



 NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE



Arts Commons
**EXPLORERS
CIRCLE**

 Arts
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EXPLORERS CIRCLE
IS MADE POSSIBLE
WITH THE GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF

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Wyatt van Iderstine, Heather Shaw and Shone Thistle
with Explorer Terry Virts © Will Young



“I love getting to
see the world from
my own hometown!”

Vanessa Arrate with Explorer Vimbai Kumire © Will Young

Vanessa Arrate, Explorer



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Explorer Bertie Gregory in the
Jack Singer Concert Hall © Will Young

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EXPLORERS CIRCLE

NOW MORE THAN EVER, OUR PLANET NEEDS OUR HELP!

Your membership in Explorers Circle delivers the exceptional personal reward of knowing you are supporting the critical research, exploration, conservation, and education programs of National Geographic and the student and public presentations of Calgary's distinguished speaker series National Geographic Live by Arts Commons Presents.

Since 1888, National Geographic has celebrated cultures, innovations, and explorers from around the world. From publishing the groundbreaking work of 19th century explorer Eliza Scidmore as she traveled unaccompanied across

Asia, to sharing the ongoing expeditions of photographer Evgenia Arbugaeva in her Arctic homeland, National Geographic has been pivotal in bringing exceptional stories into the public consciousness.

With our planet's future at stake, Arts Commons and National Geographic are focused on the guardians of that future: our children. 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.

“Arts Commons is an integral part of our city, and it’s important that everyone – no matter who they are – has access to it. Programs like National Geographic Live make Calgary a more vibrant place to call home.”

Ayn Loepky, Friend



Michel Bourque with Explorer Kenny Broad, Bryan Clarke and Jane Durango © Will Young



Ayn and Layton Leopky © Will Young



Nyssa Moore with Explorer Terry Virts © Will Young

“To support Arts Commons is to support a hopeful future for everyone. I feel really lucky to be involved in the Explorers Circle. I wish more people knew just how wonderful it is and how it does make you care about the world.”

Nyssa Moore, Explorer



National Geographic Live Student Matinee © Alex Bonyun

Arts Commons also recognizes the significant impact the arts and events such as National Geographic Live will have on the City of Calgary as we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic. Certainly, they will be key to an economic recovery. But they will be even more crucial to building back a desired quality of life for Calgarians across the city, helping improve their mental health, and strengthening their sense of community.

To begin this process, and to show our appreciation to all of the brave and generous essential workers that helped us through the pandemic, Arts Commons and our resident companies will undertake

A Season of Gratitude throughout the 2021-22 Season. This program will provide up to 10,000 tickets to Calgarians identified as essential workers, enabling them to attend performances and events such as National Geographic Live, at no cost.

A *Season of Gratitude* is made possible by a generous gift from the **Rodney & Karen McCann Family**. We hope you will decide to lend your support of our National Geographic Live student matinee program and *A Season of Gratitude* by joining Explorers Circle for the 2021-22 Season.

*National Geographic Society receives funds from National Geographic Partners LLC, made possible in part by your gift through Explorers Circle. To learn more, visit natgeo.com/info.



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1ST RECEPTION

Explorer: **Joel Sartore** – Photographer & Founder
of National Geographic Photo Ark
Building the Photo Ark

Location : Jack Singer Concert Hall, Founders Room
& Date Monday, February 7, 2022 – 5:30pm

“It is folly to think that we can destroy one species and ecosystem after another and not affect humanity. When we save species, we’re actually saving ourselves.” - Joel Sartore

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 11,000 images and counting – in his quest to document our world’s astonishing diversity! He’s over halfway to his goal of documenting all of the approximately 20,000 species living in the world’s zoos and wildlife sanctuaries. Hear about his comical mishaps, endearing encounters, and personal stories while documenting a world worth saving.

2ND RECEPTION

Explorer: **Dr. Kara Cooney** – Egyptologist
When Women Ruled the World

Location: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Founders Room
& Date Monday, March 14, 2022 – 5:30pm

“Cognitive scientists have shown that female emotionality is more connected than males, and females commit less violent acts. To put it simply: women rule differently. This is called gender essentialism, and it shocks many people.” - Dr. Kara Cooney

When it comes to women in power, we’ve come a long way...right? Join Dr. Kara Cooney, professor of Egyptology, for a look at a time in ancient history when women ruled the world. Often neglected in the history books, these women were considered exceptions to the rule, political pawns in a patriarchal society. But their power and influence is undeniable. Cleopatra used her sexuality—and her money—to build alliances with warlords of the Roman Empire. Neferusobek was the first woman to definitively take the title of King. Nefertiti is known more for her beauty than for bringing a fractured Egypt together. What can we learn from how these women ruled? Dr. Cooney shares some illuminating answers.



