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culturedays September 30, October 1 & 2, 2011

CULTURE DAYS EVENTS AIM TO SURPRISE, DELIGHT

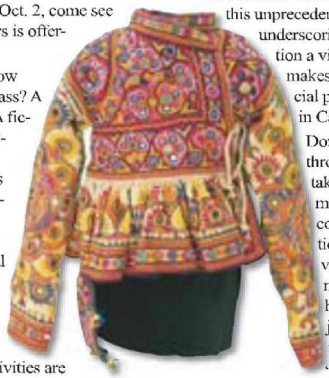
ART SCRABBLE SUNDAY. COURTESY OF STATION GALLERY

CLAY WORKSHOP. COURTESY MARK JAROSZEWICZ

OUR CITY'S FULL OF BRILLIANT CREATORS AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO DOWNTOWN TO FIND THEM

From Sept. 30 to Oct. 2, come see what Culture Days is offering near you.

In fact, join in. How about a pottery class? A glowning class? A fiction-writing workshop? A behind-the-scenes tour of a local theatre? A walking-tour of a heritage region? Your local Culture Days event could be any of these or more.



Culture Days' activities are family-friendly, interactive and totally free. And they're not just entertainment — they're your chance to discover the world of artists, historians, animators, architects, curators, and designers at work in your community.

Culture Days events take place in neighbourhoods across the GTA. Like Nuit Blanche, they aim to surprise and delight; but Culture Days events are mainly in the daytime and offer a unique hands-on and behind-the-scenes experience.

Culture Days is a collaborative volunteer movement spanning Canada from coast to coast. Notably, many municipalities have taken a lead role in mobilizing their arts and cultural communities to participate in this unprecedented grassroots initiative, underscoring the valuable contribution a vibrant cultural scene makes to the economic and social prosperity of communities in Canada.

Dozens of municipalities throughout the country have taken an active role in promoting Culture Days and countless arts organizations, cultural groups, individual artists, libraries, museums and festivals have enthusiastically joined the Culture Days movement.

"One of the things that makes Culture Days so special is the commitment of thousands of artists and community volunteers to sharing their work with the public. The result is an extraordinary level of participation that reflects the vibrancy, diversity and creativity of Ontario's communities," said Culture Days Ontario Manager, Aubrey Reeves.

The first annual Culture Days event was held in September 2010 in more than 700 Canadian cities and towns. With even more contributors and communities participating this year, Culture Days promises to be an even bigger success. There are more than 300 free activities scheduled in just the Greater Toronto Area and 1,200 across the province!

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"Culture Days is more than a celebration — it is an opportunity to discover local creators and to find out how the arts and heritage enrich our lives and communities," said Warren Garrett, Chair of the volunteer task force for Ontario Culture Days.

So attend as many events as you can. And then: share your stories. How are Culture Days organizers, creators, and citizens like you collaborating to enrich the artistic and cultural life of your community? Email your fond memories and big ideas to stories@culturedays.ca to be part of the conversation.

PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

With so many incredible Culture Days activities happening over the weekend, the Bright Spots Schedule is going to come in handy. Using this planning tool is easy: simply go to the Culture Days web site (www.culturedays.ca) and click on the "My Culture Days" tab to create an account. Once you're logged in, search registered activities by postal code, region, category, artistic discipline…etc. and select those you wish to attend. They'll automatically appear in a customized three-day schedule. You can export your Bright Spots Schedule to email, popular calendar platforms such as Outlook, iCal or Google Calendar, and PDF, which can then be printed. The Bright Spots Schedule also has a "smart" recommendation feature that will make activity suggestions based on the geographic proximity and type of activities you've already selected. So what are you waiting for? Start planning your Culture Days weekend now and express the creative you!

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