

Calgary



ARTS & CULTURE

STORIES OF
COMMUNITY
IMPACT 2025



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ARTS & CULTURE: INTRODUCTION

Calgary is growing, and with it, the impact of our arts and culture sector is growing too. From neighbourhood murals to world-class performances, creativity is shaping the places we live, work and gather.

The City of Calgary’s Arts & Culture division is proud to support this momentum, helping local artists, cultural groups and community partners bring bold ideas and unique placemaking initiatives to life.

Through funding, outreach and thoughtful planning, we nurture spaces where imagination thrives and where Calgarians can connect, celebrate and dream together. These initiatives aren’t just events or programs – they’re the heartbeat of a more connected, inclusive and vibrant city. They help fuel creative entrepreneurship by giving local talent the resources and opportunities to flourish.

Together, we’re building a Calgary that welcomes every voice, sparks innovation and provides diverse experiences for Calgarians and visitors to enjoy. This support keeps our city connected to the arts on both a national and international level through stable and sustainable funding programs for the local arts and culture sector.

OUR MISSION:	OUR VISION:
To be a catalyst for creativity, connection and activation for the people and organizations that contribute to the creative economy.	To be recognized as a cultural and economic driver for Calgary that supports a diverse and inclusive range of arts and culture opportunities.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Calgary area, where the Bow and Elbow rivers meet, is a place of confluence where stories, knowledge and creative expressions have been shared for generations—expressions that continue to shape the artistic life of this city today.

Indigenous peoples have their own names for this region, names that were used long before settlers called this place Calgary. In the Blackfoot language, it is called Moh-kins-tsis. The Îlethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations refer to this place as Wicispa Oyade and the people of the Tsuut'ina Nation call it Guts-ists-I. The Métis call the Calgary area Otos-kwunee.

The Arts & Culture team recognizes that all creative work we support must be grounded in respect for the ancestral and traditional territories of the Blackfoot Nations, comprised of the Siksika, Piikani and Kainai First Nations; the Îlethka Nakoda Wîcastabi First Nations, comprised of the Chiniki, Bearspaw and Goodstoney First Nations; and the Tsuut'ina Nation. We also acknowledge that Calgary is also homeland to the historic Northwest Métis and to the Otipemisiwak Métis Government, Métis Nation Battle River Territory (Nose Hill Métis District 5 and Elbow Métis District 6).

We acknowledge and give gratitude to the many First Nations, Urban Indigenous, Métis and Inuit peoples who have lived on, cared for, created and shared stories on these lands since time immemorial. We honour their enduring artistic and cultural leadership and commit to supporting both traditional and contemporary Indigenous knowledge – including the storytelling, placekeeping and relational practices that will continue to guide Arts & Culture now and far into the future.

– The City of Calgary's Arts & Culture division







A&C IS BIG BUSINESS

ARTS & CULTURE: GRANT PROGRAMS AND SUBSIDY

In 2025, Arts & Culture invested more than \$6 million in Calgary communities to support vibrancy, strengthen connections and build capacity. From local non-profits to Community Associations and Business Improvement Areas, funding from The City of Calgary helped transform ideas into action.

ARTS & CULTURE OVERVIEW IN 2025	
<p>369 local organizations received Arts & Culture subsidies and funding.</p>	<p>416 individual initiatives received financial support from Arts & Culture funding programs – an over 200 per cent increase from 2024 (277).</p>
<p>Over \$54.6M in positive economic impact was generated through Arts & Culture-funded initiatives.</p>	<p>2.92M Calgarians and visitors attended Arts & Culture-funded initiatives.</p>



Halloween on 17th, hosted by 17th Ave BIA

NEW! Neighbour Day Microgrant

Neighbour Day is Calgary's celebration of community spirit and connection. Held each year on the third Saturday in June, it is a step toward creating welcoming and inclusive communities. In 2025, the #YYCNeighbourDay microgrant was launched to offer funding for small-scale, free-to-attend Neighbour Day events that foster community connection, while promoting equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging. Due to overwhelming demand, the application intake was closed early after funding was fully allocated.

\$91,543
provided 42
Initiatives

74%
of eligible applications funded



Neighbour Day 2025 events: Millican Ogden Community Association, Calgary Chinatown Association and the Alex Community Food Centre

Stories from the Neighbour Day Microgrant



Community building under construction

In celebration of Neighbour Day and to highlight the benefits of remaining patient with the short-term inconveniences of local stormwater mitigation projects, the community of Hillhurst Sunnyside organized a parade through their neighbourhood. Engaging hundreds of community members, the parade showcased their love of community, along with their appreciation for the flood protection measures that have been established since 2013.



SafeLink Alberta's community clean-up

For the second year in a row, SafeLink Alberta organized a community cleanup and BBQ event in Sunalta. Over 105 community members joined the activities, promoting collaboration, community connection, cleanliness and shared responsibility.

