and vaccination mandates for visitors to our venues but maintained those requirements for staff and contractors.

Though they are no longer required, we continue to recommend masking and support patrons whether their decision is to go with or without.

to the province ending mandated restrictions on public gatherings. This decision was made to honour existing artist contracts and exercise our due diligence in making the best decisions possible for our staff and audiences.

Though they are no longer required, we continue to recommend masking and support patrons in their decision to go with or without. We thank every single one of our community members for their support and understanding as we moved forward through this uncharted territory.

“I attended last night’s presentation and I would like to thank and applaud you for continuing to ask patrons for proof of vaccination and wearing a mask inside during the performance. I felt very safe and again thank you so much for considering and putting the health and well-being of our community first.”

Patron, Arts Commons



← Patrons at the performance of *Timmy's Happy Christmas, 1974* © Sam Obadero

↑ (top) Arts Commons staff personal comfort buttons

(bottom) Founder's Circle Members before the performance of *Timmy's Happy Christmas, 1974* © Will Young

Ensuring Accessibility to the Arts

The arts are for everyone, an integral human right. Arts Commons stands by the belief that no individual should be denied access to the arts due to financial constraints or physical ability. During the 2021-22 season, we undertook several initiatives to ease the impacts of COVID-19 on our community and erase the barriers that exist for the patrons and artists that utilize our building.

Arts Commons owes a huge debt of gratitude to our essential workers and, with the generous support of the Rodney & Karen McCann Family and our Arts Commons Founders Circle and Explorers Circle members, we launched the Season of Gratitude program. This ambitious program offered essential workers and their families in Calgary free tickets to any of our resident companies' 2021-22 season shows. Through Season of Gratitude, 13,476 tickets were made available to these crucial members of our community.

In addition to thanking our essential workers through Season of Gratitude, Arts Commons, the Calgary Philharmonic, and Theatre Calgary made 1,500 free tickets available to

individuals who had been adversely affected by the pandemic for the unprecedented *Ragtime: A Concert Performance*.

One important investment in the future of accessibility is our new Canon recording system, which captures performances in the Jack Singer Concert Hall in stunning high definition. With the support of the Canada Council for the Arts Digital Now program and an Aspirational Grant through the Rozsa Foundation for Broadcast System Training, we are well on our way to our goal of making performances available for online viewing, which will mitigate some of the barriers that members of our community experience.

Ensuring that we do everything in our ability to break down barriers to accessibility goes beyond attendance at a performance. During the 2021-22 season we completed a series of upgrades to allow performers, staff and crew with mobility challenges to access backstage areas with ease and comfort including automatic door controls and widened passageways. These upgrades were made possible by the Government of Canada through

Prairies Economic Development Canada, the Calgary Foundation, and the City of Calgary through the Civic Partner Infrastructure Grant Program.

In the front of house, the Lightbox Studio was retrofitted to accommodate our first partnership with a Deaf/hard-of-hearing artist, Ebony Gooden. This was done by adding a visible doorbell as well as whiteboards and markers, which facilitated communication between the artist and the audience and reduced the risk of unexpected visitors. Ebony's participation in the TD Incubator cohort, a development and mentorship program designed for interdisciplinary artists, brought an entirely new perspective to the group, one which emphasized compassion and understanding for diverse lived experiences.

Special thanks go to Freelance Interpreters Consolidated Inc. (FLIC) who are trained in equity ASL and provided immeasurable value to our artists throughout the year.



13,476

Free tickets made available to essential workers and their families to Arts Commons events



↖ Artist Ebony Gooden at the Lightbox Studio © Sebastian Buzzalino

↑ (top) Broadcast booth © Kiani Evans

(bottom) New Canon camera gear © Alex Bonyun

Fostering and Elevating Local Artists

As Arts Commons grows in its role as a community leader and arts champion, we realize some of the most important relationships are the ones that start closest to home. Local artists are the lifeblood of Calgary's creative pulse, and Arts Commons made several exciting strides in our support, development, and mentorship of local artists this year.

First, Arts Commons had its inaugural edition of the TD Incubator program — a season-long initiative

media galleries; and four professional development sessions for a cohort of 19 artists. These professional development sessions took all forms, including a meet-and-greet with the touring artists of Arts Commons Presents' Jazz at Lincoln Center: *Songs We Love*.

In May 2022, Arts Commons announced the next pair of TD Incubator Fellows – the Calgary funk-R&B duo Sargeant x Comrade — and opened the call for the next

very first paid exhibition opportunity for the visual artists in the program. Once the exhibition period had closed, the artists were invited to be a part of the RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program (RBC EVAP) to continue their mentorship throughout the remainder of the season. The collaboration was so successful that Arts Commons has committed to exhibiting artists from ICAI's artist mentorship program every year so we can continue to showcase the work of newcomer artists and their stories.

One prominent alumna from RBC EVAP, Autumn Whiteway, began her journey with us as a curator for *Mohkinstsis and Gathering Spaces*, an exhibition produced in collaboration with Making

Treaty 7. She then went on to curate *Motherhood and Matriarchy* in the fall of 2021, the first Indigenous-led gallery exhibition in the building's history. It has been a wonderful journey to support her as she flourishes as an artist and curator. Now a multi-award winner, we are

of professional development and networking events as well as public performances and exhibitions geared towards interdisciplinary, local artists from equity-seeking communities. Led by inaugural Incubator Fellows Jae Sterling and Contra, this season included: four TD Amplify Cabarets; three rotations of the Arts Commons

cohort of artists for another season of networking, exhibition and performance, and learning.

