

Media Release

For immediate release
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First Thursday offers a taste of what Calgary culture is all about

Calgarians looking to take part in Culture Month have a perfect opportunity this week: come down to the Cultural District this Thursday, September 3 for First Thursday – Calgary’s monthly cultural crawl.

On the first Thursday of every month, arts organizations, attractions, hotels and restaurants in the Cultural District stay open late and offer special programming, deals and events, most of it free.

Within a few blocks around Olympic Plaza, September’s First Thursday celebration in the Cultural District includes the Canadian Premiere of Milestones Project, an internationally acclaimed photo exhibit that has been recognized by the UN and Time Magazine and premiered in London by Prince Charles. Theatre Junction GRAND throws a party in the alley as they open up their stage door for a behind-the-scenes look at their new theatre season.

In addition, Art Central offers a solid lineup of over 50 artists all with unique events for First Thursday, and multiple music events around the District provide a soundtrack to the night featuring local DJs, blues, jazz and funk musicians.

“We’re encouraging Calgarians and visitors to our city to get engaged with Culture Month and try out Calgary’s arts and culture scene,” says Terry Rock, President & CEO, Calgary Arts Development. “An easy way to do that is to come down to the Cultural District for First Thursday. With so many events, all within steps from each other, it’s an easy way to get a taste of what Calgary has to offer.”

Highlights of September’s First Thursday include:

First Thursday at Art Central, 100 7 Ave SW, 5 – 9pm

Live music from Simon Evans, exhibition openings, and artist demonstrations. Pick up your copy of the Fall 2009 Cultural District Arts & Dining Guide.

Canadian Premiere, Milestones Project Photo Exhibit

Media opportunity: 6:00pm presentation by Deputy Mayor Joe Ceci, Minister Lindsay Blackett, and photographers, Dr. Richard & Michele Steckel

Gallery 213, Art Central, 213-100 7 Ave SW

Thousands of National Geographic-like photos of children and adults from all over the world promote cultural tolerance. Honoured by the UN, acknowledged by Time Magazine, and premiered in London by Prince Charles, to date an estimated 200 million people have seen this work.

Theatre Junction GRAND Season Launch Party - Art in the Alley, 608 1 St SW - Back Alley, 5 - 10pm

Local artists animate the alley, The Hifi Club provides the tunes, and Theatre Junction GRAND opens up the back doors to the theatre.

Mid-Century Icons: Architectural Photography from the Panda Collection, Official Opening, Triangle Gallery of Visual Arts, 104-800 Macleod Trail SE, 7:30 – 10pm

Photographer Hugh Robertson documents the growth of post-WWII Canada as reflected by its architecture.

Kirby Sewell Concert, Cantos Music Foundation, 134 11 Ave SE, 7pm

"Kirby Sewell grabs the blues and soul of the past and pulls it into the present, dragging elements of Motown, Mussel Shoals and post-war Chicago along for the emotional ride". ~ Avenue Magazine. Tickets \$15 and includes a free CD.

WorldSkills 2009 Artisan Village, Olympic Plaza, 11am - 3pm

Events include live demonstrations and sales by artisans, performances, fashion shows and more.

For more information about First Thursdays, to view the full lineup of events, or to sign up for news visit CalgaryCulture.com/FirstThursdays.

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Contact Information

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About Calgary's Cultural District

Calgary's Cultural District is located downtown and is home to dozens of arts and culture hotspots like galleries, museums, theatres, concert halls and outdoor festival space, plus excellent shopping, dining and nightlife in the heart of the city. It's all within walking distance of downtown transit lines, several major hotels, Stephen Avenue Walk and Olympic Plaza, a key Calgary landmark that

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served as the medal ceremonies site for the 1988 Winter Olympic Games. This vibrant neighbourhood is filled with one of the highest concentrations of arts and culture venues in Canada, including the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts, the recently restored Grand Theatre, Vertigo Theatre, the Glenbow Museum, the Art Gallery of Calgary, Cantos Music Foundation and Art Central, along with many other galleries, music venues and festivals.

About Calgary Arts Development

Calgary Arts Development was created in 2005 to lead long-term, strategic development of the arts sector in Calgary, guided by the 2004 Civic Arts Policy. Calgary Arts Development invests municipal arts funding of \$3.75 million annually in 160 local arts organizations, provides support to the arts community, private developers and public and private sector funders engaged in arts space projects and engages in strategic marketing initiatives to increase arts participation and raise awareness of Calgary's arts sector locally, nationally and internationally. Visit CalgaryArtsDevelopment.com for more information about our activities and initiatives.

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