NEW! Calgary Culture Days Microgrant

Calgary Culture Days is a month-long celebration of arts, culture and community spirit, held every September since 2014. From live music and festivals to theatre, film, visual arts and more, this annual event encourages Calgarians and visitors to explore new perspectives and engage with the vibrant cultural life of Calgary. In 2025, the Calgary Culture Days Microgrant was introduced to help activate the greater downtown area through free or low-cost arts and culture programming during September. It supports new small-scale initiatives and fosters creative exchanges among artists, communities and cultural groups.

\$95,000

provided to 19 non-profit organizations

44%

of eligible applications funded

2025 poster creative for Calgary Culture Days

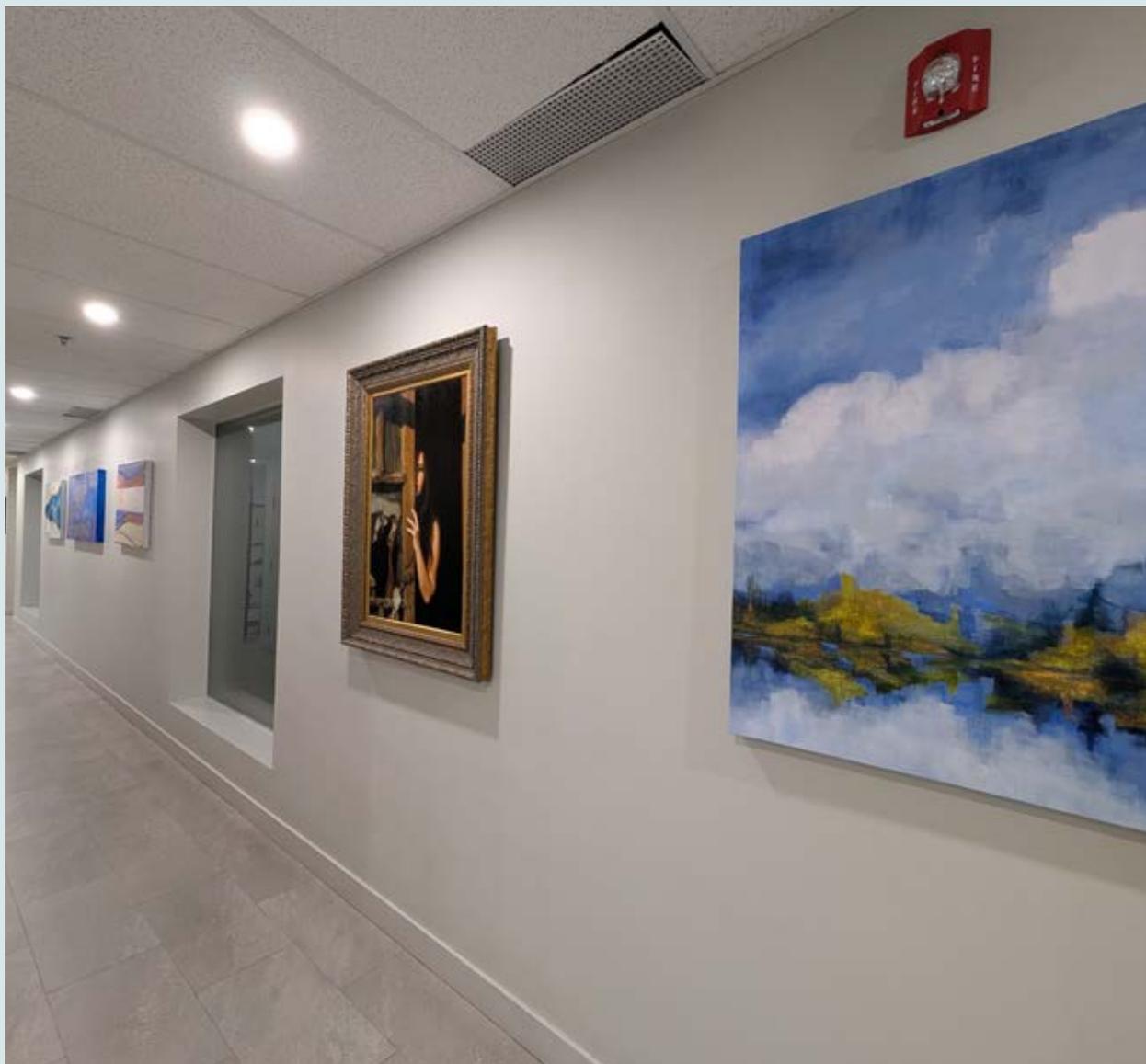


Story from the Calgary Culture Days Microgrant

Unity in Diversity: A Decade of Art and Healing Exhibition

Hosted in downtown Calgary during Culture Days 2025, the LOUD Art Society (LAS) exhibition showcased the work of 22 racialized and equity-deserving artists, who use art as a form of healing and cultural expression. Centered on the themes of mental health, multicultural identity and resilience, the event featured visual art, interactive installations and artist talks. Over 120 attendees, including newcomers, youth, families and arts sector leaders, reflected on creativity's role in community well-being. The exhibition extended LAS's longstanding art therapy programming into a fully public and accessible cultural event, celebrating the organization's ten-year commitment to creative care and cultural inclusion in Calgary.