Supporting and elevating local talent can take many forms. Arts Commons provided the newly launched artist mentorship program of Immigrant Council for Arts Innovation (ICAI) their

“The dinner with the Jazz at Lincoln Center artists was one of the most humbling networking events for me. What struck me was that as I got to learn their stories, I started to learn that our journeys weren't too different and we each had our own stories of resilience.”

TD Incubator participant



“Through the Arts Commons TD Incubator program, we were offered tangible support and tools to do things like writing my first successful project grant and meeting future collaborators of upcoming projects. We were prioritized and taken care of in every way, and that really mattered.”

Lisa La Touche, member of the TD Incubator cohort

proud to continue to be able to promote her and her work in the medium of visual arts.

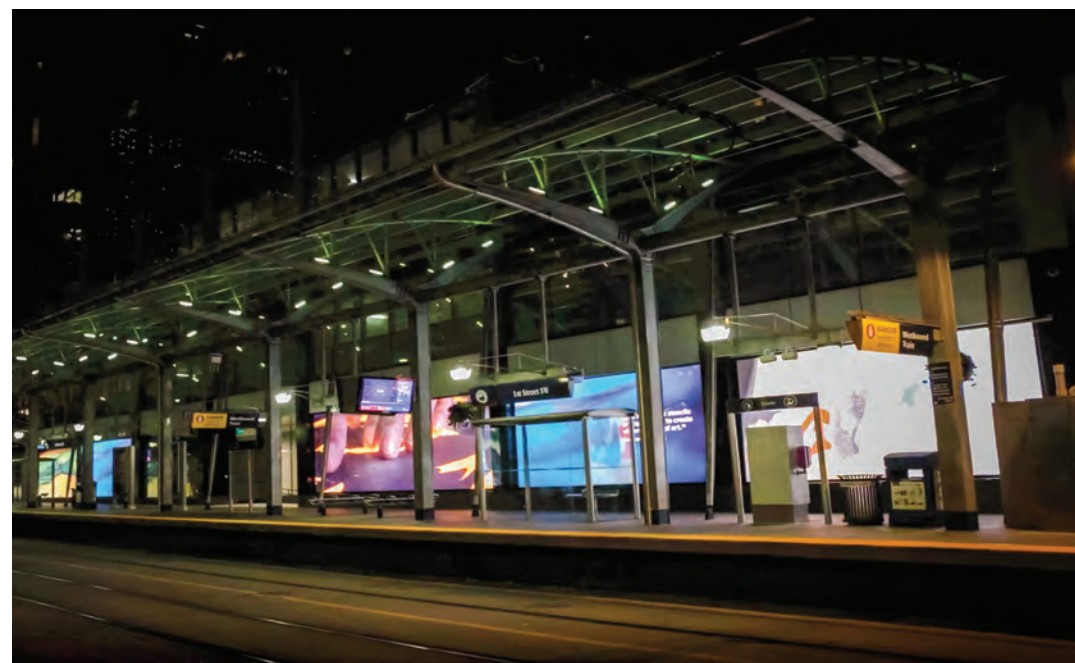
Another incredible talent, Anthony Russell, first shared his art with audiences at Arts Commons in the winter of 2020 in the +15 Galleries through a collaborative program with the Calgary school boards while he was still attending high school. Anthony joined the RBC EVAP and had his first professional exhibition at Arts Commons in the Window Galleries during the 2021-22 season. This exhibition courted the attention of ATB Financial who went on to exhibit his work in their downtown branch. His most recent project,

a vibrant video exhibition of his artistic process, launched Arts Commons' partnership with TELUS Sky's Art While You Wait broadcast gallery.

This past season, we lost a shining star, Nabila Walji, who first exhibited in April 2020 with Arts Commons in the Window Galleries, sharing her stunning photography and unique perspective. She went on to write for the Arts Commons Blog's Guest Writer series, penning three moving pieces, one of which received the most views of any piece on our blog. Her passing sent ripples through the arts community, and her vibrant spirit was taken from us far too soon.



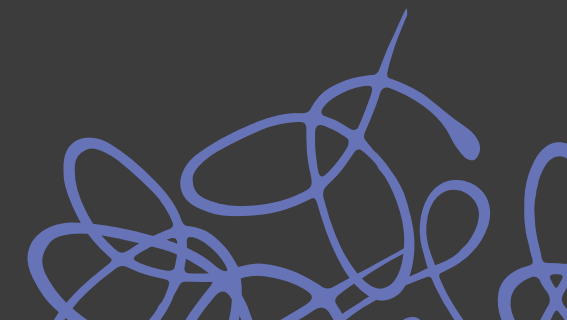
Nabila Walji
1993-2022



↖ Lisa La Touche performing
© Sam Obadero

← (left) TD Incubator participants' dinner with Jazz at Lincoln Center: *Songs We Love* artists © Will Young

(right) Anthony Russell, TELUS Sky's Art While You Wait broadcast gallery
© Sam Obadero





Arts Commons Presents Brought us Back Together

The 2021-22 season reignited our stages with live performance, sharing the best of the performing arts with cautious, yet eager audiences looking for connection after more than 18 months of dark stages. Keenly aware of the importance of balancing safety with group gatherings, Arts Commons Presents (ACP) launched the first performance in the re-imagined TD Amplify Cabaret series, *Two Doors: Dispatches from the In-Between* in accordance with our Health and Safety Strategy, including a 50% capacity cap on the house.

Led by the artistic vision of TD Incubator Fellows Jae Sterling and Contra, *Two Doors: Dispatches from the In-Between* introduced Calgary

to a new cohort of talent: neo-noir singer-songwriter Uyemi, tap dancer and choreographer Lisa La Touche, Jazz drummer Jon McCaslin, and spoken-word artist, poet, and storyteller Wakefield Brewster, who was named Calgary's 2022-24 Poet Laureate. Arts Commons remains incredibly proud to have been a part of these artistic journeys.

