

Arts Commons

P R E S E N T S

#1

2019-20



Survivor, songwriter, and superstar: Charles Aznavour *p.7* / Improvisation and jazz *p.13*

A powerful tale – told one track at a time *p.28* / Meet Zimbabwe's only female ranger unit *p.33*



Why ACT NOW?

Arts and culture facilities are essential for a vibrant city. They enable activities that reflect our unique identities and provide a place for boundless creativity. They act as a catalyst for a diverse economy, providing jobs, attracting talent, and building community.

Arts Commons has served Calgary in this way for almost 35 years. Today, however, the facility is aging and we do not have sufficient space to serve the needs of our community.

The **Arts Commons Transformation (ACT)** project was conceived in collaboration with key stakeholders and The City of Calgary, to ensure

Arts Commons remains financially sustainable and is able to play a pivotal role in the realization of a dynamic cultural and entertainment district.

Funding commitments from all three levels of government is needed to trigger construction of Phase One.

Phase One is the construction of an adjoining new building with new venues necessary to meet growing market demand and community aspirations.

Phase Two is the revitalization of the existing facility that will address \$71M in lifecycle challenges, and elevate the public's experience through upgraded amenities and technology.

NOW is the time to invest in ACT to serve the needs of our growing and changing community.

Why does it matter to you? Because YOU are our community. And YOU matter to us!



“ *The quality of a community's cultural infrastructure has a direct impact on quality of life and therefore on the competitiveness of communities in attracting people and investment.* ”

CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHIEF EXECUTIVES



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2019-20 SEASON AT A GLANCE



2020



Arts Commons
Presents



SEPT

BD&P WORLD STAGE
**Rosanne Cash:
She Remembers
Everything**
Sept 26, 2019

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
**Itty Bitty Arts
Days: An Alice
in Wonderland
Tea Party**
Sept 27 & 28, 2019

OCT

PCL BLUES
Jontavious Willis
Oct 4 & 5, 2019

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
**Damien Mander
& Vimbai Kumire:
Akashinga –
The Brave Ones**
Oct 20 & 21, 2019

BD&P WORLD STAGE
**Flamenco Legends:
The Paco de Lucia
Project**
Oct 30, 2019

NOV

PCL BLUES
Maria Muldaur
Nov 1 & 2, 2019

CABARET
**Tim Tamashiro's
Drinky Jazz Cabaret:
Nat the Cat**
Nov 8 & 9, 2019

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
**FastLove: A Tribute
to George Michael**
Nov 12, 2019

TD JAZZ
**Joshua Redman
Quartet**
Nov 19, 2019

BD&P WORLD STAGE
**Formidable!
Aznavour: The Story
of a Legend**
Nov 27, 2019

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE
Pink Floyd – The Wall
Nov 28, 2019

CABARET
**Floppy Glamour:
It's Better Not
To Ask Questions
Cabaret**
Nov 22 & 23, 2019

DEC

PCL BLUES
**Alvin
"Youngblood" Hart**
Dec 6 & 7, 2019



JAN

PCL BLUES
Todd Albright
Jan 17 & 18, 2020

BD&P WORLD STAGE
**Cirque Flip Fabrique:
BLIZZARD**
Jan 21, 2020

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
**Zoltan Takacs:
Deadliest Lifesavers**
Jan 26 & 27, 2020

FEB

TD JAZZ
The Hot Sardines
Feb 7, 2020

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE
**Tom Petty – Damn
the Torpedoes**
Feb 20, 2020

CABARET
We Gon Be Alright
Feb 21 & 22, 2020

BD&P WORLD STAGE
**We Shall Overcome:
A Celebration of Dr.
Martin Luther King Jr.**
Feb 27, 2020

PCL BLUES
**Delvon Lamarr
Organ Trio**
Feb 28 & 29, 2020

MAY

CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE
**The Beatles – Sgt.
Pepper's Lonely
Hearts Club Band**
May 1, 2020

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
**Kara Cooney:
When Women
Ruled the World**
May 3 & 4, 2020

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
**Itty Bitty Arts Days:
Alberta, The Land and
The Animals**
May 22 & 23, 2020

MAR

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE
**Joel Sartore:
Building the
Photo Ark**
Mar 15 & 16, 2020

TD JAZZ
Jazzmeia Horn
Mar 26, 2020

CABARET
Love Notes
Mar 27 & 28, 2020

JUN

CABARET
**Tim Tamashiro's
Drinky Jazz Cabaret:
Ladies Be Good**
June 5 & 6, 2020

CABARET
**Sissy Fit:
A Queer Cabaret**
June 24 & 25, 2020

APR

BD&P WORLD STAGE
La Santa Cecilia
Apr 2, 2020

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
Pink Martini
Apr 16, 2020

CABARET
**Tim Tamashiro's
Drinky Jazz Cabaret:
Jazz Cigarette**
Apr 17 & 18, 2020

TD JAZZ
**Maria Schneider
Orchestra**
Apr 23, 2020

PCL BLUES
**Tim Williams,
Madagascar Slim,
and Cassius Khan:
Conversations
in Blue**
Apr 24 & 25, 2020



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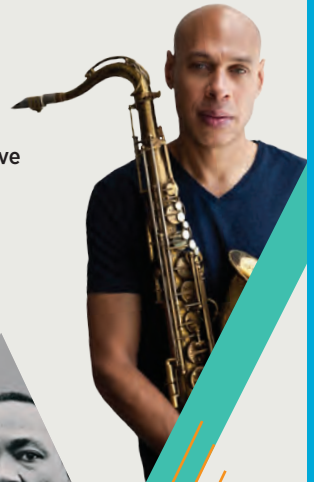
All speakers, artists, dates, and programs subject to change.