Artwork credits: (From right to left) *Season's Edge* by Samantha Thrift; *Hidden Half* by Raha Jazayeri; *Mother Earth Opens her Arms* by Sharon Thompson; *Sea* by Mirim Koh



Artwork credits:

(Top left) *Three Sisters* by Tazim Esmali
(Top right) *Hidden Corner 2* by Tara Vahab
(Bottom left) *Roses are Red* by Tazim Esmali
(Bottom right) *Peonies Passion* by Tazim Esmali



**Unity in Diversity: A Decade of Art and Healing Art Exhibition
feedback from participants**

**“Thank you for giving
me this opportunity,
this is the first time
to exhibit my art in
Canada!”**



“The Culture Days microgrant made it possible for LOUD Art Society to present our very first group exhibition in 10 years of operations—something that could not have occurred at this scale without their support. This funding allowed us to reach a larger audience, celebrate community through art and healing, and foster new partnerships and collaborations that will carry forward beyond the event.”

– Tara Vahab, Executive Director of LOUD Art Society



“LOUD Art Society has changed how I think about art and mental health,” underscore the event’s impact in generating inclusion, belonging, and personal growth through creative expression.”

“This show helped me feel seen for the first time in an arts space.”



“Fabulous afternoon in a great venue! Thanks so much to the Calgary Philharmonic and The City of Calgary. We should do more of these!”

–Attendee



NEW! Downtown in Motion Grant

The Downtown in Motion Grant was created to support long-lasting community impact in the greater downtown area. It empowers organizations to host financially sustainable, publicly accessible arts, culture and sports initiatives. Through activating public spaces, our local partners create places of connection and creativity, while contributing to a safer, more dynamic downtown.

\$1.2M
provided to 31 initiatives

58%
of eligible applications funded

Story from the Downtown in Motion Grant



Phil in the Park

The Downtown in Motion grant helped enhance Phil in the Park, a free community concert at Prince’s Island Park hosted by the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. Grant funding covered essential site and technical needs – such as sound, power, fencing, heaters, sanitation, security and first aid – allowing the event organizers to focus their resources on musician fees and marketing. By supporting infrastructure, the grant helped bring orchestral music to the heart of downtown and made the event more accessible to the public.

“We had 11,971 people register in advance, and many passing by stopped to listen. We heard many great comments from attendees at the event, who appreciated the food trucks, fun atmosphere and perfect weather. A long, standing ovation at the conclusion of the concert was another great sign. Based on registrations, 57 per cent of registrants were attending a Calgary Phil concert for the first time. It was very important for us to provide this concert free of charge so that anyone could attend without barriers.”

–Calgary Philharmonic Society

Arts & Culture Microgrant

The Arts & Culture Microgrant empowers local non-profits to celebrate Calgary's diverse cultural landscape and foster vibrant, inclusive communities. Funding is available for new arts and culture initiatives, including programming, temporary installations, place-keeping projects, workshops and events that promote cultural learning and deepen appreciation for the arts.

**Competitive: Grants that are scored based on alignment with program guidelines. City of Calgary and Partner Organizations representatives score applications and awarded funding to top scoring applications.*

\$1.18M
provided to 132 initiatives

36%
of eligible competitive*
applications funded

Story from the Arts & Culture Microgrant

Montgomery Night Market featuring Chalk the Block

Montgomery's summer art festival, Chalk the Block, was originally scheduled for June 5, 2024, but cancelled because of the water main break. One year later, the festival was finally brought to life, this time accompanied by the community's first night market. The festival brought together 3,000 neighbours and 72 local artists to create and present their art in the heart of the Montgomery community, restoring vibrancy, partnership and community spirit. This initiative supported 53 community partnerships.



(Above) Montgomery Night Market featuring Chalk the Block



Arts & Culture can support only 40 per cent of the eligible funding applications we receive, and one-time grants aren't enough to meet community needs.

Cinema on 17th, hosted by 17th Ave BIA



CALL TO ACTION

Arts & Culture can support an average of 40 per cent of the eligible funding applications we receive – but one-time grants aren't enough to meet community needs. Many of our community partners risk shutting their doors, leaving a gap in essential services and programs that people rely on every day. To keep these community initiatives alive and thriving, we need to turn short-term support into base operating funding. This helps support the health of local non-profits, charities, Community Associations and Business Improvement Areas that make Calgary's cultural landscape vibrant and accessible.



