

Arts Commons

P R E S E N T S

#3



Celebrate the patron saint of music *p.3* / Rolling fields and cerulean skies *p.8*
Recreating a Beatles classic *p.15* / Explore the story of a forgotten queen *p.18*

For 34 years, **Arts Commons** has been a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians and visitors.

The existing facility has been enormously successful, but it is aging and we do not have sufficient space to serve the needs of our community. The Arts Commons Transformation (ACT) project will address these issues and more.

ACT will create jobs, generating millions in labour income, add tax revenues to The City of Calgary

for the benefit of our community, and increase Calgary's GDP, improving our overall economy. ACT also creates a business model that ensures the financial sustainability of Arts Commons and its resident companies.

ACT can be made possible through a dynamic partnership between all three levels of government.

3,155^[1]
jobs will be created in Calgary
Attracting talent and jobs to our community



\$239M^[1]
labour income
Earnings of employees of companies providing goods and services to realize ACT



\$386M^[1]
added to Calgary's GDP
Goods produced and services provided during construction



\$11M^[1]
collected by The City of Calgary
Contributions to government revenues (taxes) as a direct result of ACT




[1] Economic Contribution Analysis, Deloitte, 2019

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2019-20 SEASON AT A GLANCE



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



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

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Visual and media arts exhibitions run in our galleries all year long.

Learn more at
artscommons.ca/visualarts





Arts Commons
Presents



JUN

CABARET

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

National Indigenous Peoples Celebrations

June 18, 2020

A free, all-ages, celebration of Indigenous culture in support of Canada's National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 and National Indigenous History Month (June). Families are encouraged to join the free drop-in sessions at any time to learn and take part in different Indigenous songs and dances, while the Mini Pow Wow is a great first-look into the rich Pow Wow scene occurring here in Mohkinstsis – the traditional name for Calgary – and across North America. We hope that these events inspire the desire for families to celebrate Indigenous Culture year-round.

Arts Commons, Various times

CABARET

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



Welcoming a new leader

*In January of this year, we announced the appointment of our new President and CEO, Alex Sarian. Throughout his career, Alex has been focused on three goals, which clearly resonate with our own: **Redefining the Relevance of, Articulating the Impact of, and Increasing Equitable Access to... the arts.** We are all very excited for him to start, and he will officially be in house in May. Come by Arts Commons and welcome Alex to our community!*

Buy early for the best seats at the best price!



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**

ON THE STAGE

OUR COMMUNITY

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Quickly becoming one of the hottest names in jazz, vocalist Jazzmeia Horn's performance at the 60th GRAMMY Award ceremonies went viral after she scat-sung her way into music history. [Learn more on pg.7](#)



Arts Commons
Presents



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WELCOME

It started with a bang, and we can't wait to see what happens next!

National Geographic Explorer, Damien Mander, spoke with contagious passion in his quest to protect endangered African wildlife; audiences were uplifted by the limitless energy and acrobatics of Cirque Flip Fabrique's *Blizzard*; and FastLove embodied the legacy of George Michael to the delight of a thousand cheering fans.

This spring, we welcome our new President and CEO, Alex Sarian, who comes to us from the prestigious Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York; we bring the party band Pink Martini for a night of fun and upbeat music; and we learn about the influence of marijuana on the jazz music scene from Tim Tamashiro's Drinky Jazz Cabaret: *Jazz Cigarette*.

Read on and join us for more music, more stories, and more passion – all at Arts Commons.



SPECIAL
PRESENTATION

Pink Martini

THURS, APRIL 16, 2020

The United Nations of bands, Pink Martini features a dozen musicians with songs performed in 25 different languages. They draw inspiration from Latin music, jazz, cabaret, and even film scores for a sound that defies categorization.

Lauded and applauded around the world for the past 25 years, Pink Martini started out as a house band for parties helping with progressive causes like affordable housing, public broadcasting, libraries, music education, and the environment. The first concert they ever played together happened quite by accident when the band that pianist Thomas Lauderdale had hoped to line-up for a fundraising concert didn't show. So he threw on a cocktail dress, grabbed a bass player, bongo player, and singer, and took the stage as Pink Martini. That was in 1994, and they've been going strong since, playing fun, upbeat music for people who want to have fun and expanding their membership from four people to twelve!

About performing in Canada, Thomas says, "Our time in Canada has always been great because the audiences are totally boisterous and on fire. It's like America but more earnest and less self-conscious."