ON THE STAGE

OUR COMMUNITY

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On the cover: The world's favourite George Michael tribute show celebrates one of the greatest musicians of all time, from *Careless Whisper* to *Faith*. **Learn more on pg.3**

Arts Commons
Presents



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 **BY PHONE:**
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 **ONLINE:**
artscommons.ca

 **IN PERSON AT
OUR BOX OFFICE:**
225 8th Avenue SE
Mon-Sat: 10am-6pm
**Sun & Statutory
Holidays: Closed**

WELCOME

Arts Commons
Presents



We can't wait to get started!

Collaboration fosters deeper connections, and our new season at Arts Commons is all about finding new and exciting artists to work with.

This year, our BD&P World Music series turns 20 and undergoes an exciting evolution to become BD&P World Stage. This means a wider variety of performances, filled with legends, rebels, and acrobatics. There will still be world-class music acts, like GRAMMY-winners Rosanne Cash and the eclectic La Santa Cecilia, but we diversify the stage to include a circus performance from Cirque Flip Fabrique, a multimedia celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the rise of France's legendary Charles Aznavour.

In the past few decades, Calgary has grown into a rich mosaic of communities, and each of our series strives to reflect the people of our city. From the soul-stirring rhythm of Latin GRAMMY-winning flamenco, and the electrifying power of Martin Luther King, Jr., to our new Amplify Cabarets that focus on inclusivity and diversity through artistic expression, comedy, and commentary. Our Classic

Albums Live series gives fans of Pink Floyd, Tom Petty, and The Beatles the chance to wax nostalgic, and young adventurers can find awe-inspiring female role models with *National Geographic Live*. This season, you can experience one of Calgary's most acclaimed home-grown talents with Tim Williams' *Conversations in Blue*, or just cut loose and party with The Hot Sardines in our TD Jazz lineup.

But honestly, you don't need a ticket to see something extraordinary at Arts Commons. After a successful pilot year, we're excited to kick off the RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program at Arts Commons, which will elevate local artists through mentorship, workshops, and public exhibitions in our galleries. They're bolstered by national and international artists showcased in our +15 Soundscape and Broadcast Lab galleries. This year we'll support more than 75 artists in our spaces - all paid for their work and time.

Our vision for a creative and compassionate society, inspired through the arts, carries over into our community engagement programs and education initiatives,

which fill our theaters and hallways year-round, engaging more than 10,000 students and teachers, hundreds of local performers, and thousands of audience members at free events.

And there will be more room to grow! We're now moving forward with the Arts Commons Transformation project (ACT), which will see the construction of the Road House - increasing the number of venues and spaces available - and revitalizing the current building.

Arts Commons continues to tell the stories of our community members. There is an appetite in this city to explore the world around us, and in the process, form unbreakable connections between Calgarians - through multiple art forms.

We can't wait to share another season in your company!

Jennifer Johnson,
Director, Programming

2019-20 SEASON



PRESENTING SPONSOR ConocoPhillips Canada



What will show up in your feed this year?



SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

“

YOU WILL BE FORGIVEN FOR ABSOLUTELY LOSING YOURSELF IN THIS SHOW.

~Ipswich Star

FastLove: A Tribute to George Michael

TUES, NOVEMBER 12, 2019

Experience the show-stopping extravaganza that is global superstar George Michael.

Direct from London's West End, this tribute show features all the hits from Wham! and his solo career, including *Careless Whisper*, *Faith*, *Father Figure*, and many more.

Accompanied by a complete band, this show embodies the iconic looks and sounds of George Michael for an unforgettable evening.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/FASTLOVE

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/PINKMARTINI



4 | PINK MARTINI

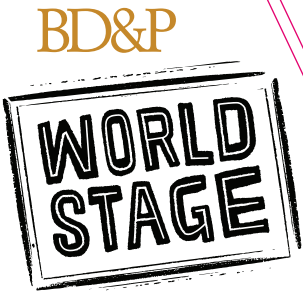
Pink Martini

THURS, APRIL 16, 2020

The United Nations of bands, Pink Martini features a dozen musicians with songs in 25 languages. Lauded and applauded worldwide, they draw inspiration from Latin music, jazz, cabaret, and even cinema scores for a sound that defies categorization, but is sure to get you moving.

Celebrate 25 years of the band's most popular hits on a musical trip around the world – from the comfort of your seat in the Jack Singer Concert Hall.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39



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Rosanne Cash: She Remembers Everything

THURS, SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

The winner of four GRAMMY Awards and the eldest daughter of legendary musician Johnny Cash, Rosanne Cash examines the effects of a lifetime of choices in her latest project, *She Remembers Everything*. Cash has been hailed as one of America's preeminent singer-songwriters, channeling personal experiences into her deep, impactful lyrics, and soulful sound.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall / Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$49**

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/WORLD



WHO KNOWS WHO SHE USED TO BE BEFORE IT ALL WENT DARK? WAS SHE LIKE A STREAK OF FIRE, A PANE OF GLASS, A BEATING HEART?

~Rosanne Cash

Rosanne Cash breaks down the lyrics of the title song on her most recent album

"These lyrics from She Remembers Everything are the short and poetic version of a subject I've thought a lot about lately – who we all were before any damage was done. How powerful were our dreams, how potent our instincts, how fierce our passions, and how confident we must have been in our missions. I think we are all in the business of recovering that power and following those instincts. Music offers signposts and clears our path forward. I'm excited to see what the next bend in the path reveals."