A&C IS COLLABORATIVE

Calgary BLUE SKY CITY

ARTS & CULTURE: PARTNERSHIPS

Our work is grounded in strong, genuine partnerships built over time with local artists, fabricators, event organizers, cultural groups and community partners who bring our city to life. When our partners succeed, Calgarians experience the benefits—from opportunities for jobs and entrepreneurship to inclusive services and vibrant arts, cultural and community spaces.

PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW IN 2025			
35,553 organizations, local creative professionals, community partners, sponsors, businesses and volunteers collaborated to deliver 416 initiatives across our funding streams.	2,355 community partners with an active role participated in Arts & Culture-funded initiatives.	5,533 sponsors and local businesses reported benefits from Arts & Culture-funded initiatives.	18,812 volunteer opportunities were reported from Arts & Culture-funded initiatives.

Celebrating collaboration

Calgary’s creative community came together in January 2025 for Arts & Culture Canvas, an open house event that welcomed 175 people representing 95 local non-profits, Business Improvement Areas and Community Associations. Hosted by the Arts & Culture division, this was an opportunity to spark new connections, share information and resources, and celebrate the creative energy shaping Calgary’s future.



“Before attending the event, I hadn’t fully realized the scope and significance of The City’s role in curating artwork and organizing cultural activities. This has deepened my appreciation for local arts initiatives and highlighted the importance of supporting these endeavors.”

—Arts & Culture Canvas Attendee

Arts & Culture Canvas open house 2025

Connecting Calgary's cultural communities

Calgary Culture Connect is a new City-led online directory designed to bring together local arts, culture, heritage and social organizations. By registering, non-profits, charities and Indigenous organizations based in Calgary, or the Treaty 7 region, gain visibility and access to opportunities for collaboration and community engagement. Offered at no cost, this resource builds on the legacy of the Cross Cultural Directory and supports the growth and sustainability of Calgary's cultural sectors.

Afro Caribbean Festival YYC during Calgary Culture Days



(Below) Chinook Blast 2025 | Photo: Neil Zeller



Building Calgary's reputation as a world-class winter city

Since the launch of Calgary's Winter City Strategy in 2022, The City has made exciting strides in transforming winter into a season of opportunity. Through collaborative programming and the activation of public spaces, initiatives like Chinook Blast, New Year's Eve and the Winter City Design Competition, have brought energy and vibrancy to Calgary's downtown, showcasing the city's creative spirit and potential.

These successes demonstrate a strong appetite for winter experiences and highlight the untapped potential of Calgary as a world-class winter city. To fully realize this vision, sustained investment in winter-specific infrastructure, programming and promotion, supported by strong partnerships, is essential. With the right support, Calgary can unlock new economic, social and cultural opportunities – helping the city thrive year-round.

Rotary Calgary 2025 | Photo: Tourism Calgary | Roth and Ramburg

Efficiencies for hosting major events in Calgary

The Major Events Bid Process Review project was completed in 2025 to assess how The City and its partners are working together to acquire and host major events in Calgary. The City has committed to completing 15 opportunities for improvement that will support strategic coordination, proactive communication, improved documentation and collaborative planning with the goal of enhancing Calgary's global reputation.



CALL TO ACTION

As our communities face mounting pressures from population growth, inflation and economic instability, partners across the sector are being stretched thinner than ever. Strategic investment in partnership support is essential to strengthen sector-wide strategies and build meaningful relationships. These supports range from tools that make collaboration easier – such as “one-window in” event liaisons – to initiatives that foster shared planning and resource alignment.

