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For Immediate Release

ArtsXpeditions from Arts Commons Presents Launches 2022 Summer Festivities with National Indigenous Peoples Day and Canada Day Celebrations on Olympic Plaza

June 17, 2022 - CALGARY – Warm weather, sunny days, and ArtsXpeditions are back! This year we kick off the popular outdoor concert series on **Tuesday, June 21** with a **National Indigenous Peoples Day Mini Pow Wow**, live on 8th Avenue outside the Centre Court of Arts Commons. ArtsXpeditions also makes a splash on **Friday, July 1** for the City of Calgary’s **Canada Day celebrations** on Olympic Plaza. These two events are the first forays in a city-spanning summer lineup for the third annual edition of the free, outdoor pop-up performance series from the programming arm of Arts Commons, Arts Commons Presents. **Learn more at artscommons.ca/artsex.**

Alanna Bluebird-Onespot, a self-published author, poet, and spoken word performer, is curator of the ArtsXpeditions National Indigenous Peoples Day event. Bluebird-Onespot's program of a Mini Pow Wow on the 8th Avenue just outside Centre Court of Arts Commons will feature traditional dances from Indigenous Nations from across Treaty 7, such as Grass Dance, Women and Men’s Traditional, Chicken Dance, and more. Attendees of all cultural backgrounds are welcome and will learn simple steps during this intergenerational gathering of Indigenous artists and join an Intertribal Dance, meant to build relations and bring people from across ages, nations, and culture together.

“Pow Wows are a powerful showcase of traditional dances and songs that bring together generations to share joy and spiritual healing,” says Bluebird-Onespot. “Art can heal us. It can inspire us. And it can connect us. We are all artists and we are all community. I hope that members of the Calgary community will join us, and we can take that opportunity share and learn from each other.” Bringing people together for National Indigenous Peoples Day builds bridges and fosters relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in Calgary, a tradition that Arts Commons Presents is proud to be part of.

ArtsXpeditions makes its second appearance on **Friday, July 1st** as part of the City of Calgary’s **Canada Day** festivities on **Olympic Plaza** from **11 a.m. – 5 p.m.** The event features six different performing artists, starting with Music by Mandy for kids and families, followed by Perpie Nwaefido, Walter MacDonald White Bear, Robert Adam and the Lucky Stars, Natalia Chai, and Sargeant x Comrade to round out the evening. The day is also free for the public to attend.

Energizing all four quadrants of the city with free outdoor music and family-friendly programming, ArtsXpeditions first launched in the summer of 2020 to continue to deliver the performing arts to Calgarians as well as provide vital employment to artists during the COVID-19 shutdown. By taking the performing arts beyond the walls of Arts Commons, ArtsXpeditions expands access and invites new audiences to experience the uplifting power of the arts. Since its launch, ArtsXpeditions has shared 114 performances employing 174 artists in parks, elderly care facilities, schoolyards, and outdoor gathering places across the city.

This summer, more live performances of music will pop up in all four quadrants of Calgary featuring exciting local names. As well, Arts Commons Presents is collaborating with the University of Calgary youth theatre group Wagonstage to bring storytelling and participatory art activities to parks and schoolyards for Calgarians of all

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ages. More ArtsXpeditions acts, dates and times will be announced in the coming weeks at artscommons.ca/artsx.

“ArtsXpeditions is an incredible opportunity for Arts Commons to meet our audiences in our city’s beautiful parks with some of our best local talent,” says Josh Dalledonne, Assistant Director of Social Impact. “We know Calgarians love the outdoors – we are the sunniest city in Canada after all – so the chance to have these talented and exciting artists brighten the summer months with these free outdoor performances is a pleasure and a gift for us.”

What: National Indigenous Peoples Day

When: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Where: 8th Avenue outside Centre Court of Arts Commons

(in the case of inclement weather, activities will be moved to the Jack Singer Concert Hall lobby)

Who: Arts Commons Presents

What: Canada Day

When: Friday, July 1, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where: Olympic Plaza

Who: Arts Commons Presents and the City of Calgary

For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:

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Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada, Arts Commons Presents is one manifestation of this mandate, achieved through the programming and presenting of our in-house series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, PCL Blues, TD Amplify Cabarets, and TD Jazz, as well as the work that we do in the community. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on a multitude of levels.

Arts Commons is the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada located in the heart of downtown Calgary. For over 35 years, it has been a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians. It is home to six resident companies, including Alberta Theatre Projects, Arts Commons Presents, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Downstage, One Yellow Rabbit, and Theatre Calgary. It houses six gallery spaces, five theatres, and the Jack Singer Concert Hall, and promotes local, national, international, emerging and established artists with a focus on inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and equity.