Flamenco Legends: The Paco de Lucía Project

WED, OCTOBER 30, 2019

The band's getting back together! Ten-time Latin GRAMMY winner Javier Limón has reassembled the original musicians that toured with legendary flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucía during the last 10 years of his career. They reunite for a show that celebrates de Lucía's immense skills, while forging a new path in the future of flamenco.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39



Formidable! Aznavour: The Story of a Legend

WED, NOVEMBER 27, 2019

Travel back to Bohemian-era France and discover the roots of the incredible Charles Aznavour! Known as France's Frank Sinatra, Aznavour's career spanned 70 years and more than 1,000 songs, earning him accolades like CNN's Entertainer of the Century and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Brought to you by the same team behind *Piaf! The Show*, including musical director Jules Grison, this powerful celebration immortalizes the toe-tapping tenor's career in a multimedia production of images, video, and original staging. Aznavour even gave the production his personal blessing before his passing in 2018. Discover the roots of his greatest songs, which have become an integral part of the world's musical heritage.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/WORLD

Did you know?

1. Charles Aznavour and his family sheltered Jewish refugees in their small apartment in France during the Second World War.
2. Edith Piaf became his Godmother and helped guide his career after hearing him sing.
3. He broke taboos by writing narratives in his songs about homosexuality, depression, and sex. His song *Après l'Amour*, about a couple lying in bed after making love, was considered so racy it was banned from French radio for more than a decade.

Cirque Flip Fabrique: BLIZZARD

TUES, JANUARY 21, 2020

Cirque Flip Fabrique was founded by a group of friends in Quebec at the peak of their circus game, and that friendship shows in every facet of the show. Using high-flying acrobatics, a gorgeous snowy set, and a sprinkling of humour, this tight-knit group must survive a winter storm using their unique skills and specialities.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39



We Shall Overcome:

A Celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

THURS, FEBRUARY 27, 2020

The words and actions of Dr. King continue to electrify generations of civil rights activists and defenders. Musical Director Damien Sneed, known for his work with Aretha Franklin, bottles that energy, and unleashes it on-stage through a living lineage of music and culture, including gospel, jazz, and Broadway. Songs from storied artists like Billie Holiday, Stevie Wonder, and Nina Simone are interwoven with spoken word from Dr. King's recorded speeches.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm
/ Concert 7:30pm
Tickets starting at \$39



**HATE CANNOT
DRIVE OUT HATE;
ONLY LOVE CAN
DO THAT.**

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/WORLD

La Santa Cecilia

THURS, APRIL 2, 2020

A modern-day hybrid of Latin culture, rock, and world music, La Santa Cecilia draws inspiration from all over the world, including jazz, tango, bossa-nova, and klezmer music. Leaning into their Latin American and Mexican heritage, the group won a GRAMMY for Best Latin Rock Album in 2014 and have earned nominations for their last two albums.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets starting at \$39



Experience something new this season!

Arts Commons
**FOUNDERS
CIRCLE**

Becoming a member of Founders Circle is one of the most rewarding ways to support Arts Commons.

Arts Commons is more than just a building! It's an inspirational gathering place where creativity is expressed daily in immersive and engaging ways. This includes Arts Commons Presents: BD&P World Stage, PCL Blues, TD Jazz, Classic Albums Live, and the distinguished speaker series *National Geographic Live*, among other special presentations.

By becoming a member of Founders Circle, you help to grow our ability to share the transformative power of the arts with many more in our community. You also enhance your own experience by participating in unique and exceptional opportunities that bring you closer to the creative people who make it all happen through a series of exclusive Founders Circle Events.



**[FOUNDERS CIRCLE
ALLOWS ME] TO BE
PART OF A 'FAMILY' OF
LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE
PASSIONATE ABOUT
THE ARTS.**

~Bob & Sue Benzen,
Founders –Platinum Tier

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**BEING A MEMBER
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SPIRIT AND SUPPORT
OF THE INTEGRAL
ARTS COMMUNITY.**

~Darrel Winter,
Founder–Friend



Ticket sales, venue rentals and other income only cover 65% of Arts Commons' annual 12 million dollar operating budget, leaving a 4.2 million dollar fundraising gap. By joining Founders Circle, you help us deliver excellence on stage and behind the scenes: in our many programs for children, teachers and aspiring artists, for resident companies and under-served communities. Your gifts of membership are vital to our mission and collective success, making world-class arts and culture experiences accessible to all Calgarians!



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Joshua Redman Quartet

TUES, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

Saxophonist Joshua Redman is the kind of musical explorer who strikes an elegant balance between pragmatism and possibility. Adept at writing both lyrically and rhythmically, Redman and his bandmates are also seasoned improvisers, resulting in a jazz show the flirts between the familiar and the sensational. Critics and fans have been blown away by his passionate live performances, dubbing Redman as one of the most charismatic artists of our time.

The GRAMMY-nominated Redman performs with his long-time friends and colleagues pianist Aaron Goldberg, bassist Reuben Rogers, and drummer Gregory Hutchinson. Their newest album, *Come What May*, released in 2019, is the quartet's first recording in almost two decades.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/JAZZ



OLD-TIME JAZZ WITH NEW-TIME ENERGY AND STYLE... MAGIC ON STAGE.

~WFUV



The Hot Sardines

FRI, FEBRUARY 7, 2020

Hungry? Fueled by the belief that classic jazz feeds the heart and soul, The Hot Sardines have become the charming front-runners of vintage jazz. With album names like *French Fries* and *Champagne*, they combine covers and originals to effortlessly channel New York speakeasies, Parisian cabarets, and New Orleans jazz halls.

They're not performing museum pieces - The Hot Sardines are here to party.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39

Jazzmeia Horn

THURS, MARCH 26, 2020

A shooting star in the jazz world, Horn spent the last few years earning jazz vocalist awards left, right, and centre.

Maybe you picked up her GRAMMY-nominated 2018 album *A Social Call*, or caught her fluid vocals and sensational scat-singing at the 60th GRAMMY Awards Ceremony – or maybe you’ll be hearing her for the first time when she performs at the Jack Singer Concert Hall, in which case, *lucky you!*

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm
/ Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39

Maria Schneider Orchestra

THURS, APRIL 23, 2020

Maria Schneider is among the small club of musicians to win GRAMMY Awards in multiple genres, including jazz and classical, as well as for her work with David Bowie.