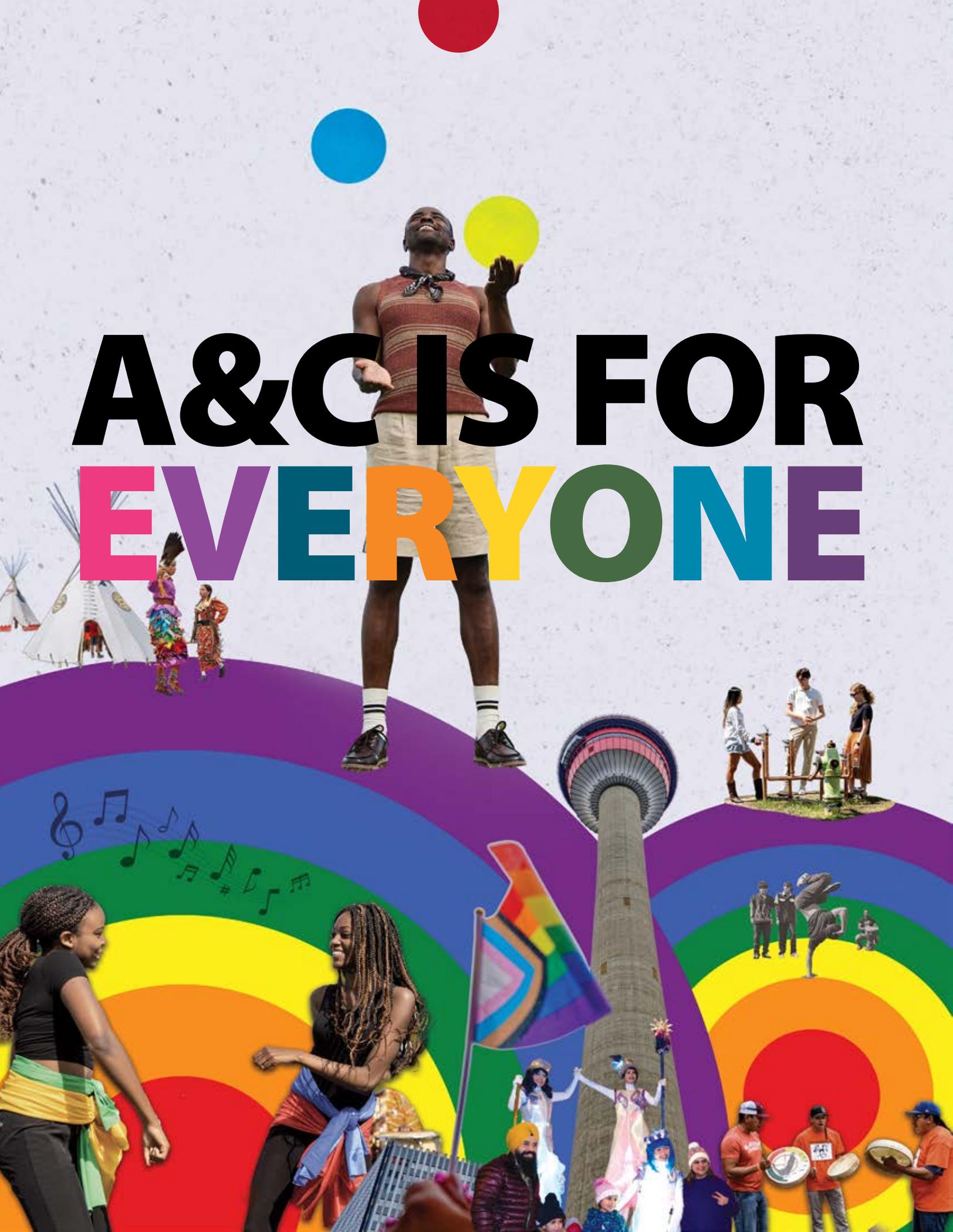


“[Chinook Blast] provides a rare and valuable platform for live performance in the heart of winter, allowing us to connect with new audiences and showcase our work in a high-visibility, community-driven setting.”

—Little Red Ball Company

Chinook Blast 2025 |
Photo: Neil Zeller

A&C IS FOR EVERYONE



ARTS & CULTURE: EQUITY

Equity means more than access – it means amplifying perspectives and voices. Through inclusive programs and partnerships, we can help ensure every Calgarian and visitors to our city feel a part of Calgary’s cultural story.

EQUITY OVERVIEW IN 2025		
<p>Provided over \$100,000 to 50 Chinatown initiatives to foster connection and celebrate culture.</p>	<p>2025 Canada Day Cultural Carousel featured 30 cultural groups, a 50% increase from 2024.</p>	<p>22 new artworks added by Indigenous artists to the public art collection.</p>

Evolving and enhancing direct events to celebrate diversity

In 2025, Canada Day celebrated culture and inclusion. Highlights included an Indigenous Spotlight and Powwow, a Cultural Carousel featuring 30 cultural groups – a 50 per cent increase from the previous year – and an interactive exhibit in the Municipal Building atrium where visitors could explore traditional cultural attire. These experiences created opportunities for learning, connection and pride across our community.



Canada Day 2025 Cultural Carousel



Dragon Parade by the Honan Shaolin Golden Dragon Team at Canada Day 2025

(Left) Fire Hydrant Drinking Fountains by Sans façon

Revitalizing the historic 100+ year-old neighbourhood of Chinatown

Years in the making, revitalization efforts in Chinatown are bringing renewed vibrancy to the neighbourhood through community-informed projects, cultural programming and public space activations. In 2025, the Chinatown Activation Microgrant provided over \$100,000 to 50 initiatives and empowered individuals, groups and businesses to spark connection and celebrate culture.

“For years the community struggled to attract people to stay beyond grabbing a meal. Now there is opportunity for free art and culture classes that have transformed cultural spaces in Chinatown, and formed strong bonds and new connections.”

– Alice Lam, community leader and grant recipient



Story from the Chinatown Microgrant

Cultural programming making a difference

“I have attended these free [Tai Chi] classes for the past few months as a solution to managing my PTSD, as was recommended by my mental health therapist. I then experienced a severe motor vehicle accident, coming up five years this August, which resulted in a zero quality of life. Since attending this class, I immediately felt welcomed by the members in this community. Attending this class has given my quality of life back. The instructors always greet me with a smile, and are so kind and gentle, and encouraging to be patient in my healing, as this class is helping in my healing.

