

celebrating
5 years and over
5.5 million people's
love affair with culture



SEPTEMBER 26-28 MARKS THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE ANNUAL CULTURE DAYS WEEKEND

September 15, Toronto, ON – September 26, 27 & 28 marks the 5th Anniversary of the annual **Culture Days** weekend, a national celebration offering all Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast an opportunity to immerse themselves in the exciting behind-the-scenes world of artists, creators, historians and cultural practitioners of all types, regardless of their socio-economic background or experience. Last year alone, over 1.7 million Canadians participated in over 7,500 free activities in 825 communities across the country in what is now considered a mainstay event in the cultural calendar of almost every Canadian city and town.”

Culture Days has certainly had an impact on raising cultural awareness and Canadians’ participation and engagement in the arts and cultural life of their communities. Since its inception in 2010, over 5.5 Million Canadians have participated in over 25,000 free activities hosted by more than 4,400 Canadian artists and arts, cultural and heritage organizations. Findings from an independent study* commissioned in October 2013 indicates that of those who have participated in Culture Days activities for at least two years, **52%** have since attended more arts and cultural events than they had in the past; **33%** have become supporters of local artists and/or cultural organizations; **32%** visited more art galleries or craft studios and **22%** have taken on volunteer roles in arts or cultural organizations. Click [HERE](#) for an infographic with additional findings.

While choosing from over 7,500 free activities this year may seem daunting, people can easily make their choices from the myriad of exciting activities by visiting culturedays.ca and simply searching for activities by city, activity type, time, organizer or day. Whether one chooses to stay within their own community or venture out to explore activities and communities in surrounding areas – putting a personalized schedule together could not be easier thanks to the [Culture Days Bright Spots Schedule](#).

This free and easy-to-use scheduling tool is back this year due to the generous support of National Partner **Sun Life Financial** through its [Making the Arts More Accessible™](#) program. Participants can create, share and print their own schedule; while artists and organizations hosting and promoting their Culture Days activities can use this as a valuable marketing tool to create, and share multiple schedules

using their own uniquely generated URL links provided to them through the Bright Spots program. Click [HERE](#) for a tip sheet that shows just how easy this tool is to use.

“Approaching this 5th Anniversary milestone gives us cause to reflect on the remarkable growth that Culture Days has experienced in just a few short years, and the tremendous impact that it is having on individuals and communities throughout Canada,” noted **Antoni Cimolino**, Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival and Chair of Culture Days National Board of Directors. “From the astonishing passion and dedication of the volunteers and organizers to the eagerness of the participants, this infectious love of the arts and culture clearly continues to spread to legions of Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast.”

“In the past five years, it has been our sincere privilege to support Culture Days in helping thousands of individuals enjoy the rich cultural landscape our country has to offer,” says **Paul Joliat**, Assistant Vice-President, Philanthropy and Sponsorships, Sun Life Financial. “Through our *Making the Arts More Accessible*™ program, we’re proud to fund programs that enable Canadians of all means and backgrounds to enjoy the very best.”

The official national celebratory launch event entitled [Conduct Us](#) takes place in Toronto on September 26th in partnership with the **Toronto Symphony Orchestra**. Hosted by Marci Ien, Co-Host of Canada AM, this free event is open to the public. Members of the participating audience will be drawn randomly at the event and be invited up to the stage to pick up a baton and conduct the full orchestra alongside Conductor and TSO Music Director **Peter Oundjian** for two minutes each. Click [HERE](#) for more details. 17 additional celebratory launch events are also set to take place in cities right across Canada including **Surrey, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Milton, Barrie, Stratford, Timmins, Montreal, Quebec** and **Saint John**. For more details on *all* of the Culture Days official launch events – click [HERE](#).

**Independent research conducted by the Strategic Counsel*

BELOW IS A SELECTION OF HIGHLIGHTED ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ACROSS CANADA ON SEPTEMBER 26, 27 & 28.

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

BIKEnnale

Hinge Park in Olympic Village, Vancouver, British Columbia

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Join the Vancouver Biennale for the highly-anticipated BIKEnnale, a cycling tour of great public art in the world's most beautiful city. Pack your camera, grab your kids, and hop on your bike for a tour of Vancouver's most iconic works of art. Our trained docents, stationed at Biennale sculptures throughout the city, will serve as your

guides to Vancouver's world-class collection of public art.