Her music is described as evocative, majestic, magical, heart-stoppingly gorgeous, and beyond categorization. The 18 members of the Maria Schneider Orchestra will fill every corner, crevice, and eardrum in the Jack Singer Concert Hall with a fearless sound.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Lobby pre-show 6:30pm / Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39



MARIA SCHNEIDER IS A NATIONAL TREASURE.

~NPR

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/JAZZ

ARTS COMMONS PRESENTS | 15

Arts Commons would like to thank Ca’Puccini Theatre Café for 5 tasty years!

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www.keyera.com



E = enjoying the ride.

We didn't convince your best friend to go on an adventure. Or cross something off your bucket list. But we did fuel the road trip that reminded you that you're only as old as you feel. When the energy you invest in life meets the energy we fuel it with, exhilarating moments happen.



Investing in our communities

Repsol is a proud sponsor of Arts Commons' National Geographic Live educational program.



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC **LIVE!**

©Terry Virts

REPSOL

CABARETS

Tim Tamashiro's Drinky Jazz Cabarets

Tim Tamashiro is a Calgary jazz community staple. For more than a decade, he was the host of Tonic on CBC Radio 2, where he loved to discover and support Canadian jazz talent. He's also performed with many of the artists he supported in cities and towns across Canada, often telling stories in-between songs.

This season Tim Tamashiro puts the spotlight on the stories with three shows inside the intimate Engineered Air Theatre. Accompanied by special guests and a live band, pull up a seat for some deep dives into a few legends of jazz.

Tim Tamashiro's Drinky Jazz Cabaret: Nat the Cat
FRI/SAT, NOVEMBER 8 & 9, 2019

Nat King Cole met more than his fair share of career challenges and racism. Yet, he remained one of the most thoughtful and gracious entertainers in history. Known for hits like *Unforgettable*, *When I Fall in Love*, *Mona Lisa*, and *Stardust*, Cole's cool and classy hits are treasures of his time. Join Tim Tamashiro as he recounts the stories and songs of Nat The Cat's nine lives.

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre
/ Doors 6:30pm / Concert 8pm
Tickets start at \$39

Also coming up this season!

Tim Tamashiro's Drinky Jazz Cabaret: Jazz Cigarette
FRI/SAT, APRIL 17 & 18, 2020

Tim Tamashiro's Drinky Jazz Cabaret: Ladies Be Good
FRI/SAT, JUNE 5 & 6, 2020



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M05622

SPECIAL
PRESENTATIONS

Itty Bitty Arts Days: An Alice in Wonderland Tea Party

FRI/SAT, SEPTEMBER 27 & 28, 2019

Travel down the rabbit hole and join us for *Itty Bitty Arts Days: An Alice in Wonderland Tea Party*! This tea time adventure brings Wonderland to the Engineered Air Theatre for a wonderfully captivating experience designed for the very young. This fun and interactive event is a chance for babies, toddlers, young children, and their grown-ups to explore an immersive wonderland forest environment complete with theatre, music, dance, and art activities. *Itty Bitty Arts Days: An Alice in Wonderland Tea Party* provides everything you need to play, learn, and explore together, and it's all hosted by Alice's friends and us here at Arts Commons too!

There are two chances each day to take part in *Itty Bitty Arts Days*:

Morning Tea Party:

9:30am: Doors open and crafts begin.
10:15 – 11:30am: Interactive workshops and performances.

Afternoon Tea Party:

1:30pm: Doors open and crafts begin.
2:15 – 3:30pm: Interactive workshops and performances.



Families are welcome to arrive anytime during their tea time and take breaks in the family lounge as needed during the party. You can enter and exit as many times as you like during the event. Oh, and free valet stroller parking is available when you arrive.

Also coming up: the next *Itty Bitty Arts Days (Alberta, The Land and The Animals)* runs May 22 & 23, 2020.

**Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre
Tickets are \$15, 18 months and under are free***
(*Ticket still required for entry, get yours at artscommons.ca/teaparty)





BLUES

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Jontavious Willis

FRI/SAT, OCTOBER 4 & 5, 2019

Imbued with a soul-stirring stage presence beyond his years, 22 year-old Jontavious Willis has been hailed as a modern Wunderkind and a true blues prodigy. The young Georgian has been taken under the wing of blues greats like Taj Mahal and Keb' Mo', playing main stages across North America – when he's not in class at Columbus State University, that is.

Willis grew up singing gospel music with his grandfather, until he came across a Youtube clip of Muddy Waters playing *Hoochie Coochie Man* and immediately fell in love with the blues. He taught himself guitar, harmonica, and banjo – and was playing on Taj Mahal's stage by the age of 18.

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre
/ Concert 8pm
Tickets start at \$46

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/BLUES

Blues legend Taj Mahal on Jontavious Willis

"Upon first seeing and hearing Jontavious Willis via video, I was struck with his naturalness and ease at which this 18 year-old, now 22, carried himself and delivered the goods!"

He represented a new group of young blues enthusiasts who are educated, creative, and internet savvy players coming straight out of the DNA of Southern culture.

One of the most endearing things Jontavious has is his ability to connect with whatever audience he is placed to perform in front of.

Instead of 'knockin em' dead,' he 'knocks em' alive!"



Maria Muldaur

FRI/SAT, NOVEMBER 1 & 2, 2019

A prolific singer-songwriter, Maria Muldaur has released more than 40 albums over her 50 year career.

