



**For Immediate Release**

## **Calgary's Leading Arts Education Festival Returns with a Citywide Youth Changemaker Project**

**April 2, 2026 – CALGARY, AB, CANADA**

The arts unlock confidence, creativity, and lifelong skills in young people. This spring, Werklund Centre's Arts ReimaginED is back for its fourth year, with a month-long festival dedicated to celebrating, uplifting, and expanding Calgary's arts education community. More information is available at [werklundcentre.ca/artsreimagined](https://werklundcentre.ca/artsreimagined).

In 2026, Arts ReimaginED will reach more than 400 students through 7,500 hours of hands-on creative experiences, both in classrooms around Calgary and at Werklund Centre. The festival is also renewing Werklund Centre's collaboration with the University of Calgary's School of Creative and Performing Arts to present *Little Wonders*, an interactive experience for children ages 1 – 6, from May 22 – 24. The festival culminates with a summit on June 2 in the Martha Cohen Theatre, where students, teachers, and teaching artists will share projects, performances, and learnings.

"This new format allows young people to take centre stage and share what is important to them through their changemaker projects aligning with UNESCO's culture and arts education principles," says Karen Youngberg, Associate Director of Education at Werklund Centre. "We want to elevate and celebrate student identities as they develop their voices and perspectives that will shape our future."

The summit will feature keynote speakers [Eazy G aka Erick Gutierrez](#), a Calgary beatboxer and Western Canadian Beatbox Champion, and [Harvey Nichol](#), a multidisciplinary artist whose work explores identity, migration, and community. Together, they will energize students and teachers to think differently about community, mentorship, and the role of the arts in bringing people together.

Informed by a 2022 Stone-Olafson survey, Arts ReimaginED focuses on three key stakeholder groups: educators, parents and caregivers, and teaching artists. Through student and family workshops, professional development for teaching artists, and a culminating summit, the festival responds to real needs in Calgary's arts ecosystem. Since 2022, we have been building a community of teaching artists, expanding access to hands-on experiences, and sparking a broader civic conversation about the value of arts education. As Western Canada's largest arts centre, Werklund Centre is uniquely positioned to lead this work.



# Werklund Centre

“Arts ReimaginED reflects a core belief at Werklund Centre: access to the arts is essential,” says Alex Sarian, President and CEO of Werklund Centre. “The long-term impact of meaningful creative engagement in a young person’s life is immeasurable. This festival is an invitation to rethink how we engage with the arts—through relevance, reflection, and a deeper embrace of cultural diversity and lived experience.”

Werklund Centre wishes to express our sincere appreciation to our lead sponsor Calgary Arts Development, and our public sector supporters the Government of Alberta and The City of Calgary.

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## Werklund Centre

**Werklund Centre** (formerly Arts Commons) is the steward of Western Canada's largest arts centre and the artistic and civic cornerstone of Calgary's downtown core that fosters the arts through live performance, educational opportunities, and artist development programs. For 40 years, it has been a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians—a commitment that is being renewed through the Werklund Centre Transformation project, the largest cultural infrastructure project in Canadian history. It is home to five resident companies, including Alberta Theatre Projects, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Downstage, Theatre Calgary, and One Yellow Rabbit. It houses six gallery spaces, five theatres, a concert hall, rehearsal and education spaces, costume and scene shops, and a restaurant.