Freda Diesing Honour Totem Pole at Artists Studio

5665 Oscar Road, Terrace, British Columbia

- Friday, Sept. 26, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Saturday, Sept. 27, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Come and light up your soul by carving on a real 40 foot totem pole! This pole is dedicated to the memory of Freda Diesing, a well known female pioneer, bringing back Northwest Coast Art in its finest forms. Joe Mandur Jr. is inviting visitors to his artist studio in Terrace, BC to experience a few moments of carving this totem pole.

Improv for Kids with Nicolle Natrass

90 Commercial St., Nanaimo, British Columbia

- Friday, Sept. 26, 3:45 PM to 4:45 PM
- Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Nicolle Natrass will host a free one-hour workshop at the Harbourfront Library - Let's Explore Improv, for kids aged 8-14. The participants will get warmed up and comfortable with each other, and then get right into the art of improvisation. Games such as the Name Game; Voice, Body and Mind/Imagination exercises; The Martha Game; and classic Improv Games. Come out and discover the fun in spontaneous theatre!

Storytelling through Film

4335 Blackcomb Way, Whistler, British Columbia

- Sunday, Sept. 28, 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Join us for a short film viewing and Q&A session with our actors and the director. Storytelling through film is an acting workshop for actors interested in telling their stories for the camera. Under the careful tutelage of Filmmaker Angie Nolan, actors will learn camera angles, acting techniques and set protocols to further their careers in film.

Introductory workshop to Contemporary Dance and Group Improv

7646 Prince Albert St, Vancouver, British Columbia

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Join Polymer Dance on Saturday, September 27 from 11am-1pm at the Moberly Arts Centre for an introductory workshop to contemporary dance and group improvisational dance. You will learn and apply improvisation principles and present a brief group choreography. Open to all ages and all levels of experience with dance.

ALBERTA:

'To Market, To Market'

7711 Macleod Trail S, Calgary, Alberta

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Storytelling, poetry, spoken word, musicians and artisan vendors. Come out and walk

among the farmer market stalls and take in this unique FREE Family Event. TALES (The Alberta League Encouraging Storytelling) is hosting an Alberta Culture Days collaborative concert series on September 27-28 2014, from 10:00am till 2:00pm each day. The event will also include a children's interactive performance, a free workshop and open mic opportunities.

[Youth Clay Sculpting Class](#)

5301-49 Street, Big Lakes, Alberta

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Now teaching at Red Deer College, Robyn Lambert is a former resident of High Prairie and lover of art. As a part of our many events for Alberta Culture Days, she will be returning to her home town and teaching a clay sculpting class for Alberta youths at the High Prairie and District Museum. This class is an opportunity for young people to work with their hands, be creative, and learn something new!

[Journées : EXPERIME-TOI / Outdoor community art creation](#)

Suite 1, Canmore, Alberta

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Community gathering art project. Young and young at heart are welcome to take part in this amazing art creation. Everyone is working together to create this masterpiece that will then be showcased in one of our most popular gathering venues. One local artist is supervising the project and giving it its final touches.

SASKATCHEWAN:

[Puppetry for Beginners Workshop](#)

1843 Hamilton St., Regina, Saskatchewan

- Sunday, Sept. 28, 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Led by members of the Prairie Puppet Underground Kenn McLeod and Rowan Pantel, this workshop leads participants through the fundamentals of puppetry. Topics include performer awareness, character creation, object manipulation, basic fabrication, group process and developing short narrative storytelling. Participants are required to bring several articles of clothing, an open mind and a desire to create! All ages, no previous experience required.

[Celebrate Our Cultural Diversity](#)

100-129 Third Ave. North, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

- Saturday, Sept. 26, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Saskatoon Open Door Society invites you to come and join us to learn about Saskatoon's growing multicultural community. Engage in various cultural activities including a photo booth, henna design, storytelling, language lessons, music, arts and crafts and more. Learn firsthand the experiences of newcomers to Saskatoon. Discover, experience and enjoy!