Best known for her world-wide 1974 hit *Midnight at the Oasis*, Muldaur has netted seven GRAMMY nominations for her work in the genre, including a 2019 nod for her album *Don't You Feel My Leg* (The Naughty Bawdy Blues of Blue Lu Barker).

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre / Concert 8pm
Tickets start at \$46



Alvin "Youngblood" Hart

FRI/SAT, DECEMBER 6 & 7, 2019

A real musician's musician, the country blues of Alvin 'Youngblood' Hart has been praised by luminaries like Bob Dylan and Eric Clapton. Hart has released five diverse albums and a treasure trove of side projects, becoming known for his 'no barriers' approach to music.

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre / Concert 8pm
Tickets start at \$46



UNQUESTIONABLY, ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING AND IMPORTANT PRACTITIONERS OF THE COUNTRY BLUES.

~The Country Blues



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/BLUES



Todd Albright

FRI/SAT, JANUARY 17 & 18, 2020

Grounded in the pre-war era of blues, Todd Albright picks his twelve-string guitar in the tradition of those who created the genre. Between vigorous and gritty sets, he often takes a breath to tell stories of the masters, adding to the meaning of the music and the moment.

With a 25-year history of playing the blues, Albright is a key part of the history his music evokes.

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre / Concert 8pm
Tickets start at \$46

Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio

FRI/SAT, FEBRUARY 28 & 29, 2020

With an infectious blend of soul, jazz, and rhythm & blues, the Delvon Lamarr Organ Trio oozes chemistry on stage. The Seattle based trio – Lamarr on B-3 organ, Jimmy James on guitar, and Doug Octa Port on drums – evoke a classic instrumental sound with a sensibility all their own.

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre
/ Concert 8pm
Tickets start at \$46



GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/BLUES

Tim Williams, Madagascar Slim, and Cassius Khan: Conversations in Blue

FRI/SAT, APRIL 24 & 25, 2020

Calgary's own local blues legend, Tim Williams is a 40-year veteran of the roots music scene across North America. Williams has played festivals, folk clubs, concert halls, and roadhouses from Morocco to Australia, and through the Yukon and Mexico.

The hometown hero has been inducted to the Hall of Fame by the Calgary Blues Music Association, won the 2017 YYC Music Award for Blues Recording of the Year, and earned five Betty Mitchell Awards for composition and musical direction in theatre.

He's also won the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, and earned a string of Maple Blues Award nominations.

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre
/ Concert 8pm
Tickets start at \$46



The Conversation

Arts Commons approached Williams and asked, in his decades of performing, what's the one show he really wants to do, but hasn't had the chance to yet?

Williams answered with Conversations in Blue, a once-in-a-lifetime discussion and musical performance featuring two of Williams' favourite artists: Three-time JUNO Award winner and African guitar player Madagascar Slim, and the first Indian classical musician to play at SXSW, tabla wizard Cassius Khan. This truly unique show won't be seen anywhere else!



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MEMORIES FLOOD YOUR HEAD FROM BACK IN THE DAY WHEN YOU FIRST LISTENED TO THESE GREAT ALBUMS.

Pink Floyd -The Wall

THURS, NOVEMBER 28, 2019

One of the most celebrated concept albums of all time, Pink Floyd's The Wall plays out like a rock opera.

The whole album actually tells a powerful story when heard from front to back. It follows the rise, fall, isolation, and eventually redemption of a rocker named Pink. With 26 tracks spread over two discs, Pink Floyd built a rock opera both epic and intimate.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall / Concert 7:30pm / Tickets start at \$39



I'VE SEEN FOUR SHOWS AND HAVEN'T BEEN DISAPPOINTED ONCE.

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The story behind The Wall (abbreviated, so you can follow along!)

We are introduced to Rocker Pink, at one of his rock concerts and then a flashback to him as a newborn. Songs: In the Flesh? & The Thin Ice

A young Pink experiences a series of traumas, stemming from growing up without a father, each one becoming a metaphorical brick in the wall, distancing himself from the world. Song: Another Brick in the Wall pt. 1

Eventually, Pink becomes a rock star – throwing himself into a dark world of sex, drugs, and rock and roll. Songs: Empty Spaces, Young Lust

Pink lashes out at his wife, who is having an affair, and adds the last brick to his mental wall, locking himself away from the world. Songs: One of My Turns, Don't Leave Me Now, Another Brick in the Wall pt. 3, Goodbye Cruel World, Hey You

Pink's emotional journey is interrupted when his management breaks into his hotel room with a doctor, who injects him with a drug to snap him awake for a concert. With a jumble of thoughts, emotions and drugs raging through his body, Pink wonders if he should go on with the performance. Songs: Comfortably Numb, The Show Must Go On

Pink performs, imagining himself as a fascist dictator in front of his audience, going as far as threatening physical violence to anyone who steps out of line.

Songs: In The Flesh, Run Like Hell, Waiting for the Worms

Suddenly, he realizes he's transformed himself into the same cruel force that killed his father during the war. He then puts himself on trial, which ends with him deciding to tear down his mental wall and reconnect with the outside world. Songs: Stop, The Trial

The album ends with Pink exploring the world he had previously cut himself off from. Song: Outside the Wall



Tom Petty

—Damn The Torpedoes

THURS, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

Backed into a corner by a bad deal with a big record label, Petty actually threatened to shelve his third album with the Heartbreakers. Lucky for us, the label settled and *Damn the Torpedoes* was released in 1979, eventually selling triple-platinum. *Rolling Stone* declared it the Tom Petty album “we’ve all been waiting for.” The album sat at number two on the *Billboard* albums chart for seven weeks, cementing it as one of the great records of the album rock era.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39



The Beatles

—Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band

FRI, MAY 1, 2020

A masterpiece that pushed recording technology to the limit, The Beatles eighth studio album was also a ground breaking concept album. The fictional Sgt. Pepper band became their alter ego and gave them the freedom to experiment musically, resulting in the number one position in *Rolling Stone's* list of the 500 Greatest Albums of All Time. Lean into *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* after the band gets by *With a Little Help From My Friends* in the four-time GRAMMY-winning album that helped The Beatles define rock music as art.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Concert 7:30pm
Tickets start at \$39



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The perfect venue for your perfect event

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

Shandra Reynard, event coordinator with the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, chose the Jack Singer Concert Hall to host CRESCENDO, a concert and fundraiser in support of the Centre for Child and Adolescent Mental Health being built in Calgary.

