

Downtown kicks it up a notch at Edmonton Culture Days launch

The heart of Edmonton will beat a bit quicker as Alberta Culture Days officially kicks off in an explosion of mirth and merriment on Friday, September 26, 2014.



Edmonton is a city built on the diversity of its people, and few things are more essential to enhancing our vibrant communities than a healthy, thriving arts and cultural scene. That was the message from Councillor Michael Walters as he proclaimed September 26-28, 2014 "Alberta Culture Days in Edmonton." Councillor Walters and Edmonton-Riverview MLA Steve Young, were on hand at the Art Gallery of Alberta, along with local culture leaders and artists, for a preview of the many fun and exciting things to see and do this weekend.

The sentiment is echoed by Alberta Culture and Tourism Minister, Maureen Kubinec, and Mayor Don Iveson. "Edmonton is culture with a capital 'C' and Alberta Culture Days reflects the vibrancy and energy of this city's amazing arts, heritage and multicultural communities," said Minister Kubinec. "My thanks to the City and the people of Edmonton for showing the spirit of Alberta by sharing in the excitement of Alberta Culture Days."

"Edmonton's culture is the collective sum of our talents and traditions; our history and our heritage; our commonality and our diversity. It is the fertile foundation upon which we build our identity," said Mayor Iveson. "It is rich, it is bold, and it's uniquely ours. And like all great songs, our city's cultural medley is best when it's shared with others. Thank you to Minister Kubinec and the Government of Alberta for inviting Edmontonians to share our cultural spirit during Alberta Culture Days 2014."

Alberta Culture Days 2014 will officially kick off in a flurry of festive fun on Friday, September 26. Downtown is the place to be from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., as 104 Street and Jasper Avenue are transformed into block party central. The opening salvo of Culture Days features plenty to see and do – all to the accompaniment of some of Alberta's hottest artists on stage in an evening long concert.

It all begins with a boom as Booming Tree Taiko lays down the beats that will have your own pulse on the rise. The rhythm carries through as [Nuela Charles](#) hits the stage at 6 p.m. with the hip-hop, pop and blues sound that has made her a club favourite across Canada. Classic meets contemporary as [Michael Rault](#) follows at 7 p.m. with the Latin sounds of [Oscar Lopez](#) bringing the heat at 8 p.m. Thoughts of counting sheep are dispelled with a 9 p.m. set from [Wool on Wolves](#) winding up the evening.

Park it on the patio and party with passion after releasing your own muse at the artists' workshop. You may want to check out the artisan market before hand and be inspired by the work of local artists.

The activities taking place along 104 Street are presented by the City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta and are part of the celebrations occurring throughout the province during Alberta Culture Days, September 26-28. Alberta Culture Days is part of the national Culture Days movement, which includes over 800 communities, from coast to coast, and is helping to increase the awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities.

For more information:

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