Throughout the season, the TD Amplify Cabarets made waves, challenging audiences with inventive expressions of music, dance, projection art, and spoken word. A spectacular highlight from this season was the TD Amplify Cabaret *Now Listen: A Black Poet's Message* on February 26, 2022. Curated

by Jae Sterling and featuring a lineup of performers offering their perspectives as Black artists in the Prairies during Black History Month, this sold-out engagement received an unprecedented amount of media attention, earning 13 stories through print, online, and broadcast outlets. The performance was hailed by NEX T magazine as "a night of inspiration and spoken-word magic."

In December of 2021, ACP presented *Timmy's Happy Christmas, 1974* as the first large scale engagement back in the Jack Singer Concert Hall. Headlined by local artist and former CBC host Tim Tamashiro, the concert brought a welcome dose of nostalgia and coziness. ▶



"Timmy's Happy Christmas was an amazing story intertwined with fabulous singing and music. Loved the commercials and images, the story, the music. This should be a repeat performance."

Patron, *Timmy's Happy Christmas, 1974*

37,804

Total attendance to Arts Commons Presents season

Total includes Ragtime: A Concert Performance and Squonk: Hand to Hand

- ← Wakefield Brewster performs in *Two Doors: Dispatches from the In-Between* © Sam Obadero
- ↑ Tim Tamashiro performs on the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage © Will Young
- ✓ Uyemi performs in *Two Doors: Dispatches from the In-Between* © Sam Obadero
- ↓ *Through the Fire* performance by Ruffi Oswald © Sam Obadero



"TD Incubator has made me a poet and an artist beyond my understanding of what I could be. It became a cool little community for me. You have a concentrated group of artists to share that energy with. If you don't walk away changed for the better, what are you doing here?"

Wakefield Brewster, TD Incubator participant





“An incredible opportunity to hear the best Canadian jazz musicians brought together in this fashion for the first time ever! They did not disappoint and represented our country’s creative abilities to the highest level.”

Patron, Canadian National Jazz Orchestra: *Premiere Performance*

Premiering on April 28, 2022, ACP made history in a ground-breaking collaboration with JazzYYC to launch a first; the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra. Conceived and created by Calgary’s own jazz trailblazer, Kodi Hutchinson, Artistic Producer of JazzYYC, this project was three years in the making, inspired by the desire to showcase Canada’s exceptional jazz talent on a national level.

Under the artistic direction of JUNO Award-winning and world-renowned big band leader Christine Jensen, the orchestra of musicians selected from across Canada performed a repertoire of entirely Canadian works, including nine original compositions by a roster of top Canadian jazz composers from Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, and British Columbia.

The orchestra provided an incredibly rare opportunity for artists from different jazz communities across our country to collaborate, learn from each other, and make amazing music together. When choosing the musicians, particular care was taken to equally represent men and women, as well as the many cultural backgrounds, geographic locations, and instrumentation styles that we share in Canada. Along with the live performance in the Jack Singer

Concert Hall, a recording of the Canadian National Jazz Orchestra was created to cement this incredible project in history as well as provide a resource for future touring opportunities.

In a triumphant celebration of the return to live performances, Lea Salonga once again graced the Jack Singer Concert Hall through the BD&P World Stage series with an unmatched vocal performance to a packed house with two ecstatic ovations. An enormous success, *An Evening with Lea Salonga* was Arts Commons’ first house sold to capacity without mandatory mask and vaccination restrictions.

The PCL Blues series went through the most dramatic transformation, beginning with live performances on CKUA Radio’s Friday Night Blues Party in September, graduating to social-distanced live shows with artists GA-20, Steve Strongman, James "Blood" Ulmer, and JUNO-nominated Sue Foley, to JUNO Award-winning Crystal Shawanda performing to a packed house of exultant blues fans. It was cathartic and deeply moving to welcome these amazing blues artists back to the stage after months of cancelled gigs.



For the 2021-22 season, Classic Albums Live (CAL) didn't disappoint. On April 16, The Beatles' ground-breaking psychedelic album, Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band came to life through the skills of CAL's masterful musicians, cheered by a joyous crowd of people who grew up with the album as well as newcomers to the seminal work. ▶



- ↑ *Inaugural performance of Canadian National Jazz Orchestra in the Jack Singer Concert Hall © Will Young*
- ← *(left) Classic Albums Live performance of The Beatles' Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band © Sebastian Buzzalino*
- ✓ *Lea Salonga performs in the Jack Singer Concert Hall © Kim Gordon*

“Both me and my daughter cried with tears of joy. We were so touched and amazed by Lea Salonga! The entire experience was surreal!!!”

Patron, *An Evening with Lea Salonga*





Despite suffering the most cancellations due to COVID-19 and related restrictions on international travel, the BD&P World Stage series featured one of the most powerful and moving moments in our 2021-22 season, a beautiful and mesmerizing performance by Icelandic composer Ólafur Arnalds. Accompanied by his revolutionary self-playing pianos, Arnald's unique atmospheric sound and spellbinding light show filled the Jack Singer Concert Hall with wonder and brought audience members to tears.



“Amazing concert and hall. Made the drive from Manitoba and it was worth every minute.”

Patron, Ólafur Arnalds

The boundary-pushing National Geographic Live series didn't disappoint, igniting passion for our natural world with Joel Sartore and peeling back the veil of time with Dr. Kara Cooney. As a grand finale, the legendary photographer Brian Skerry returned to share his stories about his long-term research project, *Secrets of the Whales*, inspired by his Emmy Award-winning documentary of the same name. As the first National Geographic Explorer when the series launched 11 years ago, Brian Skerry was a welcome return for many series subscribers.