"The Jack Singer provided both the production values like the choir loft and exceptional acoustics and the guest experience in the lobby and the concert hall that were required for this signature event," she said.

"We had a really great experience working with Arts Commons staff. From the Booking team to the Front of House staff to the Production Manager and team, everyone went above and beyond in answering our many questions and making everything run smoothly on event day! Our production crew said that Arts Commons was one of the best experiences they've ever had with a venue in any city."



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

Learn more at artscommons.ca/hostyourevent



Opposite: The Timeraiser 150 event in the Jack Singer Lobby / Right: The Jack Singer Concert Hall stage during the Alberta Children's Hospital fundraiser: CRESCENDO

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Joel Sartore: Building the Photo Ark

Michel Bourque & Bryan Clarke

Kara Cooney: When Women Ruled the World

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Damien Mander & Vimbai Kumire: Akashinga – The Brave Ones

SUN/MON OCTOBER 20 & 21, 2019

Former special operations sniper and Royal Australian clearance diver Damien Mander travelled to Africa to aid in the fight against poachers using military solutions. There, he found himself forming the first all-female ranger unit in Zimbabwe, dubbed Akashinga (The Brave Ones). The recruits were survivors of domestic violence, single mothers, abandoned wives, and AIDS orphans. At the forefront is Vimbai Kumire, a single mother who now leads the team across Africa's poaching frontline.

Be inspired not only by Mander's incredible journey from special forces to conservation, but also by the bravery and tenacity of Kumire and her squad as they protect Africa's ecosystems from poachers.

Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall / Sunday 2pm / Monday 7pm
Tickets start at \$37

“

THERE ARE A LOT OF BAD THINGS GOING ON OUT THERE, BUT WHEN WE'RE AWARE OF THEM, WE CAN START TO MAKE CHANGES.

~Damien Mander

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Buy early for the best seats at the best price!





Zoltan Takacs: Deadliest Lifesavers

SUN/MON JANUARY 26 & 27, 2020

Biomedical scientist and inventor Zoltan Takacs collects snake, scorpion, jellyfish, and other venoms from around the world. Back in the lab, using cutting-edge genomics, he creates combinatorial venom libraries to identify leads for novel medicines.

Driven by his childhood passion, he's travelled to 155 countries and become an aircraft pilot, scuba diver, and real-life survivor, roughing it in a hammock deep in the Amazon or in remote Pacific islands. He's survived charging elephants, pirated waters, a series of snake bites, and venom spit in his face (all his fault he admits). Now he's allergic to both snake venom and anti-venom.

What makes venoms so valuable to medicine is their molecular design. Watch Takacs explain how venoms have evolved to precision-target and annihilate vital life functions – meaning that the blueprint of venoms could be harnessed to design novel medicines to heal those very same life functions, from cardiovascular diseases, to cancer, and beyond.

Join this incredible conversation!

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Sunday 2pm / Monday 7pm
Tickets start at \$32**

© Zoltan Takacs

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY! 403-294-9494 / ARTSCOMMONS.CA/NGL



© Joel Sartore

Joel Sartore: Building the Photo Ark

**SUN/MON
MARCH 15 & 16, 2020**

National Geographic photographer Joel Sartore is on a mission to capture portraits of the world's species before they disappear. With ingenuity, wit, and a serious Midwestern work ethic, Sartore has created the Photo Ark Project, the largest archive of its kind with more than 9,000 images and counting. Hear about his comical mishaps, endearing encounters, and personal stories while documenting a world worth saving.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Sunday 2pm / Monday 7pm
Tickets start at \$32**

Kara Cooney: When Women Ruled the World

**SUN/MON
MAY 3 & 4, 2020**

Throughout history, powerful women have been called many things—witches, regents, and seductresses. But there was a time in the ancient world when at least one was called “King.” Join Dr. Kara Cooney, professor of Egyptology, and learn about some strong female leaders, whose power was compromised from the start.

**Arts Commons, Jack Singer Concert Hall
/ Sunday 2pm / Monday 7pm
Tickets start at \$32**



© Jodi Cobb – National Geographic Creative

Arts Commons EXPLORERS CIRCLE



**IT'S WONDERFUL TO
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AND THE NATURAL WORLD.**

~Antony, Kathleen
& Alexander Deakin,
Trailblazers

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As a Member of Explorers Circle, you'll have the privilege of meeting National Geographic's remarkable storytellers while they are visiting us at Arts Commons. You'll also help support Arts Commons public and student matinee presentations of *National Geographic Live*, engagements that inspire thousands of Calgarians (including over 8,500 students), and contribute to National Geographic's work in conservation, exploration, research, and education.