MANITOBA:

[Collage Animation Workshop by Freeze Frame at The Forks](#)

1 Forks Market Road, Winnipeg, Manitoba

- Friday, Sept. 26, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Cut, paste, animate! Create your own stop motion animation with Freeze Frame Media Centre. Shoot your own animation and watch your characters come alive at the Forks. All creative types welcome!

[Sifting for Microfossils](#)

111-B Gilmour Street, Morden, Manitoba

- Friday, Sept. 26, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Eighty million years ago Manitoba was covered by the Western Interior Seaway. Not only did giant marine reptiles rule the seaway, but numerous smaller forms of life also lived along side. Come out to the Canadian Fossil Discovery Centre in Morden, MB and help us discover the ancient life of Prehistoric Manitoba by sifting for microfossils by using water to dissolve shale that may be hiding tiny fossils!

[Open House at the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba](#)

710 Rosser Avenue, Unit 2, Brandon, Manitoba

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Come visit the Art Gallery of Southwestern Manitoba and partake in our open house! Tour of our 6 studio classrooms and learn about ceramics, photography, printmaking, painting, drawing, and view demos by our local instructors and artists.

[The WSO, RWB, MB Opera & MYC: Open House at the Concert Hall](#)

555 Main Street, Winnipeg,

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Drop by the Centennial Concert Hall to take in performances, backstage tours, a costume display, kids' activities, prizes, and information on the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Royal Winnipeg Ballet, and Manitoba Opera's upcoming seasons. Music for Young Children teachers will be providing engaging music activities and performances.

ONTARIO:

[CONDUCT US with The Toronto Symphony Orchestra](#)

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto, ON

- Friday, Sept. 26, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Come to Roy Thomson Hall for Culture Days' 5th Anniversary national kick-off event and a once-in-a-lifetime chance to conduct the Toronto Symphony Orchestra! Also featuring free interactive activities presented by Canada's Ballet Jörgen, UforChange, Long & McQuade, the Canada Council, and more!

[European Day of Languages Toronto 2014](#)

Goethe-Institut Toronto, 100 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario

- Friday, Sept. 26, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

European Day of Languages Toronto 2014 is an invitation to general public of Toronto to celebrate the linguistic diversity of Europe and Canada! The program of the EDL Toronto 2014 will consist of free sample classes in 11 European languages, a "Speak Dating" in the same languages and a concert by young performers of the

Canadian Opera Ensemble Studio. Win a prize of \$200 towards a language course!

Bloor St. Culture Corridor - KOERNER HALL FREE FOR ALL!

273 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM, 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Come to see Koerner Hall and catch a variety of fun performances. In celebration of Culture Days, Koerner Hall will be open for free to everyone – audiences and performers alike! Performers of all ages, genres, and backgrounds will have 5 minutes each to showcase their band, best song, spoken word piece, or other talent!

CirqueWorks with Eric The Juggler

000 Lyon Boulevard West, Thunder Bay, Ontario

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Meet Eric The Juggler and learn to use a variety of circus gear: Diabolos, kendama, devilsticks, hula hoops, juggling balls, poi, and more! Improve your coordination, learn a new skill, and meet like-minded circus folk. A fun, non-competitive activity for all ages, taking place at beautiful Boulevard Lake.

Celebrating Silent Cinema - at The Film Reference Library (TIFF)

350 King Street West, Toronto, Ontario

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Join us at the Film Reference Library to explore vintage film projectors and celluloid film elements, and rare items from our collections, including lantern slides, lobby cards, and a zoetrope. Activities for families include creating storyboards, button-making, and viewing highlight reels of early silent film favourites.

Glassblowing with Flo

957 C Gladstone, Ottawa, Ontario

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Friends and families - come take in some hot culture! Flo's hosting all day free drop-in glassblowing workshops. Help our team create beautiful glass ornaments. Participation is free, and for 10.00\$ you can take your ornament home with you.

Shaw Festival Backstage Tour

10 Queen's Parade, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

- Friday, Sept. 26, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Saturday, Sept. 27, 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Here's your chance to peek behind the curtain. An hour-long guided tour of the Festival Theatre reveals the secrets that bring our work to the stage. Explore our costume workshop, dressing rooms, rehearsal halls, and trap room. Tour involves some stairs - please call ahead if you require an accessible version of the tour.