As the 2021-22 season of our signature series came to a close, Arts Commons Presents' outdoor series, ArtsXpeditions, was just gearing up. Launching with an Indigenous-led and curated artist showcase on June 21 for National Indigenous Peoples Day, ArtsXpeditions brought music, theatre, and creative interactivity to communities across Calgary's four quadrants. In addition to the talented musicians and performing artists of the ArtsXpeditions series, Arts Commons Presents collaborated with Wagonstage to bring Clem Martini's new play for young people,

Bee Betrayal, to family audiences. Raising awareness about bees and other pollinators, the short play, coupled with carefully designed craft activities, elegantly blended fun and learning for kids and families. These initiatives were made possible by Canada Healthy Communities Initiative and the City of Calgary.

After a season away, the 2021-22 season of Arts Commons Presents had some incredible highs, bearing witness to the love, passion, and delight that audiences and artists share for the live performing arts. Though this return was tempered with a careful, stepped approach to the rescinding of restrictions and audience caps, each step felt like a triumph for everyone involved. The encompassing efforts of Arts Commons Presents to offer innovative and engaging programming are supported by our amazing donors, government supporters, and sponsors including Burnet, Duckworth and Palmer LLP, ConocoPhillips Canada, PCL Construction, and TD Bank Group.



“Where to begin? From the helpful and friendly staff to the amazing speaker and the wonderful photos, we absolutely love coming to Nat Geo Live events.”

Patron, Brian Skerry: *Secrets of the Whales*

↑ National Geographic photographer Brian Skerry speaking on the Jack Singer Concert Hall © Will Young

← Ólafur Arnalds performs

↓ (top) Children build bee craft at ArtsXpeditions © Alex Bonyun

(bottom) Olivia Tail Feathers & Kainai Grasslands Singers © Kiani Evans



↑ National Day for Truth and Reconciliation featuring Kendra Rosychuk dancing from Sucker Cree First Nation © Celina Vides

Inspiring Learning Through the Arts

The 2021-22 season gave us the opportunity to reimagine what our approach to arts education and learning could be. We designed a multi-modal approach that integrated the curriculum learnings of the students with the artistic process of live performing artists and that of visual and media artists, customized to the needs of each class. Working alongside Arts Commons experts, students had the opportunity to learn from and create directly with the best creators in their fields. Whether learning about the movement of fish through the ocean by becoming a school of fish themselves through guided choreography or building a 15-foot whale to learn how whales catch and consume their food, students are discovering new paths of hands-on, direct learning that go beyond surface level interactions and create a deeper awareness of community and self.

In addition to this exciting new method of student engagement, we've begun a new era of bringing all the resident companies together to create a comprehensive building-wide strategy for arts education. A significant element of our new arts education strategy was the undertaking of a precedent-setting benchmark survey to understand the needs of our

community to help mould the future of learning in the arts in our province. The results will be released in 2023.

Running a classroom out of a multi-disciplinary performing arts centre allows for unique learning experiences directly from stage crew, backstage technicians, local and touring artists as well as working directly with resident companies. One class undertook an in-depth look at how set design and stage rigging can transform a stage into a wintery wonderland using everyday household items. Students took turns cutting small round holes in a fabric sheet, which was then rigged up to two pipes in the Martha Cohen Theatre's fly gallery and filled with shredded paper. Once the sheet was lifted beyond the proscenium, the pipes were manipulated back and forth to cause the paper to fall through the holes. To the overwhelming delight of the students, it became an indoor snowstorm, showcasing the ingenuity of the arts to bring a vision to life.

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Being able to interact with artists is fundamental to our ability to deliver innovative learning opportunities through the arts. In February of 2022, 100 high school jazz students participated in an open rehearsal and Q&A with the musicians of Jazz at Lincoln Center. The thoughtful and



earnest questions from the students demonstrated why these moments are so crucial to setting future professional musicians up for success. Hundreds of students were also welcomed back to

“The impact of going from a TD Incubator artist to an education facilitator has given me the opportunity to experience my art from a different lens. It has taught me to be generous with my art and has brought tremendous growth in my own artistry.”

Priscille Buckahsa, TD Incubator artist

Arts Commons for socially distanced student presentations of National Geographic Live.

Select members of the TD Incubator cohort and RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program were also invited to lead classes and share their experiences as professional artists in the field, energizing students with their passion. In turn, the artists discovered new ways to think about their art from the students and practice skills as teaching artists.

This innovative new strategy for Arts Commons Education resulted in the ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning being booked to capacity. For students and teachers, it was a wonderful and engaging way to return to in-person learning. We look forward to exploring new avenues to increase opportunities for students to engage with the arts at Arts Commons in the future.



- ↑ TD Incubator artist and education facilitator, Priscille Buckahsa © Sam Obadero
- ← Giant puppet whale in the Arts Learning Centre © Kiani Evans
- ↓ Students reacting to the paper drop in the Martha Cohen Theatre © Kiani Evans



“We had an incredibly positive experience. My students are now talking about what they are passionate about and their jobs in the future.”

Teacher, National Geographic Live student presentation attendee

Watch the indoor snowstorm in the Martha Cohen Theatre here



A Path to Reconciliation



Ushering in 2022, Arts Commons has been working with Dr. Reg Crowshoe and Elder Rose Crowshoe on the development of our Reconciliation Strategy. Our greatest learning thus far is that the path to reconciliation is an ongoing journey. For non-Indigenous peoples, the journey towards true reconciliation includes a commitment to learn the diverse Indigenous perspectives on our shared history, to listen to their truths, to honour and respect Indigenous ways, and to support individuals on their healing journeys. As honoured and respected Nitstitapi (Blackfoot) Elder Jackie Bromley said, “Truth-telling must occur before reconciliation can happen.”