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

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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



The patron saint of music shines at Arts Commons

Eclectic Pan-Latin group *La Santa Cecilia* brings a fresh sensibility to the world music genre. Named after the patron saint of music, their sound ranges from upbeat electro-pop to soulful, bluesy ballads with a few covers of well-known classics like The Beatles' Strawberry Fields Forever and Radiohead's House of Cards thrown in for fun. They comfortably move from singing in Spanish to English, making everyone feel welcome and part of the party, and are true genre chameleons pulling with comfortable familiarity from their multitude of musical influences

Now six albums strong, and with a GRAMMY to boot, *La Santa Cecilia* has come a long way in their musical journey. As immigrants and the children of immigrants growing up in Los Angeles, they were spoon-fed music and performing as not only an outlet, but a way of life.

"We grew up playing, busking out on the streets on the weekends. That was our pastime," says José Carlos, accordionist for *La Santa Cecilia*. "And we would play every weekend and we would sing boleros, rancheras, traditional Latin American huapangos or anything that was related to Latin America."

"Well more than our pastime," adds band percussionist Miguel Ramírez. "The streets were like our school, or at least my musical school. I didn't take any musical lessons or have a career in music from school, but I did learn busking and singing loud and talking to the crowd and to give thanks to *La Santa Cecilia* for the work that I received."

Listening to *La Santa Cecilia*, there's no

question of their Latin-American roots, but if you listen carefully, you might also hear some unexpected musical influences, and not just The Beatles and Radiohead.

"I was like a rocker," says lead singer Marisol "La Marisol" Hernandez, who has a personal affinity with Led Zeppelin and The Specials. "But it was tough because on the weekends I had to go to Olvera Street. They'd be like, no, you have to dress Mexicana and wear your dresses and your blouses. So I felt like I was living two lives; I felt separated.

I'm really glad that I got to meet my friends and now we can celebrate that and say like,

"Hey, we will go from a bolero to a ska to a bossa nova to banda to norteño and it's fine, no?"

Join Arts Commons and BD&P World Stage to see *La Santa Cecilia* in action, and find out why their Latin music vibe is so contagious!

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.

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behind-the-lens perspectives.



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Jazz

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 center.

Maybe you picked up one of her GRAMMY-nominated albums, 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

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Winter walks, rolling fields, and open skies

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Soaring, uplifting, and evocative, Maria Schneider's music is quite atypical in the realm of jazz. Where a jazzy sax might conjure images of a busy metropolitan centre, Maria Schneider's music brings visions of sweeping fields and wide open skies. She draws much of her inspiration from growing up in the country on a farm in Mississippi which imbued her with a lifelong love of nature and the natural world.

Though her childhood is where she draws much of her inspiration from, Maria herself has said that she doesn't sit down to intentionally write a piece about a specific topic, like birds migrating, or a nature walk. The music comes out through the creative process, and once it's on paper, she realizes that she was writing music about that subject all along. "I was at home sitting at my piano, and the opening idea [for Cerulean Skies] happened. And I thought "Oh! What if this piece is about migration?" This idea that birds are citizens of the world. They know no boundaries."

From Cerulean Skies to Winter Morning Walks, and her latest The Thompson Fields, her ground-breaking music has transported audiences from high in the sky with flocks of birds, to sparkling snowscapes and rolling fields of wheat. Performing in over 30 countries around the world, with five GRAMMYS to her fame, and working with music giants like Sting and David Bowie, Maria Schneider Orchestra is a treat and a privilege to hear live.

"You want your music to move people. I don't want to impress people. I don't want people sitting in their seats saying, "that is very interesting," says Maria Schneider. "I want those moments, where it connects and somebody just feels something. They get lost in the music. To me that's success."

Maria Schneider Orchestra

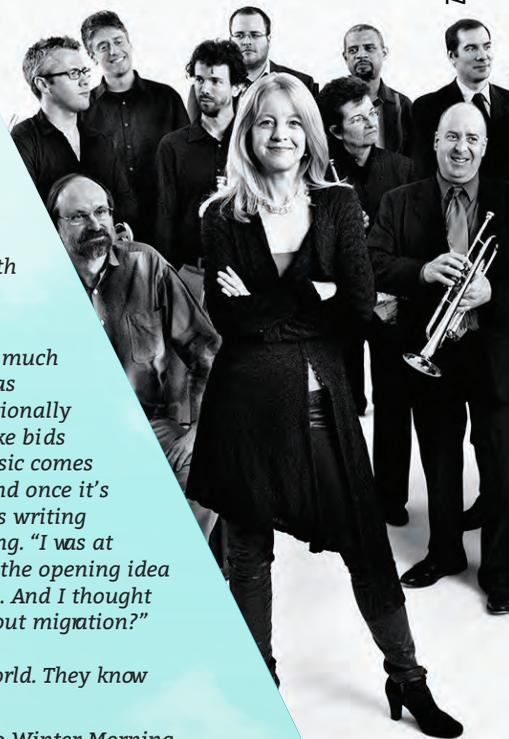
THURS, APRIL 23, 2020

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.

