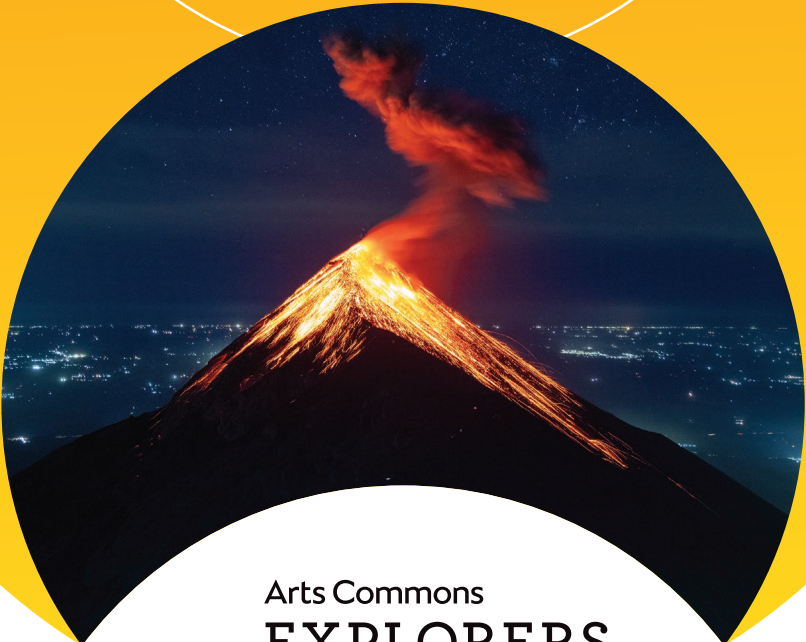


2024-25



Arts Commons
**EXPLORERS
CIRCLE**



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Arts Commons EXPLORERS CIRCLE

Membership in Arts Commons' Explorers Circle not only gives you **exclusive access to world renowned Explorers**, but it supports the presentation of Calgary's distinguished speaker series **National Geographic Live**, and the critical research, exploration, conservation, and education programs of National Geographic.

National Geographic Live features an international community of Explorers: leading scientists, educators, conservationists, technologists, storytellers, film makers, and photographers that drive new knowledge, advance innovative solutions, and inspire positive transformative change.

With our future at stake, National Geographic and Arts Commons are focused on the guardians of the future. Our National Geographic Live student matinee program gives teachers the tools they need to engage kids of all ages, revealing our interconnected world, and inspiring new generations of citizens.

Join us on our journey that embraces the power of science, exploration, education, and storytelling to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world.

"I love that Arts Commons brings events like the National Geographic Live series to Calgary. Bringing the explorers into town is a great way to get information out, spread excitement and hopefully encourage more local exploration."

—Andrew Petti, Associate Explorers Circle Member



We are grateful to the following members of Explorers Circle that help Arts Commons present National Geographic Live, which offers unparalleled content and inspiration for student and public audiences.

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Wild Wolves of Yellowstone
with Doug Smith
- Doug Flaig & Helen Timmons
Hunt for Sleeping Giants
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- Ken Havard
Wild Wolves of Yellowstone
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- Joel Lipkind
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From Roots to Canopy
with Nalini Nadkarni
- Davey, Jane, Jordan
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“I started coming to National Geographic Live before having children, and it sparked wonder, curiosity and affection for this beautiful world and galaxy. Now that I have two little girls, I can’t think of a better way to inspire them to take care of and love the world around them than to share with them this inspiring series.”

—Nyssa Moore, Engagement Sponsor

Explorer Diva Amon poses with Explorers Circle member Jane Moore © Will Young

1ST RECEPTION

Explorer: **Nalini Nadkarni – Forest Ecologist**
Roots to Canopy

Location/Date: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Founders Room
Sunday, November 17, 2024 – 1 p.m.
Monday, November 18, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.

Throughout human history, trees have provided our most important sources of sustenance, protection, and wonder. Nalini Nadkarni, a tree canopy ecologist, has spent four decades dangling among the branches to study the ways that forests inform our daily lives. Climb into the clouds to experience the magnificent wildlife and incredible science happening in the vast, hidden worlds suspended above our heads.

With expertise honed through years of studying these treetop realms, Nadkarni is one of the world’s foremost experts on the vital role canopy ecosystems play in our planet’s health. Discover the fascinating interconnections between canopy flora and fauna and the urgent importance of conserving these biodiverse habitats.

“There are many ways to inspire healing of the earth, all relating to the tree truth that everything is interconnected. We ourselves are trees. Each time we see a tree, outside us or within us, we can remember that they reflect the truth. Something deeply rooted, something with a strong trunk, something that sweeps the sky.”

—Nalini Nadkarni

2ND RECEPTION

Explorer: **Andrés Ruzo – Geothermal Scientist**
Hunt for Sleeping Giants

Location/Date: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Founders Room
Sunday, January 26, 2025 – 1 p.m.
Monday, January 27, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

Andrés Ruzo was originally captivated by the legend of a mysterious “boiling river” as a child – and then he discovered the real thing. Now, he studies the point where the Earth’s molten core meets our world on the surface: far-off lava fields, hidden boiling rivers, and fiery portals underground.

Join Explorers Circle for a white-hot journey as Ruzo shares his remarkable encounters with the underworld in stunning high-definition photo and video from the field. From the depths of the Earth to the heights of human imagination, witness the convergence of science and storytelling through one of nature’s most awe-inspiring phenomena.

“There are moments in exploration when you have to throw caution to the wind and go for it, hoping your preparation, skills, and luck hold out.”

