



**For Immediate Release**

## **Discover the Thriving Ecosystem of the Southern Pole with Quantitative Ecologist Heather Lynch at Werklund Centre**

**March 31, 2026 – CALGARY, AB, CANADA**

Far from empty, the frozen continent at the bottom of the world is the perfect home for millions of seabirds including penguins, and as our planet continues to warm, Dr. Heather Lynch is studying what that means for these charismatic animals. Werklund Centre invites you to bundle up and venture to one of the most inhospitable places on our planet to discover the complex and ever-shifting world of penguins. **Heather Lynch: Penguins of Antarctica** takes place on **Sunday, April 19 at 2:00 p.m.** and **Monday, April 20 at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Jack Singer Concert Hall at Werklund Centre**. For more information visit [werklundcentre.ca/lynch](http://werklundcentre.ca/lynch).



Dr. Heather Lynch is a quantitative ecologist, dedicated to understanding the population dynamics of Antarctic wildlife, with a particular focus on Antarctic penguins. She has more than a decade of field experience on the continent, including her work at the forefront of using high-resolution satellite imagery to map penguin occupancy and abundance across Antarctica. Through this research she is helping to untangle the effects of climate change, fishing, and tourism on Antarctic populations. She is an Associate Professor at Stony Brook University with a joint appointment in the Department of Ecology & Evolution and



the Institute for Advanced Computational Science. She received an NSF CAREER Award for her work on the spatial dynamics of Antarctic penguins and was elected an early career fellow of the Ecological Society of America.

“While it would be easy to assume — and most people do — that what attracted me to that job was the opportunity to work in Antarctica, it really was actually the data,” Lynch says. “Satellites are kind of giving us this window into Antarctic ecology that we just didn’t have before. It’s kind of cracked open this whole field of people who are starting to look at wildlife remotely.”

*Heather Lynch: Penguins of Antarctica* comes to Calgary as part of Werklund Centre’s 2025-26 season of National Geographic Live. After 15 seasons in Calgary, this series continues to bring expansive stories and stunning visuals from the pages of National Geographic magazine to our stage.

“National Geographic Live is, at its core, science made relevant, brought to life by the cutting-edge scientists, photographers, and explorers who live it every day,” says Werklund Centre President and CEO Alex Sarian. “Dr. Heather Lynch has a remarkable ability to translate the rigor of her quantitative research in Antarctica into storytelling that is both compelling and often delightfully funny. Through her work, she opens a window into a world that feels utterly remote from our own yet is profoundly connected to it. I’m thrilled to welcome Heather Lynch to Calgary and give our community the chance to experience her incredible work.”

## **National Geographic Live**

### **Heather Lynch: Penguins of Antarctica**

Sunday April 19 and Monday, April 20, 2026

Presentation: 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Jack Singer Concert Hall at Werklund Centre

Tickets available by calling 403-294-9494 or visit [werklundcentre.ca/lynch](https://werklundcentre.ca/lynch).

Werklund Centre wishes to express our sincere appreciation to presenting sponsor ConocoPhillips Canada, student engagement sponsor Enbridge, innovation sponsor Keyera, EXPLORE National Geographic supporting sponsors CABRA Consulting and Geologic as well as our public sector supporters the Government of Alberta and our friends at The City of Calgary.

---

**For media inquiries or more information contact:**



# Werklund Centre

Alex Bonyun  
Community and Media Relations Manager  
Werklund Centre

[abonyun@werklundcentre.ca](mailto:abonyun@werklundcentre.ca)  
403-294-7429

##



## 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.