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~Lloyd & Riona Freeman,
Explorers

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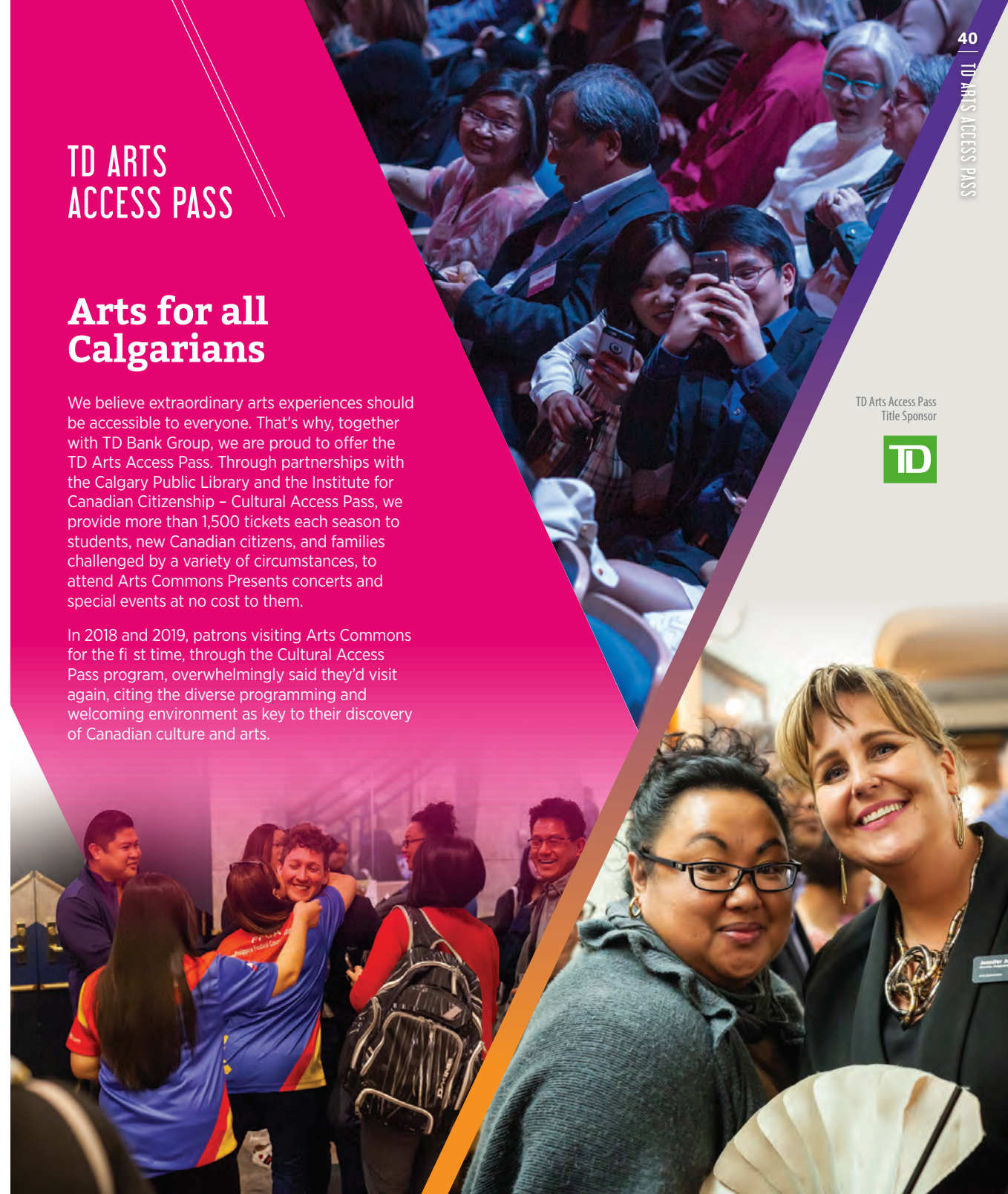
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Arts for all Calgarians

We believe extraordinary arts experiences should be accessible to everyone. That's why, together with TD Bank Group, we are proud to offer the TD Arts Access Pass. Through partnerships with the Calgary Public Library and the Institute for Canadian Citizenship – Cultural Access Pass, we provide more than 1,500 tickets each season to students, new Canadian citizens, and families challenged by a variety of circumstances, to attend Arts Commons Presents concerts and special events at no cost to them.

In 2018 and 2019, patrons visiting Arts Commons for the first time, through the Cultural Access Pass program, overwhelmingly said they'd visit again, citing the diverse programming and welcoming environment as key to their discovery of Canadian culture and arts.

TD Arts Access Pass
Title Sponsor



Amplify Cabarets

Arts Commons' Cabaret series is an opportunity for Calgarians to celebrate a groundswell of artistic talent from outside the 'mainstream' in a comfortable setting.

Get on the guest list today – RSVP at artscommons.ca/cabarets

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre / Concert 7:30pm

Floppy Glamour: It's Better Not To Ask Questions Cabaret

FRI/SAT NOVEMBER 22 & 23, 2019

Don't miss the sexy absurdity where camp, clown, and controversy intersect on stage! Host Raven Virginia has delighted audiences for more than 12 years, earning her a coveted title at the Burlesque Hall of Fame in Las Vegas.



LEARN MORE AT ARTSCOMMONS.CA/COMMUNITYEVENTS

We Gon Be Alright

FRI/SAT FEBRUARY 21 & 22, 2020

The margins of the Black community move to the front and centre as performers highlight the resilience of Black women and Queer Black folks in tumultuous and uncertain times.

Love Notes

FRI/SAT MARCH 27 & 28, 2020

Poets flirt with painters, dancers, an musicians, creating a love note to Calgary and sharing it with the universe and beyond.

SISSY FIT: A Queer Cabaret

WED/THURS JUNE 24 & 25, 2020

SISSY FIT is an all-inclusive celebration of radical performances – all in the name of harnessing the diversity, depth, and wild power of being queer in Alberta.



Community Events

Our Canada, Our Story

SAT FEBRUARY 1, 2020

Re-imagined from its first successful production, *Our Canada, Our Story*, combines song, spoken word, theatre, dance, and more to show the many faces and stories that define our home. Action Dignity and Arts Commons partner to bring the voices of under-served communities into focus in this community arts spectacle.