Maria Schneider Orchestra is presented in partnership with CADME.

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



SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Itty Bitty Arts Days: Alberta, The Land and The Animals

FRI/SAT, MAY 22 & 23, 2020

Join Arts Commons for a fun and interactive event for babies, toddlers, young children and their grown-ups to celebrate all that makes our home – home! The land that we share with all the animals has been here for a long time, and this art-party for the very young looks to our Indigenous neighbours to share the stories – both old and new – that help us explore the ways we can all work together.

Itty Bitty Arts Days: Alberta, The Land and The Animals provides everything you need to play, learn, and explore together, all you need to do is bring your curiosity!

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre
9:30am & 1:30pm
Tickets \$15

Perfect for
ages 0-6



Parents and kids love Itty Bitty Arts Days!

It's your chance to introduce your young family to the arts in a low stress, creative, and easygoing environment, but don't just take our word for it. Here's what parents had to say:

"I was very impressed with the quality of the performances and the overall attention to detail. It was a very comfortable event for adults and truly engaging for the young ones. Fabulous value!"

"For once I wasn't stressed that my son was talking loudly and asking questions during the performance."

"The crafts were thoughtfully planned and prepared. The kids were all very engaged in participating."

"Had a great time! Will be back in May!"



CABARETS

Tim Tamashiro's Drinky Jazz Cabarets

If you haven't checked out one of Tim Tamashiro's Drinky Jazz Cabarets, you're missing out on a night of cool music, engaging stories, and a host who cheerfully refers to himself as a jazz evangelist.

"These shows focus on the cabaret tradition, stories woven together with song," says Tim Tamashiro, creator of the Drinky Jazz Cabaret. "And part of what is so unique about them is the casual, cabaret format, with some of Calgary's best jazz musicians."

Avid musician and jazz historian, Tim Tamashiro hosted CBC's Tonic for 10 years and now shares his vast knowledge of jazz and music culture with audiences through these intimate cabaret performances.

"*Jazz Cigarette* is our second cabaret of the season. It's a collection of stories and songs about jazz and weed," says Tamashiro with a sly wink. "There's a collection of these songs inspired by marijuana, and they're actually quite funny. I wanted to give that period in history a bit of a spotlight and talk about how it got us to where we are today – both culturally and musically."

Not only did jazz musicians popularize cannabis across North America, it also gave rise to well-known songs like *Reefer Man* by Cab Calloway, *Texas Tea Party* by Benny Goodman and his orchestra, and *That Cat is High* by The Ink Spots.

Join Tim Tamashiro as Arts Commons Presents brings you *Jazz Cigarette* in the Engineered Air Theatre, April 17 & 18, 2020. Tickets start at \$39

Also coming up this season!

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

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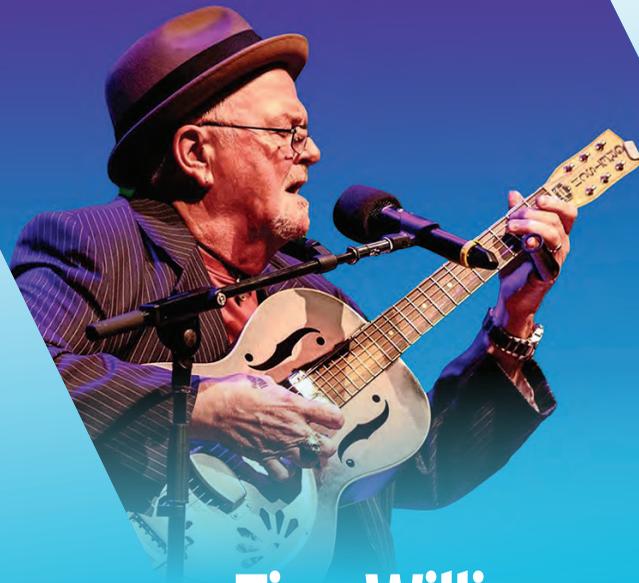
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Tim Williams, Madagascar Slim, and Cassius Khan: Conversations in Blue

FRI/SAT, APRIL 24 & 25, 2020

Calgary's own local blues legend and multi-award winning musician Tim Williams comes together with Canadian blues fusion artists Madagascar Slim and Cassius Khan for a brand new collaboration. If you're a fan of homegrown blues, this is a show that you won't want to miss.