Recently becoming members of the Order of Canada for their commitment to preserving Nitstitapi language and culture, the Crowshoes hold great knowledge and are in high demand. As a result, the Crowshoes recommended Mahegun Tails, Inc., an Indigenous,

female-led consulting firm, and an Indigenous circle of Elders, led by Elder Bromley, representing the Treaty 7 Nations in Southern Alberta, as well as one Métis Elder, to guide the process. Through targeted dialogue with Arts Commons staff and each of the resident companies, along with a validation process with the Elders, parallels between Indigenous and non-Indigenous systems, processes and infrastructure are being identified, ultimately informing the larger Reconciliation Strategy.

Arts Commons is a “social business” with the social objective to ensure that we ignite positive change in society by providing equitable access to the transformative power of the arts. The framework by which the Strategy is developed, therefore, considers this important position and approaches the work based on the Indigenous principles of Making Relatives, Ethical Space, and Sanctified Kindness, a reciprocal approach that honors both Western and Indigenous ways of doing and ways of being.

In addition to the development of a Reconciliation Strategy, we are also supporting the Elders Story Project (ESP). The ESP is a project led by the Elders Knowledge Circle Society (EKCS), with Dr. Reg and Elder Rose

Crowshoe as the lead Elders. The EKCS is a group of approximately 30 Indigenous Elders who have come together to bridge the gap in cultural understanding, facilitate reconciliation, and allow the transfer of knowledge to the next generation. Supported by the EKCS’ Western partners: Arts Commons, Calgary Counselling Centre, Calgary Public Library, EY, University of Calgary, and United Way of Canada, the project includes the development of a book, a healing toolkit, and public events. These components will respectfully carry the stories that the Elders share about their experiences during and after their time in residential schools, for Indigenous youth and non-Indigenous peoples to learn from.

Arts Commons is proud to facilitate the story circles by providing a physical and ethical space for the EKCS members to gather, and ultimately host events to facilitate dialogue and learning. We invite you to join us and start your journey toward reconciliation by reading the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Reports, which can be found at nctr.ca.

This work has been made possible by the contributions of Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the Nickle Family Foundation.

Caring for our Home

If you pull back the curtain on the venues of Arts Commons, there’s a network of highly specialized systems that support every part of putting on world class stage productions. From the lighting rigs to the ventilation systems, each plays a key role. This season, we took a careful, tiered approach to address the upkeep of the Jack Singer Concert Hall canopy.



A marvel of engineering, the all-wooden canopy dramatically frames the Jack Singer stage. Weighing over 56 tonnes, it is supported by a series of hydraulic lifts that allow it to raise and lower based on the needs of performers. This canopy is key to maximizing the acoustic potential of the Jack Singer Concert Hall, whether it’s for a single soloist or a wall-rattling rock band. To properly assess the condition of the canopy, our contractors modified the side stage speaker attachment points

to swing so that the canopy could descend to six feet above the Jack Singer stage. From there we were able to do a thorough inspection of the woodwork and connection points to address the safety and condition of this amazing feat of engineering.

In the Martha Cohen and Max Bell Theatres, safety work was undertaken with an overhaul of the aging fire curtain system and its supporting control system in the Martha Cohen, and the replacement of the lighting ladder and railings in the backstage area of Max Bell. Sound and video systems within the Max Bell Theatre also needed attention, with new equipment installed in the back of house, and a new in-venue speaker cluster replacement currently underway. These changes might seem minor, but they make a huge difference when Jacob Marley’s spectral voice booms over the audience, or the infectious beats of a Broadway musical fills the theatre.

To keep our building safe, even changing the motor on a smoke exhaust can be an enormous undertaking. In this case, it included shutting down portions of 9th Avenue to crane lift a replacement motor onto the roof. Starting at 6 p.m. on April 1, 2021, Arts Commons facility

operations staff began the 8-hour process of removing the old motor and installing and testing the new motor. For patrons of the building, it was a change they would never notice, but it makes all the difference in case of a fire.

In the underbelly of our building, our state-of-the-art humidification system, secondary chiller, and electrical system received vital work. The humidification system ensures that there is even humidity throughout our 560,000 square foot building, protecting the sensitive instruments of the Calgary Philharmonic and Calgary Civic Symphony. This humidification system has attracted the attention of other property management companies in the downtown core due to its specialized and efficient technology. These are just a few examples of how we continue to bring the best of theatre to you and ensure that our assets are provided and cared for. These infrastructure projects were supported by the City of Calgary.

← *Event with Indigenous Elders in the Jack Singer Concert Hall*
© Tasha Komery

↶ *Assessing the lowered canopy*
© Rafal Lichman

Creating Connections with our Community

A key component of our work is sharing our resources to create space for community building, conversation, and learning within our building. This season we continued our longstanding relationship with Chantal Chagnon, making complimentary space available for her to hold Indigenous knowledge sharing workshops. These workshops are open to everyone who wishes to experience her teachings. Also making use of complimentary space in our building is Dwight Farahat and Tribe Artist Society, who hold drop-in freestyle rap nights for the benefit of Indigenous youth, supporting connection, community, and encouraging storytelling through art.

Our community extends beyond the boundaries of our city and, in the New Year, we were thrilled to welcome Joel Sartore back to Calgary to share his 10-year personal mission of creating *The Photo Ark*, a photo documentation of every species of animal currently in captivity. Arts Commons provided the vital connection to facilitate Joel travelling to the Calgary Zoo to document three species for his photo project, one of which, the sage grouse, could only be documented here.