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

National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebrations

THURS JUNE 18, 2020

A free, all-ages celebration of Indigenous culture in support of Canada's Indigenous Nations and National Indigenous History Month.

Arts Commons, 10am – 3:30pm

The RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program

Be seen, be heard – be experienced through the RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program at Arts Commons. This new program provides an exceptional opportunity for emerging visual artists in Calgary to develop their artistic practice and showcase their work to the public in exhibition spaces that are visited by more than 600,000 people annually.

The mission at Arts Commons is to bring the arts to life, which means creating new and using existing spaces to showcase emerging artists in the public areas of the building. Since 1992, more than 1,000 artist exhibitions have been supported in the building – and still counting.

Exhibition spaces like the Ledge Gallery and Lightbox Studio are designed to allow visitors to see and engage with the artist at work. Along with our Window Galleries, these artists are given a platform to develop and showcase their pieces – while being paid for

their work. The RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program provides one-on-one mentorship opportunities, professional development sessions, networking and social events, and exhibition opportunities.

Becoming a successful artist is about more than innate ability; it is a purposeful combination of opportunity, meaningful hard work, and mentorship. The RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program at Arts Commons helps bridge the gap between emerging to established.

ARTIST
MABEL TAN



Foundation Partner



LEARN MORE AT ARTSCOMMONS.CA/VISUALARTS

Meet some of this season's artists:

Ledge Gallery

Mabel Tan / September 12 – November 30, 2019

Window Galleries

SPARK Disability Art Festival presents Amber Harriman, Daniel May, Eva Hontela, Macarena Ruidiaz, Lynn Cameron, Penny Gunderson and Shawn Belanger / September 9 – December 8, 2019

Lightbox Studio

Nicholas Tufts / September 9, 2019 – October 25, 2019

Ryland Fortie / November 1, 2019 – January 5, 2020

Broadcast Lab

Vicki Chau, Greg Marshall, and Ryland Fortie / September 12 – November 30, 2019

+15 Soundscape

Jonathan Kawchuk / September 9, 2019 – January 6, 2020

Artist Receptions at Arts Commons

Meet and mingle with this season's artists, curators, and fellow art lovers with a cash bar and deeper discussions about contemporary art in Calgary.

Fall reception: Friday, November 29, 2019 / 5:30 – 8:30pm

ARTIST
NICHOLAS TUFTS



ARTIST
JONATHAN KAWCHUK



ARTIST
GREG MARSHALL



School Programs

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

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

ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning

For one week, the classroom is transported to the arts and cultural hub of the city. Every theatre, gallery, rehearsal hall, and the experts who work at Arts Commons become the facilitators for an immersive learning-through-the-arts experience (in partnership with Campus Calgary).

National Geographic Live

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



I JUST THINK THAT I WOULD GIVE THIS PLACE 80 MILLION STARS OUT OF TEN

~Andres, St. Philip, Grade 5

One Day Arts School

Curriculum linked, arts-enriched field trips allow students from Grades K-12 to learn through the visual and performing arts while exploring Canada's third largest arts centre.

Artist-in-Residence

From a single day to multiple weeks, Arts Commons Education will design a custom visual and/or performing arts experience to host directly in your school.

Professional Development

Strategically transform your classroom toolkit through arts enrichment with professional artists and arts educators. Join us for Teachers' Convention 2020, inquire about after school sessions or register for our Summer Master Class for Educators.

Arts for the Early Years (Infants – Preschool):

Do you represent a childcare centre or preschool interested in arts-enriched learning for the very young? Contact us for more information on events, field trips, and artist-in-residence programs for early learners.



LEARN MORE AT ARTSCOMMONS.CA/EDUCATION

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Helping to Create Well-Rounded Citizens

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

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Our season subscription packages offer arts lovers the opportunity to experience a whole season lineup at one great price!

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2 Get creative: Design Your Own series

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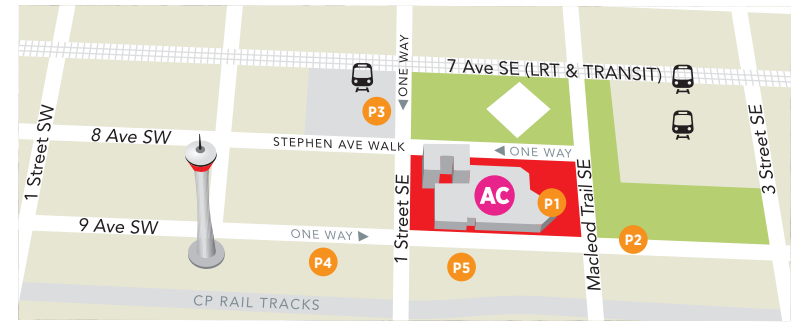
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3 A single night (or matinee) of fun

Enjoy an amazing cultural experience or fascinating speaker presentation that you'll only find at Arts Commons. **Purchase any single tickets to our series for an experience to remember.**

- Steps away from the top dining destinations in downtown Calgary
- Local musicians featured as preshow entertainment at many of our concerts
- Browse our free visual and media arts exhibitions before the show



AC OUR LOCATION

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

ACCESSIBILITY

All Arts Commons venues offer wheelchair accessibility and seating. Please phone ahead so we can accommodate your needs, or visit artscommons.ca for more accessibility details.

GETTING HERE BY LRT

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

GETTING HERE BY CAR

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

\$6 EVENINGS & WEEKENDS

Other parking options include:

- P2** Civic Plaza Parkade
- P3** TELUS Convention Centre
- P4** Palliser Square (access Arts Commons via the +15 network)
- P5** Surface parking lots in the 200, 300, and 400 blocks on the South side of 9th Avenue SE
*Plan ahead – some parking options may be under renovation throughout the season.

Get your tickets today!

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