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



Vibrant communities are key to a healthy society.

Keyera is proud to support **Arts Commons** and its efforts to ignite imagination in our community.

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**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.



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Live sponsors!

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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 groundbreaking 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

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

Recreating a classic

Released in 1967, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* was created as an opportunity for The Beatles to experiment with new styles and material by creating an alternate persona. The album was both a critical and popular success, spending 27 weeks as number one on the UK charts, and receiving a record four GRAMMY Awards – previously unheard of for a rock album.

to help create some of those unique and iconic sounds. But it still takes time and practice to get it right. One tool in particular, the fuzz pedal, is notoriously hard to master, often described as sounding like a swarm of bees right out of the box, but Classic Albums Live has been working at mastering the album's sound for over 16 years!

After years of touring, The Beatles became disenchanted. "Beatles concerts are nothing to do with music anymore. They're just bloody tribal rites," John Lennon lamented. George Harrison even threatened to leave the band, unless they stopped touring. This presented a unique opportunity for the group to experiment with technology to create sound and musical effects that would never need to be reproduced on stage.

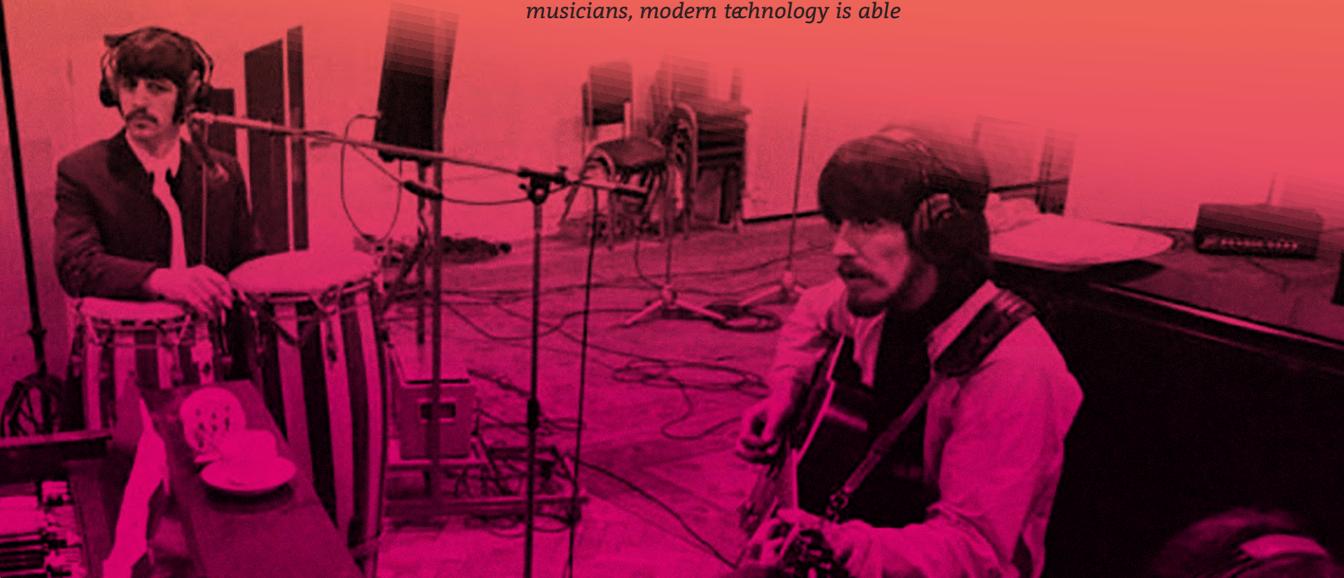
"The Beatles used orchestral instruments, Indian instruments, and cheap novelty instruments as well to create a sort of dream-like world," says Rob Phillips, Music Director of Classic Albums Live. "When we perform the album, we have a string quartet and a horn section of three or four players to cover the bulk of the orchestral sounds. We also travel with a sitar player for tackling *Within You Without You*."

"What an album! I spent years of my life just staring at the cover," says Craig Martin, founder and Creative Director of Classic Albums Live. "I thought I knew the album, then we started rehearsing it...and it's tough, I mean really tough. The sound, the tone, the arrangements - there's no way to phone this album in and you have to love this album to perform it properly."