© Joel Sartore

© Joel Sartore

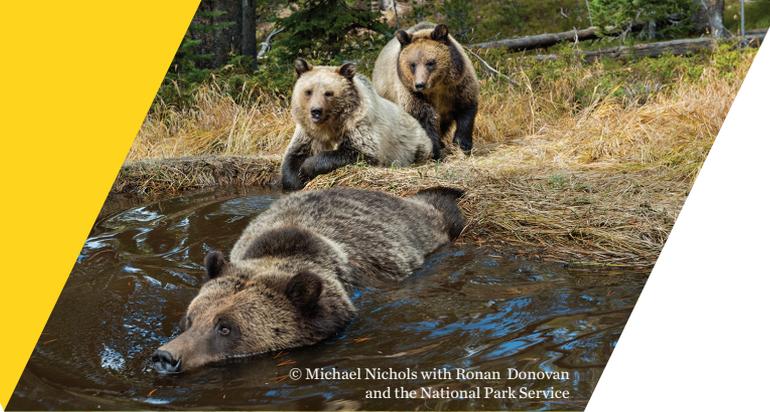


Dr. Kara Cooney © Marissa Stevens



“We love being members of Explorers Circle to express our support for this excellent program, and because our support allows students to experience what could be a life-changing experience.”

Maureen Armitage & Shane Matthews, Explorers



© Michael Nichols with Ronan Donovan and the National Park Service



© Brian Skerry

Maureen Armitage with Explorer Bertie Gregory at the Explorers Circle Dinner © Will Young



“I recommend joining Explorers Circle because it is a wonderful opportunity to meet Explorers, while supporting National Geographic and Arts Commons in the work they do to give back to the community.”

Ken Havard,
Engagement Sponsor

3RD RECEPTION

Explorer: **Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant** – Ecologist
Secret Life of Bears

Location & Date: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Founders Room
Monday, April 11, 2022 – 5:30pm

“The human population in North America is increasing, and the black bear population in North America is increasing. It’s creating a lot of conflict, but it’s also creating a lot of opportunity for scientists like me to learn about coexistence.” -Dr. Wynn-Grant

Dr. Rae Wynn-Grant has dedicated her life to ecological research and conservation. As a scientist with National Geographic Society’s *Last Wild Places Initiative*, she works to protect and restore iconic wildlife populations, including North American black and grizzly bears. But when the wild lands of their habitat are crisscrossed by roads, fences, and ranches, how can bears and humans coexist peacefully? Dr. Wynn-Grant intends to find the answer.

4TH RECEPTION

Explorer: **Brian Skerry** – Photographer
Secrets of the Whales

Location & Date: Jack Singer Concert Hall, Founders Room
Monday, May 16, 2022 – 5:30pm

“If we can see the ocean and our planet through the lens of the culture of another species, that could change our perception of the natural world and our relation to it.” -Brian Skerry

Celebrated National Geographic photographer Brian Skerry has spent nearly four decades exploring and documenting Earth’s oceans. For his latest project, he turns his lens to one of the world’s most beloved animals to illuminate startling new insights into their lives and culture. Discover the extraordinary communication skills and intricate social structures among four different species of whales—from the international cuisines of orcas to families of beluga whales playing at their “summer resort”—and learn what these majestic creatures can teach us about ourselves and our planet.

EXPLORERS CIRCLE DINNER

Explorer: **Joel Sartore** – Photographer and
Founder of National Geographic Photo Ark

Location & Date: ENMAX Conservatory at the Calgary Zoo
Saturday, February 5, 2022 – 5:30pm

Recognition of your commitment to a planet in balance and the success of Arts Commons Presents’ National Geographic Live speaker series with an invitation to join Joel Sartore and your fellow Explorers for a sumptuous dining experience. *(Please note that the Explorers Circle Dinner is open to Explorer Level Members.)*

All Explorers Circle events (special guests, dates, times 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
<i>Official receipt for tax purposes pursuant to Canada Revenue Agency regulations</i>	Donation Amount	Donation less \$50	Donation less \$200	<p>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.</p> <p>For more information, please call our Development Officer Meaghan Underhill at 403-294-7497, or munderhill@artsccommons.ca</p>	
<i>Advance notification of the 2022-23 Season of National Geographic Live</i>	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Grateful acknowledgement of your name on the Arts Commons website</i>	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Grateful acknowledgement of your name on the Honour Wall in the lobby of the Jack Singer Concert Hall throughout the 2021-22 Season</i>	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Grateful acknowledgement of your name in Arts Commons 2021-22 Report to the Community</i>	✓	✓	✓		
<i>Concierge Services through the Development Office – Priority Seating for the 2021-22 Season of National Geographic Live</i>		✓	✓		
<i>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</i>		One EC Reception of your choice	All Four EC Receptions		
<i>An autographed memento from the Explorer of your choice</i>		One Autographed gift	Four Autographed gifts		
<i>Grateful acknowledgement of your name on the screen in the Jack Singer Concert Hall prior to all National Geographic Live presentations</i>		✓	✓		
<i>A National Geographic official Yellow Border pin</i>			✓		
<i>Join Explorer Joel Sartore for a sumptuous three-course Explorers Circle Dinner that will be held at the Calgary Zoo on Saturday, February 5, 2022</i>			✓		

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 Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink!

Join the
Circle
artscommons.ca/
explorerscircle

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“My parents and I believe it’s important to support education and help students that might not have a chance. I’m really happy to know that other kids will now have the same opportunity as me, to see such exciting Explorers as Astrobiologist Kevin Hand.”

Alexander Deakin, Trailblazer





*Founded on a vision,
built for the community,
and supported by you!*

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Cover photo, top: © Michael Nichols with Ronan Donovan and the National Park Service. Cover photo, center: Doug Flaig and Helen Timmons at an Explorers Circle Event © Will Young. Cover photo, bottom: © Brian Skerry

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