

For Immediate Release

Chinook Blast and Arts Commons Energize Olympic Plaza with a Weekend of Exceptional Homegrown Music

ArtsXpeditions, Arts Commons' outdoor live performance series, partners with YYCMusic Awards to present the YYC Music Awards Spotlight Festival free in downtown Calgary

January 12, 2023 - CALGARY – It's time to celebrate the winter season with skating on the plaza, glowing interactive installations, and two days of back-to-back ArtsXpeditions concert performances for everybody – **February 4 & 5, 2023** as part of the Chinook Blast winter festival, presented by Arts Commons and YYC Music Awards. Learn more at artscommons.ca/artsx.

Starting with a lineup that's fun for the whole family, the two-day music celebration kicks off Saturday, February 4 with hip hop children's entertainer Bubba B the MC, followed by family favourites Splash'N Boots. Families can skate around the plaza or grab a hot chocolate at a nearby café and enjoy the winter ambience.

Lit by the interactive Glow Festival installations and twinkling Plaza lights, the evening welcomes neo-soul/jazz fusion group Tendavillage, with headliners Tanika Charles, the JUNO-nominated soul musician, and Chicago's jazz-inspired Low Down Brass Band.

On Sunday, ArtsXpeditions co-presents the YYC Music Awards Spotlight Festival for a showcase of Calgary's most exceptional emerging musicians with performances by folk artist Kearstin Pfeifer, house groove artist Titus1 performing with EDM artist Ginsong, R&B/hip hop musician Pat Clifton, hip hop artist Kuzi Cee, singer/songwriter Lisette Xavier, and psychedelic rock band The Ashley Hundred.

"The YYC Music Awards are thrilled to present a wide variety of Calgary's exceptional local talent for this free outdoor event. Collaborating with ArtsXpeditions allows us to take this further and represent even more artists. Our goal is to introduce some hidden gems of the city to new audiences and build new fans for these outstanding performers," says Stephanie Hutchinson, Program Director, YYC Music Awards.

Animating Calgary's spaces at all times of the year, ArtsXpeditions, the outdoor pop-up concert showcases local talent that span genres, ages, and all four quadrants of our city. Launched in 2020 to bring live performing arts to all Calgarians in the warm outdoors of summer, ArtsXpeditions has expanded into an all-seasons series inspired by the joy of unexpected arts encounters.

"Our city has always known how to embrace the winter months, and Chinook Blast is a wonderful demonstration of that," says Jennifer Johnson, Vice President of Programming at Arts Commons. "We hope that Calgarians take this opportunity to have some fun outdoors and discover the vibrancy of our local music scene."

Saturday

1:00 p.m. – Bubba B the MC

1:30 p.m. – Splash'N Boots

7:00 p.m. – Tendavillage

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8:00 p.m. – Tanika Charles
9:00 p.m. – Low Down Brass Band

Sunday

3:00 p.m. – Kearstin Pfeifer
3:40 p.m. – Titus1
4:00 p.m. – Pat Clifton
4:40 p.m. – Titus1 and Ginsong
5:00 p.m. – Lisette Xavier
5:40 p.m. – Titus1 and Ginsong
6:00 p.m. – Kuzi Cee
6:40 p.m. – Titus1 and Ginsong
7:00 p.m. – The Ashley Hundred
7:40 p.m. – Titus1 and Ginsong

To learn more about the artists featured, visit artscommons.ca/artsx and to learn more about all of the Chinook Blast events this year, visit chinookblast.ca.

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 third largest performing arts centre in 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 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.

Chinook Blast

Chinook Blast is Calgary's signature winter celebration that brings together partners from the arts, nonprofit, neighbourhood, tourism, and sports communities to create an inclusive event to showcase the best of our city. Our goal is to build towards a future when citizens and tourists are drawn to Calgary for a truly dynamic winter experience. Chinook Blast will run from January 27–February 12, 2023. Learn more at www.chinookblast.ca.