I Love Line Dancing!

56 Francis Street, Kingston, Ontario

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Come learn the basic steps of line dancing and connect to the tempo through various rhythms. Line dancing is a fun and healthy activity which combines several different dance disciplines (jazz, ballet, disco & swing). Bring your family and friends for a fun and interactive afternoon. Many other activities and workshops occurring in the same locale, come by and enjoy them all! Lunch is available for purchase. Admission is free.

w.a.v.e.s. Festival 2014

Windsor Sculpture Park, Windsor, Ontario

- Friday, Sept. 26, 1:00 PM to 11:00 PM
- Saturday, Sept. 27, 1:00 PM to 11:00 PM

Windsor's artists, visions, energies & sculptures will be celebrated in a two day festival connecting communities through waves of art, culture, and technology. Community programming and workshops, along with festival activities and performances will be showcased from 1 PM to 11 PM both festival days. For more information on the festival, visit the website.

QUEBEC:

Star in an Interactive Concert (*activity offered in French - Concert interactif dont vous serez le héros*)

Salle Bourgie, 1380, rue Sherbrooke O, Montreal, Quebec

- Sunday, Sept. 28, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Les productions MEMO present L'EXPÉRIENCE: a concert in which you get to be the star. Come discover this musical event that transforms the public from mere spectators into an audience- orchestra. In your role as audience-orchestra, you'll accompany four soloists in a triple concerto for viola, clarinet, marimba and piano. Guided by the voice of a mysterious narrator and under the direction of a conductor, you'll be able to participate in the performance of the piece thanks to specially adapted rhythmic and melodic formulas. You'll even be able to influence the progress of the concert with your actions. An interactive and dynamic performance not to be missed!

Your Voice in the Studio – Record a Song "To Go"! (*Bilingual activity: Votre voix en studio - enregistrez une chanson « pour emporter » !*)

240, rue Saint-Joseph E., Quebec, Quebec

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Open Doors Day at L'Ampli de Québec. Our artistic counsellors will be on hand to speak to you about our training programs, our various branches and our activities for the general public. During the activity *Record a Song "To Go"*, our audio engineer will help you record your voice, a song, a joke or a statement, and you'll be able to take the result home with you!

The Rimouski Circuit 11 Citébus featuring local artists (*activity offered in French - Circuit 11 du Citébus de Rimouski animé par des artistes locaux*)

Circuit 11 du Citébus de Rimouski, Rimouski, Quebec

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Discover – for free – Circuit 11 of Rimouski's Citébus, departing from the Regional

Museum bus stop (located next to the Desjardins-Télus auditorium), and see live performances by artists in various disciplines: improv, theatre, literature, classical music, jazz and slam poetry. The Citébus will take you to the Gare bus stop, at the heart of the Rimouski Public Market, where the arts performances will continue. Everyone is then invited to have drinks at the Galerie Léonard-Parent at 186 avenue de la Cathédrale, where a special exhibition will be presented. A number of artists from the Citébus arts tour will be present.

Behind the Scenes of Canada's Titanic — The Empress of Ireland exhibition

(bilingual activity) 100 Laurier Street, Gatineau, Quebec

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 1:00 PM to 2:00 PM
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 2:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Go behind the scenes into the Museum's Objects Lab and get the inside story of the making of this major exhibition. Join curator John Willis and conservator Amanda Gould and discover the historical significance behind some of the treasured artifacts from the Empress of Ireland collection.

NEW BRUNSWICK:

5th Annual Business & Arts Praxis in Sackville NB

Downtown, Sackville, New Brunswick

- Friday, Sept. 26, 1:00 PM to 2:00 pm

Enjoy artistic encounters while you shop, eat, do your banking, and pick up your mail. Watch for the 2014 series of engaging mini-events in downtown Sackville as Mount Allison's marketing students team up with their arts peers to collaborate on creative projects that let everyone's talents shine.