"Think of it as a recital," said Martin. "These albums are historic and sacred to people. We approach the music with the utmost respect and care, and in doing so we've created something that endures and connects."

"These works are our Shakespeare, our Sistine Chapel," he says. "This music will live forever."

Fortunately for Craig Martin and his musicians, modern technology is able



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Kara Cooney:

When Women Ruled the World

Ken Havard

James & Janice Morton

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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

When women ruled the world

Egyptologist, archaeologist, associate professor of Egyptian Art and Architecture, and chair of the Department of Near Eastern Language and Cultures at UCLA, Dr. Kara Cooney has spent her academic career exploring the history of female power.

Looking as far back as our hunter gatherer roots, to early agricultural society, to ancient Egypt and now modern day, Dr. Cooney brings one question to the forefront: Why are we as human beings so hostile to female power? Why do we think we're not? Or why do we think it's ok?

"We like to tell the stories of women who got it all wrong. It's a nice cautionary tale, but we don't like to tell the stories of the women who got it all right."

Throughout human history, female rulers have existed, but as Dr. Cooney would be quick to point out, they are rarely welcomed with open arms. "In every single case it's a crisis that brings them to the throne, it's a lack of men, they're there as placeholders or stopgaps, and they usually have a bad end," says Cooney. "In each case, the woman is swept aside, in each case the woman has no genetic legacy, and in each case her ambition is judged as self-serving and dangerous."

There are many examples of this throughout history, but the one that has become particularly close to Cooney's heart is the ancient Egyptian queen Hatshepsut. She was a woman who rose to power in a time where there wasn't a man in place to rule, and she was incredibly successful during her reign, eventually handing rule over to her nephew. Once she was out of power however, she was virtually annihilated from the historical record.

"We are now facing this question for the first time, I would argue," says Cooney. "Women on a grassroots level, not at the very top, are breadwinners in numbers that are competing with men. And they are earning college degrees in numbers that beat men, so in the generations to come we will have to discuss, not a matriarchy, but a situation where women can start to compete with men for actual power for the first time in human history."

Kara Cooney: When Women Ruled the World

SUN/MON
MAY 3 & 4, 2020

Throughout history powerful women have been vilified, called witches, seductresses, and in the end too weak to rule. Join Dr. Kara Cooney, professor of Egyptology, and learn about the strong female leaders who existed, and the sacrifices they had to make to hold power in a patriarchal society.

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



Arts Commons EXPLORERS CIRCLE

Join the adventure on a whole new level!

Join Explorers Circle today and become a partner in National Geographic's important work of empowering the world's most innovative scientists and Explorers to inspire, illuminate, and teach.

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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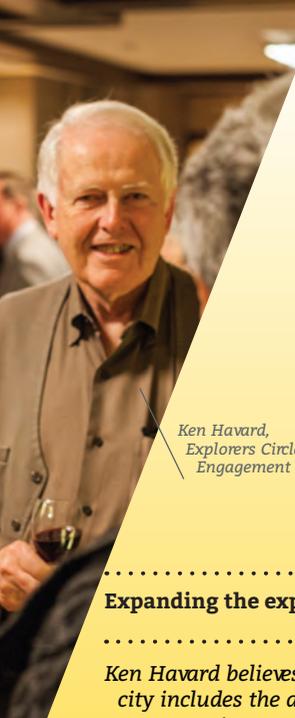
**IT'S WONDERFUL TO BE
PART OF A GROUP OF
PEOPLE THAT TRULY CARE
ABOUT CONSERVATION
AND THE NATURAL WORLD.**

~Antony, Kathleen
& Alexander Deakin,
Trailblazers



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Expanding the experience

Ken Havard believes that a great, livable city includes the arts. "To be an all rounded community, you need things like Arts Commons. Without them, it's a pretty harsh and dull place, really."

Havard became the very first National Geographic Live Explorers Circle Engagement Sponsor back in 2012, when Chief Development Officer, Greg Epton, left a National Geographic Birds of Paradise book on Havard's doorstep, knowing he was an avid birder. The attached note read, "I know you're interested in birds and there is this talk coming up about the birds of paradise. Give me a call!"

"That was only the second year of the series and I didn't even know it was on," reminisces Havard. "Ever since I joined, I found it's a great program. I love to be able to sponsor one of the talks every year, meet new people, and invite friends to come for dinner with the Explorers. It's been a really nice experience."