—Andrés Ruzo

Explorers Circle receptions are your opportunity to get up close and personal with National Geographic Explorers. Join your fellow members in the Founders Room for complimentary bar and beverage service, hors d’oeuvres from our friends at Teatro, and a personal introduction to the Explorer before their National Geographic Live Presentation!



1ST

© Nini Chan Wylie



© Getty Images

2ND

3RD



© Alex Wendel

4TH



© MBARI

DINNER



© Will Young

3RD RECEPTION

Explorer: **Doug Smith – Biologist**
Wild Wolves of Yellowstone

Location/Date: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Founders Room
Sunday, April 27, 2025 – 1 p.m.
Monday, April 28, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

National Geographic Explorer and wildlife biologist Doug Smith was hired by Yellowstone in the 1990s to reintroduce gray wolves into America's first national park. Unsure of the outcome, Smith and his team hoped for the best and watched – closely documenting every ripple effect – as the wolves restored balance in the ecosystem. This moving, hopeful example of the power of nature led him to spearhead the Yellowstone Wolf Project, one of the most prominent wolf research programs in the world. Go behind the scenes – including never-before-seen photos and videos – of the quest to bring wolves back and the incredible changes that happened after they arrived.

“Wolves teach us that we need to think about the entire ecosystem. When we bring back wolves, we bring back the balance that all creatures need to thrive.”
—Doug Smith

4TH RECEPTION

Explorer: **Kakani Katija – Bioengineer**
Designed by Nature

Location/Date: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Founders Room
Sunday, May 25, 2025 – 1 p.m.
Monday, May 26, 2025 – 5:30 p.m.

The midwaters of the ocean are one of the least-explored ecosystems on Earth, but its inhabitants have inspired all kinds of technologies. The work of bioengineer Dr. Kakani Katija has led to jellyfish-inspired robotics and more. As a child, Dr. Katija dreamed of being an astronaut and trained as an aerospace engineer. Eventually, her desire to explore shifted from deep space to the deep sea: instead of searching space for signs of life, she now studies waters that are teeming with it. And what she has learned from these underwater creatures is just the tip of the iceberg.

“We need to look at our planet as if we are outsiders in order to truly understand and appreciate its wonders and complexities.”
—Kakani Katija

EXPLORERS CIRCLE DINNER

Explorer: **Kakani Katija – Bioengineer**

Location/Date: **Saturday, May 24, 2025**

In recognition of your commitment to a planet in balance and the success of Arts Commons Presents' National Geographic Live speaker series we invite you to join Kakani Katija and your fellow Explorers for a dining experience graciously catered by our friends at Teatro. (Please note that the Explorers Circle Dinner is open to Explorer level members.)

All Explorers Circle events (special guests, dates, time and locations) are subject to change.

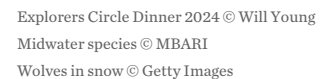
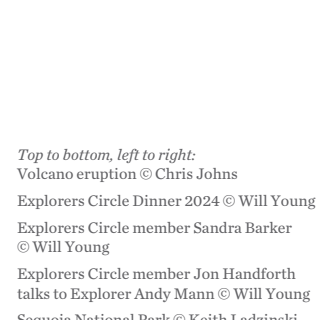
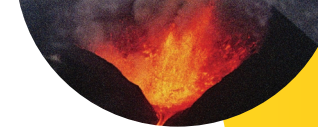
EXPLORERS CIRCLE (EC) MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

	FRIEND \$100 to 299	ASSOCIATE EXPLORER \$300	EXPLORER \$1,200	TRAILBLAZER \$5,000	ENGAGEMENT SPONSOR \$10,000
Official receipt for tax purposes pursuant to Canada Revenue Agency regulations	Donation Amount	Donation less \$50	Donation less \$200	Trailblazers and Engagement Sponsors receive an official receipt for tax purposes less the value of a customized package of benefits that is created in consultation with the donor.	
Advance notification of the 2025-26 Season of National Geographic Live	✓	✓	✓	For more information, please call our Development Officer Meaghan Underhill at 403-294-7497, or munderhill@artsccommons.ca	
Grateful acknowledgment of your name on the Arts Commons website	✓	✓	✓		
Grateful acknowledgment of your name on the Honour Wall in the lobby of the Jack Singer Concert Hall throughout the 2024-25 Season	✓	✓	✓		
Grateful acknowledgment of your name in Arts Commons 2024-25 Report to the Community	✓	✓	✓		
Concierge Services through the Development Office – Priority Seating for the 2024-25 Season of National Geographic Live		✓	✓		
Exclusive access to attend an Explorers Circle Reception to meet the Explorer of your choice and enjoy complimentary bar & beverage service in the Founders Room		One EC Reception of your choice	All Four EC Receptions		
An autographed memento from one of this Season's Explorers		Autographed gift	Autographed gift		
Grateful acknowledgment of your name on the screen in the Jack Singer Concert Hall prior to all National Geographic Live presentations		✓	✓		
An official National Geographic Yellow Border pin			✓		
Join Kakani Katija for a three course Explorers Circle dinner on Saturday, May 24, 2025			✓		

Membership is for a 12-month period; benefits are provided throughout that period.

Make your membership go further!

All contributions to Explorers Circle will be matched up to 50%, through Rogers Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink!



Wolves in snow © Getty Images

"If it hadn't been for me attending a similar presentation when I was a kid, I never would have discovered my passion for natural science. I'm so happy to help today's scientists inspire the experts of tomorrow through Explorers Circle."

—Derrick Finney,
Explorers Circle Member



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Cover photo, *top*: Volcanic eruption © Getty Images

Cover photo, *bottom*: Kaylee Beyene & Sarah Garton Stanley © Will Young

Back photo: Explorer Diva Amon mingles with the crowd at the 2022-23 Explorers Circle Dinner © Will Young

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