Arts Commons also made connections with the wider arts community this year by playing a key role in bringing the Western Arts Alliance (WAA) conference to Calgary. An important industry conference for the performing arts sector, WAA welcomed a total of

“The Tribe Artist Society and Arts Commons have more than just a business partnership, it’s a friendship build on trust and hope for the future. This is the one place in Calgary that Indigenous Hip Hop feels encouraged, trusted, and respected.”

Dwight Farahat, Executive Director, Tribe Artist Society

525 arts professionals from across North America and abroad to our city. The conference showcased Calgary and the work we do at Arts Commons on an international stage, and was an opportunity to share our world-class facilities with hundreds of engaged arts professionals. This event was supported by Canada Council for the Arts.

A centrepiece during the WAA conference was the free outdoor concert series of Squonk: *Hand*

to Hand that welcomed over two thousand members of our community to Olympic Plaza. Celebrating its 30th anniversary, the Pittsburgh-based performance troupe invited audience members to control two giant purple hands, rigged like

sailing ships, as the band played their signature rock music. It was a delightful way to invite all of Calgary to come play with us, as only the performing arts can. This exuberant celebration was made possible by the support of Canadian Heritage through Re-engaging Audiences Fund for Professional Arts Presentation Organizations grant program and the City of Calgary.



↑ National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore documenting the sage grouse © Greg Epton

→ (centre) Children helping with the fog machine at Squonk: *Hand to Hand* © Mike Hopkins

(right) Squonk: *Hand to Hand* band in Olympic Plaza © Mike Hopkins

↓ Audience members taking their turn controlling the purple hands at Squonk: *Hand to Hand* © Mike Hopkins



Looking Forward



Calgary is changing and along with it, Arts Commons. Our organization is boldly moving into the future with Arts Commons Transformation (ACT), Canada's largest arts and culture infrastructure project and a cornerstone of the City of Calgary's downtown revitalization efforts. This past year, the ACT project took several great strides forward, bringing this momentous project, which will dramatically expand our organization's footprint, that much closer to fruition.

In February, we announced ACT's Prime Design Team — an impressive collection of world-renowned experts in architecture and design who bring a rich variety of perspectives and specialties to this high-profile project. Heading up the team is Toronto-based

KPMB, a pedigreed architectural firm with proven expertise in major arts and theatre projects, including Toronto's Massey Hall and the Banff Centre for Arts & Creativity. Working closely with KPMB throughout the design phase is Tawaw Architecture Collective, headed by former Calgarian (and Canada's first female Indigenous architect) Wanda Dalla Costa. Tawaw will ensure Indigenous perspectives are thoughtfully and meaningfully woven into all aspects of the design, strengthening our commitment to Reconciliation and creating inclusive and accessible spaces for all Calgarians. Rounding out the project team are Calgary-based Hindle Architects, and SLA, an internationally renowned nature-based design studio out of Denmark which will work to

integrate our building's footprint with the surrounding outdoor spaces, creating a vibrant and welcoming space for connection and community in our downtown core.

Building on the momentum and enthusiasm for the project displayed by our government partners, the expansion phase of ACT is fully funded and we are preparing to roll out an innovative capital campaign to mobilize the support of the Calgary community and spread the message of visionary change in our city.

Guiding our efforts to catalyze support for ACT is KCI, Canada's leading fundraising consultants. KCI has worked closely with us to identify strategic fundraising targets and

ready our organization for an ambitious, multi-year capital campaign that will fund the modernization of our existing campus and establish a \$50 million endowment that will enable Arts Commons to continue its trajectory of financial sustainability.

A vital part of our capital campaign is community outreach and, after an RFP process that saw several top-line creative agencies compete to work with Arts Commons, Daughter Creative was chosen to develop the brand strategy for the capital campaign. A female-led, Calgary-based firm, Daughter brings a wealth of talent to the project and has led innovative campaigns for Bow Valley College, United Way, and Alberta Cancer Foundation. They continue

their daring and courageous work on ACT. Over the past several months, we have been working closely with Daughter to share our inspiring vision and we look forward to launching a fundraising campaign that will generate enthusiasm for a reimagined Arts Commons among the general public.

Daughter is just one of the many exciting partners we have brought on board to support ACT this past year. In September, EllisDon was selected to be the construction manager on ACT. A leader in large-scale construction for more than 70 years, EllisDon has a vast and impressive portfolio of projects across Canada and beyond, including the National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa and the

recently completed Massey Hall in Toronto. EllisDon will work closely with ACT's prime design team to bring the project to life.

As we close out the year, we look forward to seeing the ACT project begin to take shape in a very real, very monumental way. With the designs for Arts Commons Transformation almost finalized, we are that much closer to making this new vision for the arts a reality.



← (left) Jack Singer Concert Hall © Alex Bonyun
(right) Travis Perry (EllisDon), Kate Thompson (CMLC), Alex Sarian (Arts Commons)



Reigniting our Business

The 2021-22 season saw a return to live performance, allowing us to reenergize the revenue side of our business at Arts Commons. The period of building closure in the previous fiscal year gave us the time to rethink many of the ways that we welcome our community and presenting partners into the building and strategize about how we could approach those relationships differently. As we reopened bookings of our venues, we actively fostered new relationships with communities who hadn't had a strong presence in the building in the past. This directly resulted in sold-out performances from Punjabi musicians Nimrat Khaira & Arjan Dhillon in April, Pakistani performers Atif Aslam & Farhad Darya, and Punjabi Bollywood performer Neha Kakkar in July, all in the Jack Singer Concert Hall. We watched countless graduates from local post secondary schools take their next steps across our stage at more than 10 convocation ceremonies and engaged our Canon equipment to allow friends and family members of those graduates to watch their big moment from anywhere in the world. These performances and events, along with parody performer Weird Al and comedian Chelsea Handler culminated in the busiest spring/summer season ever seen at Arts Commons.