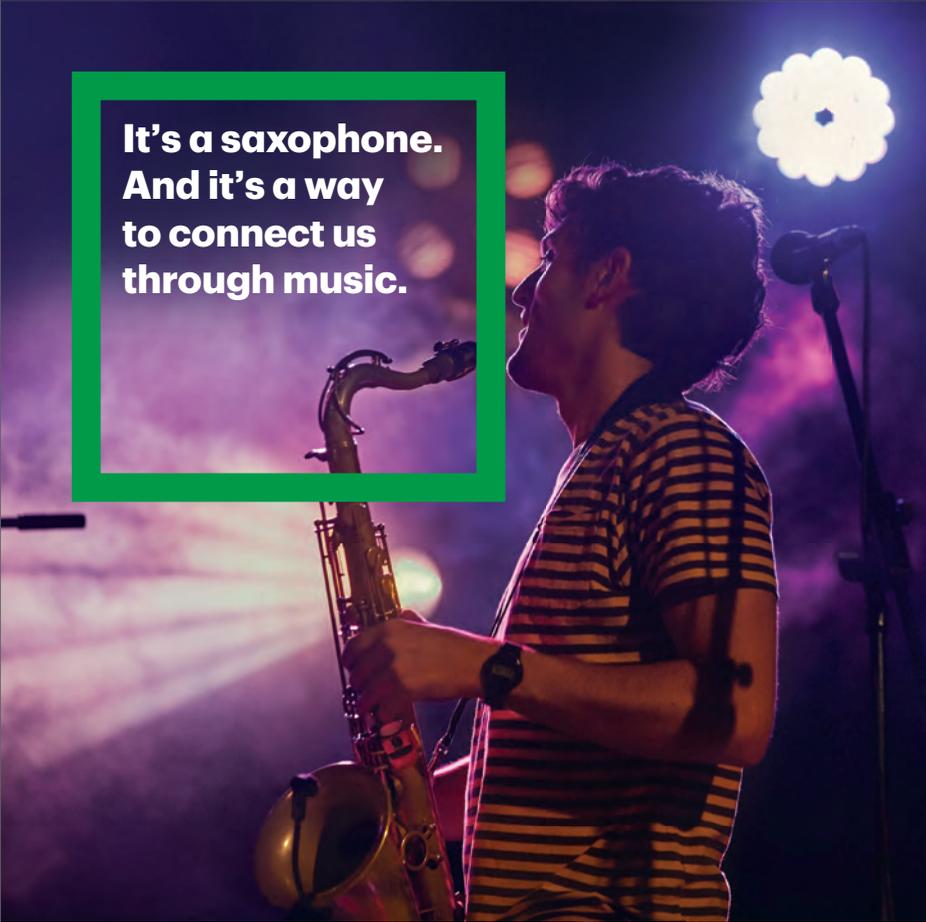
By inviting friends and sharing in his experiences, Havard inspired others to become Explorers Circle Engagement Sponsors, growing the program year after year. Members of Explorers Circle support Arts Commons and contribute to National Geographic's efforts to foster and promote exploration, research, education, and conservation.

"For 9 years, Arts Commons has

enthusiastically welcomed National Geographic Explorers and photographers to share their inspiring stories from the field with Calgary audiences. The National Geographic Live series at Arts Commons has experienced continued growth over these years, and the Explorers Circle program is a key part of that success. Ken's example and sense of community inspired others to join and support the program and we are delighted with the results. Ken and Arts Commons have become a great model of success for National Geographic Live venues," said Natali Feeling, Director of Marketing, Global Events & Experiences at National Geographic.

Arts Commons and National Geographic are extremely grateful to Havard and all members of Explorers Circle who give generously to support the presentation of National Geographic Live in Calgary.

For more information, and to read more about Ken's experience as an Explorers Circle member, visit: artscommons.ca/explorerscircle



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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
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CABARETS

Amplify Cabarets

Arts Commons' Amplify Cabaret series is an opportunity for Calgarians to celebrate a groundswell of local artistic talent from outside the 'mainstream' in a comfortable setting, all for free!

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

Arts Commons, Engineered Air Theatre
/ Show 8pm

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. Through *Love Notes*, curator and host Harpreet Dayal endeavours to encourage positivity and healing through art. Join us for this unique cabaret experience.

SISSY FIT: A Queer Cabaret

WED/THURS JUNE 24 & 25, 2020

The future is queer! *Sissy Fit* honours the future of pride and the power of queer imagination. Join Sissy and their band of wickedly queer companions in an all-inclusive celebration of radical performances.



