

For Immediate Release

Arts Commons Presents “PLAZA FOR ALL” A Free Summer Celebration at Olympic Plaza with Emerson Drive

July 4, 2024 - CALGARY – Calgary’s greatest downtown summer send-off is ready to rock the Plaza! In an evening of local country music celebration, Arts Commons welcomes Alberta darling Emerson Drive to bring the party to the front yard of Arts Commons, a FREE concert for the whole crew. Kicking off “Plaza for All” is local legend, the multi-award-winning Kyle McKearney. **Join us for headliner Emerson Drive on Wednesday, August 28, 2024 Gates open at 7:00 p.m. at Olympic Plaza.** Guests are invited to RSVP in advance to secure their spot. Visit artscommons.ca/plazaforall for more details!

Celebrating 28 years together, Emerson Drive’s astounding career has landed the band in a place few musical groups reach. Since bursting onto the scene in North America in 2001 with their first two singles “I Should Be Sleeping” and “Fall Into Me”, both of which peaked in the Top 5 on the Billboard Country chart, they quickly became fan favorites. Now with over 4000 shows played, millions of miles travelled, countless awards and nominations from the Academy of Country Music, Country Music Association, CMT, Dove Awards, GRAMMY Awards, JUNO Awards, Billboard and the Canadian Country Music Association, they come together for one final tour. Plaza for All is a major stop on their One for the Road Final Tour!

Opening the evening is alt country, Métis sensation Kyle McKearney. Kyle’s distinct brand of bluegrass blended country draws beautifully on his Albertan and Métis roots. His many accolades and awards encompass three YYC Music Award including Songwriter of the Year, a Canadian Folk Music Award, and a Canadian Country Music Award for Alternative Country Album of the Year, to name a few. These successes have rocketed him to become one Canada’s biggest breakthrough independent country/Americana artist of recent memory.

“Plaza For All is an opportunity to come together. It’s an invitation to all Calgarians, to celebrate the end of summer, the power of great music and to make a beautiful memory at Olympic Plaza” says Sarah Garton Stanley (SGS), VP of Programming at Arts Commons. “We have been planning all year for this. It’s a thank you to the community that helps make our job so fun to do. And it’s a proper send off to a place and a band we all love!”

Taking place at Olympic Plaza, *Plaza for All* invites you to enjoy an outdoor concert, for free! Stretch out on a picnic blanket or a festival chair in the grassy tiered areas or grab a picnic table in the pool pad (no water for this party!) Food trucks and bar service will be available on site. For full details, and to sign up to receive event updates and more performer announcements, visit artscommons.ca/plazaforall.

Plaza for All builds on the love for free outdoor summer concerts on Olympic Plaza like last season’s *Party in the Plaza with Kardinal Offishall and Kiesza* and *Showtime: A Live Music Celebration*, a free outdoor concert that welcomed 1,500 socially distanced concert-goers during the pandemic.

“It is an essential part of Arts Commons that we provide accessible arts experiences to our city,” says Alex Sarian, President and CEO of Arts Commons. “As we expand our ability to serve our community through the Arts Commons Transformation and Olympic Plaza Transformation projects, and recent announcement of our

MEDIA RELEASE



evolution into Werklund Centre, these events welcoming all of Calgary are more vital than ever. Plaza for All is our way of sharing the best local, Albertan talent with our community in a way that everyone is welcome.”

What: Arts Commons Presents – Plaza for All featuring Emerson Drive
When: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. (Site opens at 6:00 p.m.)
Where: Olympic Plaza, Arts Commons
Tickets: 403-294-9494 or visit artscommons.ca/plazaforall

Arts Commons wishes to express our sincere appreciation to EllisDon Construction, KPMB Architects, Hindle Architects, gh3*, CCxA, and Belleville Placemaking for their support of *Plaza for All* featuring Emerson Drive. We’d also like to thank the Government of Canada through Canadian Heritage, the Government of Alberta through the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and our friends at The City of Calgary.

For media inquiries or more information contact:

Alex Bonyun, Communications Manager
403-294-7429 abonyun@artscommons.ca

Arts Commons Presents invites you to discover the transformative power of the Arts. As the programming arm of Arts Commons, Arts Commons Presents programs and presents the signature subscription series: BD&P World Stage, National Geographic Live, and Classic Albums Live, as well as TD Amplify and a number of special presentations. Through this work, we are able to do our part to further enrich our city, as well as create opportunities for Calgary-based artists on many levels.