Tai Chi is directly assisting me reclaim my health and in return my independence. Also, my depression has lifted since. My medical team and lawyers know all about Rick and the class, and are very excited for me that my bounce is beginning to show, and I owe it to this class. I thank The City of Calgary for providing the partnership with these instructors!”

—Attendee of Chinatown Activation Microgrant event



Free Tai Chi class offered by the Chinese Freemasons Society of Canada

Indigenous public art: Advancing reconciliation

Honouring and sharing Indigenous traditions, beliefs and stories through public art helps amplify Indigenous voices. The City's Indigenous Public Art Program responds to Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #83, which is to create collaborative art that contributes to reconciliation.

The Indigenous Public Art program was initiated by the Moh'kinstiss Public Art Guiding Circle in 2020. The program works with Indigenous artists in its design and delivery. New acquisitions are guided by the curatorial panel made up mostly of BIPOC members, including 51 per cent who are First Nations, Métis or Inuit.

Calgary is proud to have an all-Indigenous team of arts professionals dedicated to increasing opportunities for Indigenous artists and representation in public art. In 2025, The City added 22 new artworks by Indigenous artists to the public art collection.

"It's affirming to see work rooted in cultural complexity and innovation being recognized by my city. It tells me that there's space here for Indigenous voices that don't just preserve tradition but challenge, expand and reimagine it."

—Joey Big Snake, artist featured in 2025 digital exhibitions





Digital artist Crystal Clark, discussing her piece *Still Here*

Showcasing Treaty 7 and Indigenous artists

Contemporary Indigenous artists from across the Treaty 7 region shared their voices through two digital art exhibitions. Presented by the Indigenous Public Art Program, these exhibitions invited the public to engage with authentic expressions of Indigenous identity and experience. *They Come Together* highlighted stories of land, history and cultural resilience using digital tools to bridge past and present. *The People and the Lodge* reasserted cultural symbols of dance and the lodge, reclaiming imagery often misrepresented in mass-produced art, and restoring it through cultural specificity and fresh perspectives.

Arts & Culture Indigenous Guiding Circle

In 2025, the Arts & Culture Division embarked on an initiative to establish an Indigenous Guiding Circle – a step in our reconciliation journey and a commitment to meaningful collaboration with Indigenous communities. This initiative is grounded in sincere intention to listen, learn and incorporate the principles of Truth and Reconciliation into the work of Arts & Culture.

Guided by Indigenous knowledge, traditions and perspectives, the Indigenous Guiding Circle will help shape how our projects are planned and delivered, ensuring they reflect and respect the diverse voices that make up our city.

Commemorating Truth and Reconciliation

The City of Calgary's Orange Shirt Day and National Day for Truth and Reconciliation event coincided with The Confluence's Circle Camp, held in recognition of the 150th anniversary of the site's establishment. With tipis from Treaty 7 Nations and a new layout, the space fostered a safe and welcoming environment for Calgarians to learn and reflect on the legacy of residential schools and local history, and to honour survivors and their families. The event welcomed approximately 1,000 attendees in person and over 1,400 live stream virtual attendees. Over the years, this annual commemoration ceremony has increasingly centered Indigenous voices – particularly those of community members and youth – who fill the event's programming with truth-sharing, storytelling, cultural performances and messages of hope for future generations.

(Below) Baby Flats drum group performing at Orange Shirt Day 2025 at The Confluence





CALL TO ACTION

To build a truly inclusive cultural landscape, we must continue to expand access and opportunities for all artists. This means strengthening relationships with Indigenous and equity-deserving communities, honouring diverse voices and histories, and investing in programming that promotes cultural understanding, affordability and accessibility. Together, we can shape a creative city where everyone feels seen, heard and empowered to participate.

Dancers performing at Orange Shirt Day 2025





A&C IS

EVERYWHERE



ARTS & CULTURE: ACTIVATING COMMUNITY SPACES

The work of Arts & Culture strengthens Calgary’s neighborhoods by transforming public spaces into vibrant, welcoming places through local festivals and events, public art and cultural programs. These diverse and accessible experiences foster connections across cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. Safe environments, where citizens can engage directly in shaping spaces and programs, help to define Calgary as a cultural capital.

ACTIVATING COMMUNITY SPACES OVERVIEW IN 2025			
<p>The City’s Event Services team supported a 20% increase in event bookings.</p>	<p>The interdepartmental events team directly supported 195 event organizers with their permitting, insurance and site design process.</p>	<p>Close to 2M Calgarians and visitors attended free or publicly accessible festivals and events supported by Arts & Culture.</p>	<p>With more than 1,300 artworks, Calgary’s public art collection plays a key role in activating community spaces and reflecting the city’s collective cultural identity.</p>

Festivals and Events Subsidy Program

Since 2010, the Festivals and Events Subsidy Program has helped approved festivals and events cover part of the cost for City of Calgary services, including permit fees, license fees and pay-duty fees. In 2025, the program provided a total of \$3.5 million in funding.