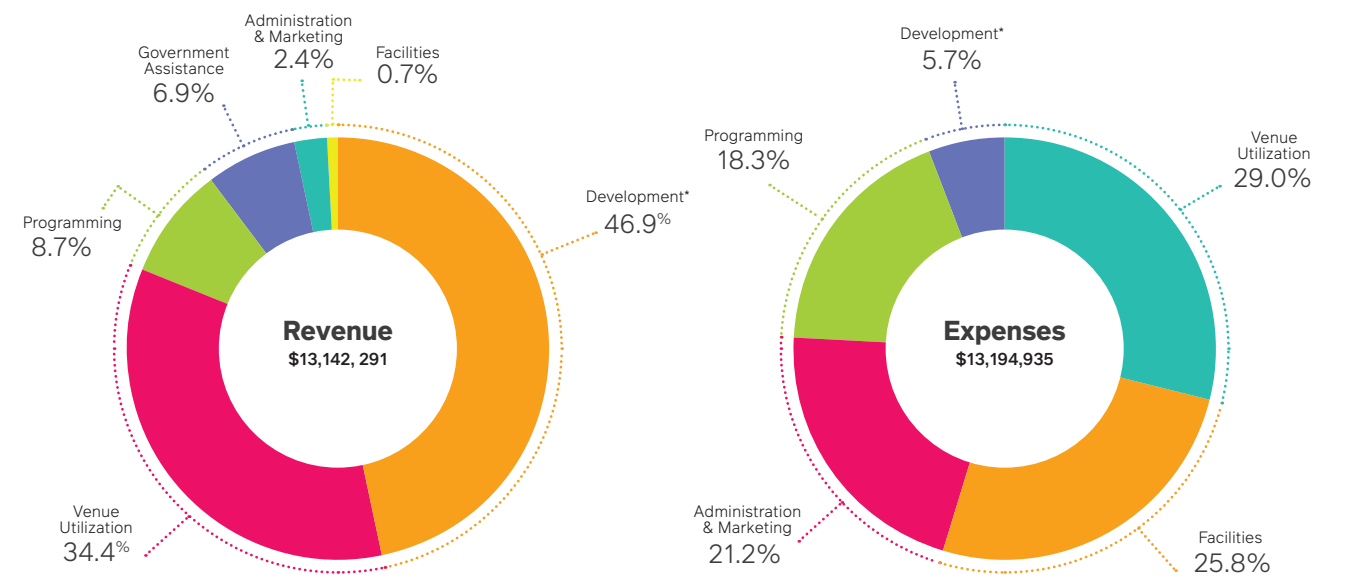
In total, 78 dates were booked between March 1st and August 31st in the Jack Singer Concert Hall which contributed greatly to in our earned revenue recovery with venue utilization revenues up 180% over last year. We were able to accomplish this record-breaking late season return because of the time and work invested in building trust with our rental clients and with the members of our Calgary community.

These performances and events, along with parody performer Weird Al and comedian Chelsea Handler culminated in the busiest spring/summer season ever seen at Arts Commons.

The COVID-19 pandemic drastically effected our organization's ability to maintain our revenue streams. Pre-pandemic, our ratio of earned to contributed revenues averaged 65% (earned) versus 35% (contributed) split. In our 2020-21 season that ratio reversed with earned revenues of 37% and contributed accounting for 63% of revenue. As we've continued along the path to recovery through the 2021-22 season, we have moved to a 50/50 split. The support of all three levels of government continued to be vital during this rebuilding

period, allowing us to retain staff and cover operating expenses. This includes Canadian Heritage, Infrastructure Canada, Alberta Foundation for the Arts through the Arts Organizations Operational Grant Program, the City of Calgary, and the Canadian Association for the Performing Arts. Additionally, during this fiscal period, \$798,450 was received from the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program ("THRP") and \$105,094 was received from the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy ("CEWS"). This amount has been included in "Government Assistance" in the statement of operations and changes in fund balances.

As part of this recovery, we were also able to grow our team with the support of Service Canada's Canada Summer Jobs, Cultural Human Resources Council's Student Work Placement Program, and from Alberta Labour, Canada-Alberta Job Grant Program.



* includes Gift and Services in kind



Arts Commons is the steward of one of Canada's largest arts centres, and the artistic and civic cornerstone of Calgary's downtown core, comprised of six world-class resident companies. The organization's strategic priorities include supporting the artists and arts organizations that call Arts Commons home, including the more than 200 community groups that utilize our facilities, to realize their missions, and to foster opportunities for collaboration across our cultural campus. By championing inclusion and reconciliation, and increasing the accessibility and reach of the arts in Calgary, we are reimagining the performing arts and ensuring their rightful place at the centre of civic life.

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the following corporations, foundations and government agencies that provided the support that made it possible for Arts Commons to contribute to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of our community.

