

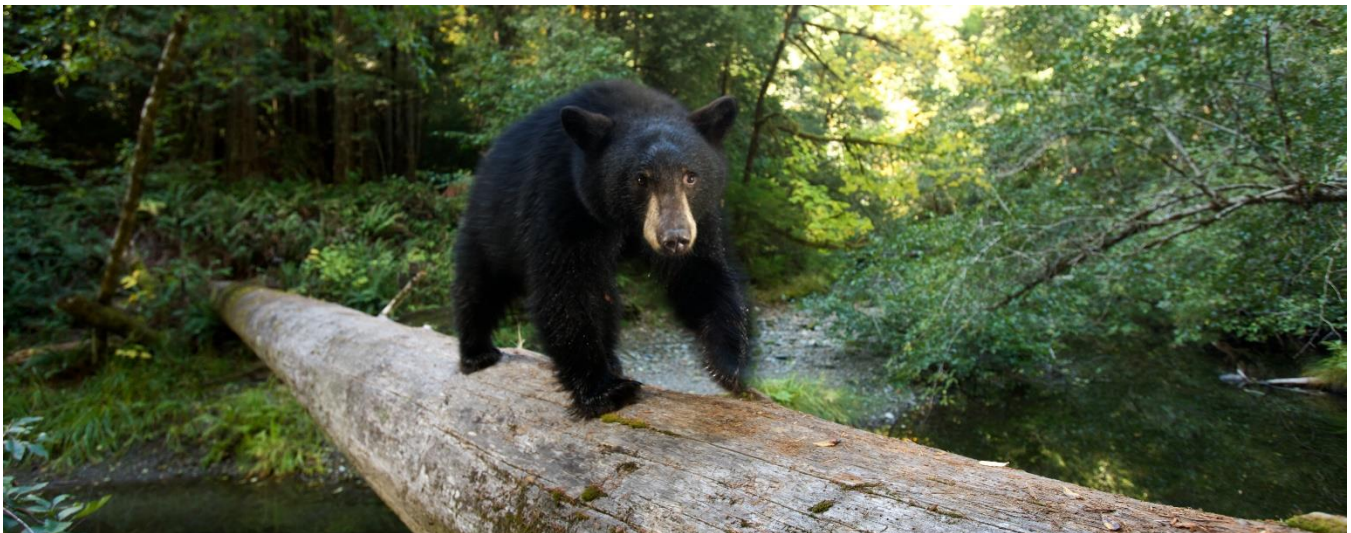
MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Take a Walk into the Bear's Den with Arts Commons Presents and National Geographic Live's Rae Wynn-Grant: The Secret Life of Bears

March 22, 2022 - CALGARY – As a scientist with the National Geographic Society's Last Wild Places Initiative, Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant works to protect and restore wildlife populations iconic to places like Calgary: grizzly bears, bison, pronghorn, cougars, and more. So she knows firsthand that when these animals intersect with human activity—like roads, fences, and cattle ranches that crisscross their habitats—the impacts on their survival are far-reaching. Next month, this committed carnivore ecologist will share a fascinating look inside the mission to help humans and bears coexist peacefully. Join us at the Jack Singer Concert Hall on **Sunday, April 10** and **Monday, April 11, 2022** as **Arts Commons Presents and National Geographic Live** bring Rae Wynn-Grant: *The Secret Life of Bears* to the stage.



Black bear crossing on a log. Photo by Michael Nichols, courtesy of National Geographic Live.

Rae Wynn-Grant is dedicated to wildlife ecology research, but it wasn't until life brought her to Kenya at age 20 that she had ever taken a hike, pitched a tent to camp, or seen a wild animal. While there, she studied East African lions—top predators that live in close quarters with local communities—and observed that problematic interactions between the two groups threatened conservation efforts.



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Now, Dr. Wynn-Grant is finding similar patterns in North American black and grizzly bears. She studies the movements and behaviours of the bears to find ways to improve the relationship between local communities and the apex wildlife species that surround them.

“Two things are happening right now,” says Rae Wynn-Grant. “The human population in North America is increasing, and the black bear population in North America is increasing. We’re getting way more bears showing up to places where formerly there was forest, formerly there was high-quality habitat. It’s creating a lot of conflict, but it’s also creating a lot of opportunity for scientists like me to learn about coexistence. There’s a science to human-wildlife coexistence, and that’s what I’m trying to learn.”

Arts Commons Presents has been bringing the wildly popular National Geographic Live series to Calgary for nine seasons, engaging Calgarians in a passion for science, exploration, and the natural world. Speakers share their inspiring and often deeply personal stories of their work in the field, live at Arts Commons, with high-resolution images and video projected on a screen that runs the impressive 48-foot width of the Jack Singer stage and 28 feet high. The presentations also have a strong education and community engagement component, inviting thousands of students each season to experience these speakers live in the Jack Singer Concert Hall, or virtually in their classroom. Working in collaboration with the Calgary Zoo, Joel Sartore added three species to his *Photo Ark Project*, including the greater sage grouse which exists in captivity no where else in the world.

Join Arts Commons for Rae Wynn-Grant: *The Secret Life of Bears* on April 10 & 11, and Brian Skerry: *Secrets of the Whales* on May 15 & 16, 2022 as part of National Geographic Live.

What: National Geographic Live Rae Wynn-Grant: *The Secret Life of Bears*
When: Sunday, April 10 at 2pm & Monday, April 11 at 7pm
Where: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/bears

To book your free ticket today, call 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/ngl

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For media inquiries, more information, or for other high-resolution images 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



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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.



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