Planting the seed of Sissy Fit

Ready to see something new? Want to stretch your theatrical boundaries? Maybe learn a bit about yourself? You need to stop by and check out the Amplify Cabaret series. These free, no-holds-barred cabaret style performances celebrate a groundswell of local artistic talent from outside the 'mainstream'.

There are two remaining presentations of the Amplify Cabaret series this season - Love Notes and Sissy Fit: A Queer Cabaret.

The seed of Sissy Fit was first planted five years ago when Brett Dahl and Joshua Dall'onne worked together at One Yellow Rabbit. They had joked that one day they would create a gay theatre production of epic proportions. It was all in good fun, but after Brett left One Yellow Rabbit, he started to ruminate on the idea.

"I noticed that there was a lack of showcases for queer artists in our province. So many other theatre centres like Toronto, Victoria, even Lethbridge have their own cabarets and queer festivals - and Calgary doesn't have an outlet for queer theatre. There's drag shows, and stuff like that, but not theatre," says Brett. "So for a long time I really wanted a space where other voices could be heard. Josh came up with the idea of the cabarets, and he knew that I had a desire to put on something to showcase queer talent in the city."

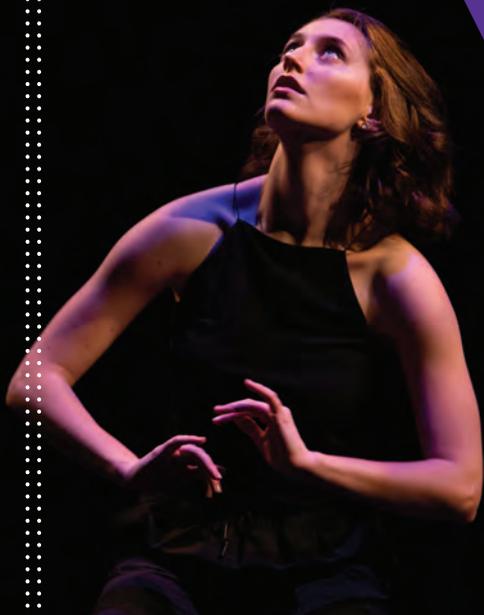
The name Sissy Fit also had its origins with One Yellow Rabbit, a word originally coined by Artistic Director Blake Brooker, which just stuck with Brett.

"I like it because there's something irreverent about it, something subversive about it. It's this uppar, it's this fight back - a bit sexy, a bit empowering - and that's what the name includes for me."

Sissy Fit had its inaugural performance last year on the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, but even if you saw it then, this year's performance stands to be a completely different beast.

"New cast, new energy," says Brett. "It's never going to be the same twice, because it's a live cabaret. Even if it was an imprint of last year, it would still be different. The energy would be different, the jokes would be different. We want to play with the audience. Now that we've figured it out, there's more that we can play with, there's more that we can invest in."

FREE!



VISUAL & MEDIA ARTS

**ARTIST
KYLE SIMMERS**



**ARTIST
GILLIAN MCCARRON**



**ARTIST
MARIA MUNAR**



The RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program

Showcasing local Canadian artists, the RBC Emerging Visual Artists Program provides both mentorship and exhibition opportunity to young artists, assisting them in bridging the gap between emerging and established. Through the program they are given one-on-one coaching opportunities, professional development, networking, and exhibition opportunities in our Lightbox Studio, as well as the Ledge and Window Galleries.

If you're an artist looking to apply, visit artscommons.ca/submissions

Meet some of this season's artists:

Ledge Gallery

Kyle Simmers / March 9 – May 30, 2020

Window Galleries

Katie Barron, Maria Munar,
Mel Vee X, Paige Kurpjuweit
/ March 9 – May 30, 2020

Lightbox Studio

Gillian McCarron
/ March 9 – April 26, 2020

+15 Galleries

Hali Heavy Shield, Miriam Fabijan, Oli Siska
/ March 8 – May 30, 2020

**ARTIST
KATIE BARRON**



Media Arts Program

Featuring highly talented sound and media artists from across Canada and around the world, both the +15 Soundscape and Broadcast Lab bring a unique dynamic to Arts Commons, allowing patrons and passersby to experience art passively or actively on a daily basis.