Biff Mitchell's Scary Night Time Horror Writing Workshop

Studio4Ward, 384 Queen Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 9:00 PM to 10:30 PM

Biff Mitchell's Scary Night Time Horror Writing Workshop is a spine-chilling adventure into the art of writing scary stories that make your readers afraid to look under the bed. We'll look at how to build suspense, make your readers' skin crawl, build weird characters and create settings that make the ordinary seem supernatural. (Note: In spite of the scariness, this will be a family event.)

NOVA SCOTIA

Seasonal Transformations at Kas Stone Photographic Art

3982 Highway 331, Dublin Shore, Nova Scotia

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
- Sunday, Sept. 28, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Celebrate the beauty of Fall by taking part in a seasonal transformation that gives you a behind-the-scenes look at creative digital art in action. Bring one of your favourite fall photos to my studio on Dublin Shore and help me transform it into a seasonal masterpiece. (The photo must be yours, and should be a high-resolution JPEG or TIFF on a USB key or CD.)

Neptune Theatre's One-of-a-Kind Open House

1593 Argyle Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Drop in and spend some time exploring Neptune Theatre! See where the magic happens during special backstage tours. Not only is it a great way to spend an afternoon, it's a celebration of the best of Halifax! We've partnered with local neighbours & shops to be part of the "pop-up of pop-ups" as we throw a party for our fans. Discover, taste, sip & experience Neptune.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND:

Get Hooked on Mats

130 Heather Moyses Drive (formerly Harbour Drive), Summerside, Prince Edward Island

- Sunday, Sept. 28, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Join Summerside instructor Linda Marchbank for a fun introduction to the traditional craft of rug hooking. Supplies and tools will be provided. Advance registration through 888-8373 is recommended to ensure adequate supplies are available. Take this opportunity to make your very own 'mug rug' aka coaster.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

Open House at Kent Cottage, Brigus, Newfoundland

Kent Cottage at Landfall, The Battery, Brigus, Newfoundland and Labrador

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Visit and tour beautiful, magical Kent Cottage, the heart of the eleven-acre Landfall preserve along the shores of Brigus Bay, overlooking the Town of Brigus and Conception Bay, Newfoundland. The cottage was built in the late 1700s or early 1800s. It is one of the last remaining structures of its vintage and is of substantial historical significance. It was designated a Registered Heritage Structure in 1988 by the Heritage Foundation of Newfoundland and Labrador. This summer marks the centenary of the time when renowned American artist Rockwell Kent lived in Kent Cottage (1914- 1915) and the Culture Days Open House is the final of an exciting slate of events to mark the centennial of his time there.

YUKON:

Waterfront Trolley Rides

1127 Front Street, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory

- Saturday, Sept. 27, 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Come take a ride on the historic Waterfront Trolley along the Whitehorse waterfront to learn about the development of the city of Whitehorse and various sites along the route. This is an interpretive ride and will stop near many other Culture Days activities throughout the day.

Connect with Culture Days on [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#) and [YouTube](#) and join the conversation @culturedays on [Twitter](#).

About Culture Days

Culture Days is committed to reaching the goal of having all Canadians in every community declaring "I Love Culture" and making culture a daily habit.

Founded in 2009, Culture Days is a non-profit organization dedicated to building a national network of cultural connections devoted to providing Canadians with opportunities to participate in, and appreciate, all forms of arts and culture. Through an annual three-day national celebration each September, hundreds of thousands of artists and cultural organizations in hundreds of cities and towns come together and invite Canadians to participate in free interactive and behind-the-scenes activities to discover their cultural spirit and passion.

As a leading national voice for the active and engaged cultural life of all Canadians, Culture Days provides support, tools and resources to a wide variety of artists and cultural organizations to help them unite the country through engagement in culture. Culture Days was initiated by four Founding Partners: The Canadian Arts Summit, Culture pour tous (producer of Journées de la culture), Canada Council for the Arts and The Banff Centre. National partners are Sun Life Financial and The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. National Broadcast Partner is Bell Media (CTV). National Creative Partner is BT/A. National Engagement Partner is the Canada Council for the Arts. Federal Government support is provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Provincial Partners are: Government of British Columbia, Government of Alberta, SaskCulture, Government of Manitoba, Manitoba Arts Council, Government of Ontario, Ontario Arts Council, Government of Québec, Government of New Brunswick, Government of Nova Scotia, Government of Prince Edward Island, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador, Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

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