Public Sector Support

Canada

- Canada Revenue Agency
 - Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy
 - Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program
- Canadian Heritage
 - Canada Arts Presentation Fund
 - Recovery Funding for Professional Arts Presentation Organizations
 - Re-engaging Audiences Fund for Professional Arts Organizations
 - Support for Workers in Live Arts and Music Fund
- Employment and Social Development Canada
 - Canada Summer Jobs 2022
- Infrastructure Canada
 - Canada Healthy Communities Initiative
- Prairies Economic Development Canada
 - Canada Community Revitalization Fund



- Arts Abroad
 - Representation and Promotion
- Strategic Funds and Initiatives
 - Digital Now
 - Grow-Stage 1



- Culture
 - Alberta Culture Days
 - Stabilize Program, Phase 1 & 2
- Jobs, Economy and Northern Development
 - Alberta Jobs Now



- Community Support Organizations Operating Funding
- Organization Activation Project Funding



- Community Services
 - Civic Partners Infrastructure Grant Program
 - Civic Partners Operating Grant Program
 - Emergency Resiliency Fund, Phase 2
 - Festivals and Events Subsidy Program

Corporate Sponsors and Foundation Partners

 Supporting Sponsor, BD&P World Stage and TD Jazz	 Title Sponsor, BD&P World Stage	 Sponsor, Thermal Energy Solution	 Gifts from the Arts Commons Endowment Fund & Calgary International Children's Festival Fund Pandemic Recovery Program - Phase 3 - Resistance	 Presenting Sponsor, National Geographic Live Naming Sponsor, ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning	 Student Engagement Sponsor, National Geographic Live
 Student Engagement Sponsor, National Geographic Live	 Reconciliation Strategy Initiative	 Title Sponsor, PCL Blues	 Naming Partner, RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program	 Aspiration Grant Broadcast System Training	 Sponsor, EXPLORE National Geographic, National Geographic Live
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Corporate Sponsors and Foundation Partners cont'd

- Anonymous Fund at Calgary Foundation
- Cultural and Human Resources Council
 - Student Work Program Placement
- Dinner Optimist Club of Calgary
 - ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning
- Downtown Calgary Association
 - Downtown Activation Grant
- Harry & Martha Cohen Foundation
 - ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning
- J.E. Hodgson Family Fund at Calgary Foundation
 - Accessibility Enhancement Project
- Marilyn & Hank Brown Family Fund at Calgary Foundation
 - Accessibility Enhancement Project
- Norreen Baker Fund at Calgary Foundation
 - ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning
- SOCAN Foundation
 - ArtsXpeditions

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 - Media Sponsor
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 - Sponsor, VIP Receptions
 - BD&P World Stage

ACT Capital Campaign

Great cities invest in their futures. The Arts Commons Transformation (ACT) project represents the largest investment in any arts centre in the country – a testament to Calgary’s commitment to the arts and its appreciation of their transformative, city-building power.

We are grateful to the following for their support of ACT that will give Calgary an extraordinary campus that reflects the diverse perspectives of its citizens and makes the arts available, accessible, and relevant to all.

Leadership Gifts

James & Janice Morton
David & Betty Smith

Major Gifts

Bryan & Jana de Lottinville
David & Roxanne Dunlop
Brian & Stephanie Felesky
J.A. Stuart & Vicki Reid

Ragtime: A Concert Performance a Co-production by Arts Commons, Calgary Philharmonic & Theatre Calgary

Based on E.L. Doctorow’s historical fiction novel of the same name, the musical *Ragtime* delves into ever-present issues of systemic racism, classism, and political upheaval that are no less relevant today than when the book was published in the mid-70s.

We wish to express our gratitude to the following for their generosity that made it possible to undertake the world premiere of the Boston Pops orchestration of *Ragtime: A Concert Performance* that has been written specifically for concert performance.

Corporate Sponsors



Community Engagement Sponsor



Community Engagement Sponsor



Community Engagement Sponsor



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Public Sector Support



Explore & Create
Concept to Realization



Community Initiatives Program



Arts & Culture Department
Downtown Strategy

Ragtime Devotees

Joy Alford & Dan Magyar
PCL Construction Inc.
Craig & Cara Senyk

Ragtime Supporters

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Steinway & Sons Concert Grand Piano D-274 Campaign

This majestic musical instrument — the pinnacle of concert grands — is the overwhelming choice of the world’s greatest pianists. From Carnegie Hall to the Elbe Philharmonic Hall, this concert grand is the flagship of Steinway & Sons and the magnificent centrepiece on major international stages.

We wish to express our gratitude to the following for their generosity that made it possible to acquire Steinway’s D-274 Concert Grand for the renowned Arts Commons Jack Singer Concert Hall.

Anonymous (1)
Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra Foundation
Judith Kilbourne
Nick Kuzyk & Lori Cutler
James & Janice Morton
David & Betty Smith



↑ Tuning the newly delivered Steinway piano © Will Young

← Opening night of *Ragtime: A Concert Performance* © Will Young



Arts Commons
**FOUNDERS
CIRCLE**

Our community helps us create a home where audiences, artists, and organizations can experience excellence on stage and behind the scenes: in our many programs for children, teachers, and aspiring artists; for the companies who call Arts Commons home; and to the hundreds of community-based organizations that depend on our support and facilities.

We are grateful to the following members of Founders Circle that support our mission and our collective success, making world-class arts and culture experiences accessible to all Calgarians.

**HONOURARY
MEMBERS**

Dr. Martha Cohen,
C.M., LL.D.
(in memoriam)
Sandra LeBlanc
Vera Swanson, O.C.
(in memoriam)

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& Tim Huxley
Jonathan Hyatt



Maureen Williams and Sydney Fielding at the Founder Circle Dinner © Will Young

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Jan Armstrong
Edgardo Arvelaez
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Katherine
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Mary McGurran
Shirley McIntyre
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Fay Milk
Colleen Miller



Founders Circle Members Mike and Mireille Robinson with their daughter at a Founders Circle Event © Will Young

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Jennifer Mork
Boyd Musgrove
Richard Musto
Peter Neiland
Shaheen Nenshi
Nathoo
Martha Nystrom
Julie O'Bray
Kevin Palmer
Sarah Palmer
Ron Patterson
Jennifer Pon
Tracey Prevost
Sheri Raves
Marcie Rawson
Chris Reid
Anthony Reimer
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