In 2025, the program expanded with the Festival and Events Subsidy Innovation Microgrant. This new grant offers startup funding for fresh and unique components within existing events. The goal is to spark creativity, inspire change, and elevate Calgary’s festival scene by encouraging new ideas and innovation.



The Witching Hour performing at Canada Day 2025

Stories from Festivals and Events Subsidy Innovation Microgrant & Festivals and Events Subsidy Programs

BUMP Festival

With support from the Festivals and Events Subsidy Program, BUMP Festival brought two free, art-filled events to Calgary streets, attracting more than 1,200 people. The events showcased 53 local artists and were supported by 11 community partners, 21 businesses and 53 volunteers. Inclusive programming featured Indigenous creators, LGBTQIA2S+ artists and cultural storytellers, adding colour, music and urban expression to the city.

In 2025, the Festivals and Events Subsidy Innovation Microgrant also helped BUMP launch Muster Point, an immersive art experience in a long-vacant Crescent Heights space. Over several weeks, three local installations transformed the site into a creative hub, inviting residents to explore new ideas and rediscover their neighbourhood. This project expanded BUMP's artistic reach beyond murals and showed how small-scale innovation can spark big community impact.



Korean Day Festival

With support from the Festivals and Events Subsidy Program, the 2025 Calgary Korean Day Festival brought 20,000 people downtown for a free, family-friendly celebration of Korean culture. Powered by 1,000 local creative professionals, 40 community partners, 30 businesses and 100 volunteers, the festival featured traditional dance, K-Pop performances, cultural games and authentic cuisine. Inclusive programming created a welcoming space for all ages and highlighted Korean heritage, while adding energy and vibrancy to the city's core.

Through the Festivals and Events Subsidy Innovation Microgrant, the festival introduced new cultural experiences, including Korean mask-making and Minhwa art workshops, plus a community basketball tournament. These activities encouraged hands-on learning, creativity and intercultural connection, enriching the festival and strengthening community bonds.



(Above) BUMP Festival | *Barbed Oasis* by Drew Young
(Bottom) Korean Day Festival Photo: ©Larry Kwon



Working behind the scenes to keep events safe

The City of Calgary's Festivals and Events team reviews every supported event to anticipate challenges and keep sites safe. This work involves partners such as the Calgary Police Service, Peace Officers, Safety Codes Officers and Alberta Health Services. All event organizers can receive direct support from an Event Liaison to develop a package with emergency plans, site maps, traffic detours and safety information to help with preparation and to protect the public.

The team also works with other City departments to find gaps in emergency planning and suggest ways

to reduce risk. Common steps include adjusting layouts, adding police or peace officers, setting up security checkpoints and using barriers to prevent vehicle threats. For higher-risk events, practice sessions are held with emergency teams and social media is monitored for potential issues. These efforts help ensure safe, enjoyable events that bring community and culture to Calgary.



Cultural stewardship: What goes into artwork conservation and moves?

The City of Calgary's Public Art team is responsible for the conservation and maintenance of more than 1,300 public art pieces, ensuring Calgary's collection remains vibrant and accessible to everyone. Worth more than \$35 million, the artworks in the public art collection are part of our collective cultural identity.

Unlike art in galleries, public artworks are exposed to challenging conditions such as weather, pollution, sunlight and constant interaction with people and their surroundings. To conserve and maintain the collection, the conservation team does regular checkups, cleaning and protective treatments. Conservators share their knowledge of materials to help artists create new artworks that can stand up to outdoor conditions and public spaces. If an artwork gets damaged, conservators repair it using internationally recognized methods that include careful documentation, reversible treatments and consultation with the right people. These efforts help protect the look, meaning and long-term condition of artworks in the collection.