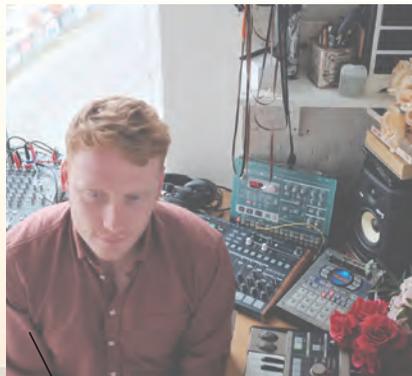
+15 Soundscape

C.R. Gillespie / January 7 – April 30, 2020

Peter Moller / May 1 – August 30, 2020

Broadcast Lab

Arts Commons Presents in partnership with Calgary Society of Independent Filmmakers / March 9 – May 30, 2020



ARTIST

C.R. GILLESPIE

(background image from Gillespie's exhibition: Concentration Patterns)



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.

Spring reception: Friday, May 29, 2020 / 5:30 – 8:30pm, Arts Learning Centre

EDUCATION

A Hub for Learning

A man named Dave stands in front of a group of 20 students on the Jack Singer Concert Hall stage. He's surrounded by beautiful brass instruments, but instead he holds a length of plastic plumbing pipe in his hands. With a knowing smile, he affixes a nozzle to one end, and a funnel to the other, and proceeds to play it like a French horn, filling the Jack Singer with a crystal clear sound. The students explode in whoops and cheers, clapping with delight.

"And that," says Dave Reid, Principal Bass Trombone for the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, "is how a brass instrument works."

Every day, moments like this define the ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning program. Throughout the school year, for one week at a time, a class comes to Arts Commons instead of their classroom. In sessions like the one with Dave, students

address curriculum subjects through big questions like "How does creativity inspire innovation?" or "How does creativity help us communicate effectively with others?" By having these lessons taught through direct exposure to applicable real world examples, students are opened up to a powerful and inspiring way of learning.

One teacher remarked, "The students absorbed so much and it has sparked learning that will not only impact our lessons for the rest of the year, but also impact my teaching for years to come!"

In November, Grade 5 and 6 students from Rundle School took a tour of Arts Commons, studying all of the art exhibitions in the building. They were challenged to create their own abstract art, directly exploring the curriculum directive of "How does creativity

help us understand ourselves, others, and our world?" When they had the opportunity to watch passersby observe their exhibited work – something clicked. They were artists. And their creations mattered.

"Without the generous investment by ConocoPhillips Canada, most of my students wouldn't ever have this experience," says Jocelyn Wong, teacher at Rundle School.

Echoing Jocelyn's enthusiasm, a teacher from St. Catherine's School said, "My students had an amazing week and cannot stop talking about it. The experiences and activities they engaged in during their time at the [ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning], are ones that could not be offered in a regular classroom setting. I truly believe that this experience is a very memorable one for my students and they will look back on it for years to come."

For more information on Arts Commons School programs, including the ConocoPhillips Hub for Inspired Learning, visit artscommons.ca/learn-engage.

Naming Sponsor, ConocoPhillips
Hub for Inspired Learning

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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.

www.conocophillips.ca

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We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the following corporations, foundations, governments, and passionate community leaders who generously support Arts Commons as we contribute to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians and visitors.

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We wish to express our gratitude for the generous support of our Explorers Circle members. Explorers Circle membership supports National Geographic Live and National Geographic, two unparalleled sources of inspiration for adults and students alike, inspiring all of us to care about the planet and each other. Thank you.

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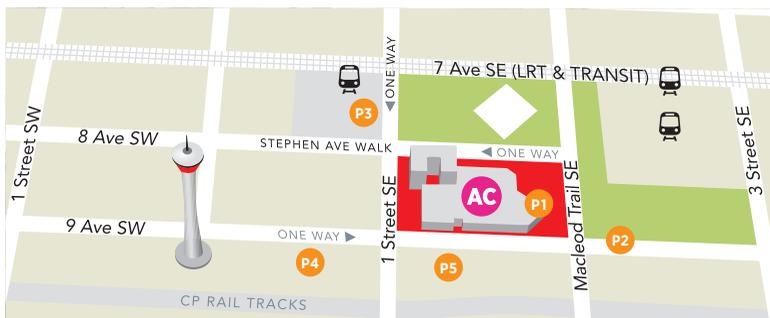
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Jazz



*Discount applied based on number of performances, not number of tickets purchased. While PCL Blues, National Geographic Live, and Arts Commons Presents Special Performances may be included towards your package, the discount will not be applied to those particular performances.



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.



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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!



BY PHONE:
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ONLINE:
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