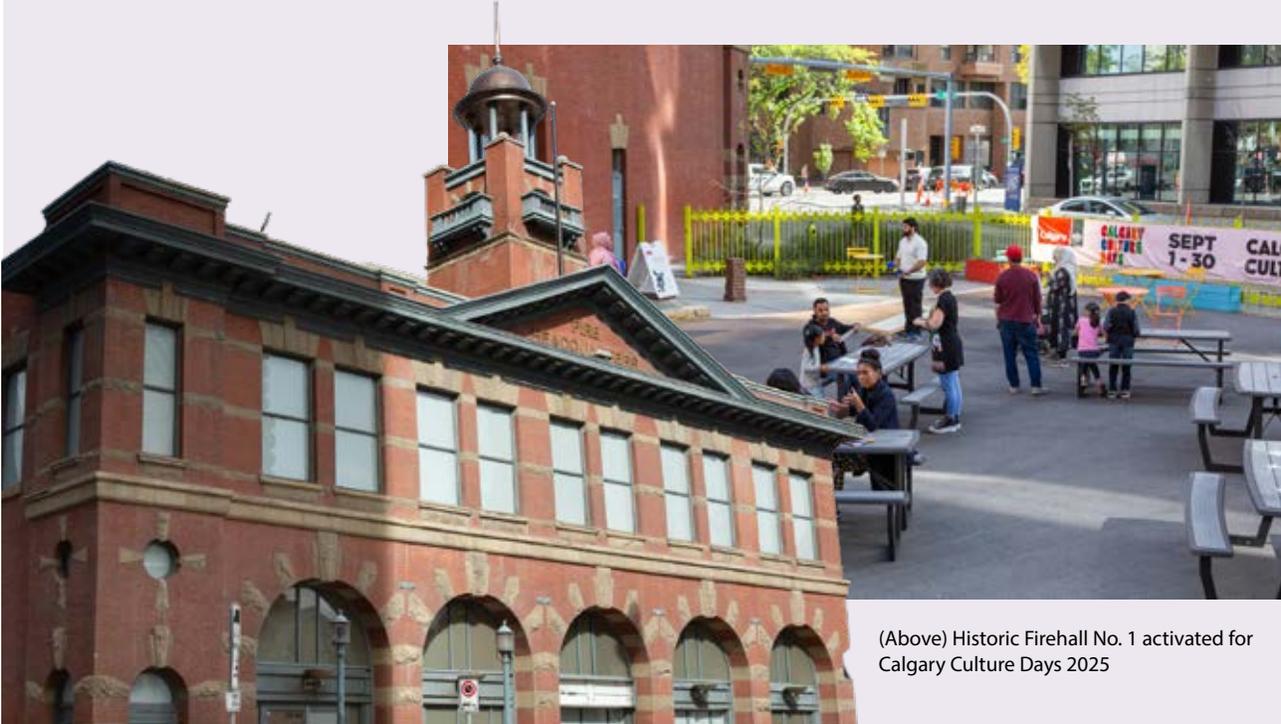
(Above) Calgary Peace Officers keeping New Year's Eve 2025 celebrations safe

(Left) Public Art Associate Conservator Camille LaFrance cleaning Katie Ohe's artwork *Night Maquette* on loan from the artist's personal collection for a public art exhibition.



Activating vacant City assets with arts and culture programming

The Arts & Culture Development team, in collaboration with Downtown Strategy, invested \$75,000 to activate the Historic Fire Hall No. 1 courtyard space with free arts and culture programming for all ages. This initiative increases accessibility to the arts, promotes public safety and fosters social connection. The events also support efforts to reimagine the fire hall and neighbouring North West Travellers Building into a vibrant arts hub – transforming unused space into a dynamic community asset.



(Above) Historic Firehall No. 1 activated for Calgary Culture Days 2025



Meredith Thompson, contracted conservator, removing the old epoxy from Katie Ohe's *Day and Night*

CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHT

Conserving Katie Ohe's sculpture *Day and Night*

This year, the public art conservation team worked to restore and relocate the sculpture *Day and Night* by local artist Katie Ohe. The artwork had been operating as a fountain in Prince's Island Park for over 50 years and had deteriorated over time under the outdoor conditions, prompting its move indoors to Devonian Gardens. Conservators consulted with the artist to learn more about how the artwork was made and to inform the conservation approach. The sculpture was carefully restored through gentle cleaning and meticulous repairs, working with compatible materials and taking care to match mortar and aggregate colours. Returning *Day and Night* indoors to its new contemplative site in Devonian Gardens ensures it will continue to inspire viewers for generations to come.

CALL TO ACTION

Creative placemaking helps to animate the public realm, especially in areas struggling with vacancies. With the supports offered by Arts & Culture, an incredible variety of artists, non-profits, cultural programmers and local businesses can engage with communities to bring previously unused or underutilized spaces to life. This helps to reduce social isolation and negative perceptions of shared public spaces, while improving the overall experience of Calgary's built environment.



A&C IS OUR FUTURE

ARTS & CULTURE: SHAPING WHAT'S NEXT

In 2025, Arts & Culture continued to support the shaping of Calgary's identity as a creative, inclusive and connected city. Through strategic investments, innovative grant programs and strong partnerships, our team helped to deliver hundreds of initiatives that brought people together, activated public spaces and amplified the diverse voices that represent our city.

These efforts brought significant economic and social benefits to Calgary, strengthened social connections and helped to keep our city positioned as a flourishing cultural destination on both the national and international stages. Looking ahead, we will continue to advocate for sustained funding and collaboration across the sector, building on existing momentum to ensure strong support for the arts community as our city continues to grow.

To learn more, visit us at calgary.ca/arts-culture

In 2025 Arts & Culture provided over \$6 million in subsidies and funding to 369 local organizations, supporting 416 initiatives, contributing to over 2.9 million people attending cultural attractions throughout the year!



(Right) Night Light, hosted by Victoria Park BIA

