

MEDIA RELEASE



For Immediate Release

Leading Mayoral Candidates share the stage at Arts Commons to share their vision on how to rebuild a vibrant and thriving Calgary

September 9, 2021 – Calgary – In a partnership between Arts Commons, the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), the Calgary Downtown Association (CDA), and Creative Calgary, and in preparation for the upcoming municipal election, the leading five Mayoral candidates (based on public opinion polls) will be invited to a **public debate and discussion on Monday, October 4, 2021, from 11:30am to 1:00pm**. VibrantYYC will take place at Arts Commons' Jack Singer Concert Hall. While all candidates have been notified of the event, only the leading five will be participating.

The discussion will be moderated by Chima Nkemdirim, VP Government Relations at Shaw Communications and former Chief of Staff to Mayor Nenshi. "I am thrilled to be invited to moderate this event and have an opportunity to contribute to this process", said Nkemdirim. "Calgary is on the cusp of a real transformation and I look forward to learning more about and sharing the vision of these promising candidates."

The debate will take a Q&A format, and each candidate will have an opportunity to respond. Audience members will also have an opportunity to submit their questions.

A limited capacity of 250 will be invited to attend this FREE event in person, with assigned, socially-distanced seating. Registration will be required to secure a seat. Audience members will be required to wear a mask once they enter the building.

For those who are unable or uncomfortable attending the event in person, it will also be streamed live on the Arts Commons website and a recording of the event will be available until Election Day. At the end of the debate, the public will be invited to submit their own questions – a link will be provided at the event and online.

"Being still fairly new to Calgary, but already in love with this great city, I am honoured to host this event at Arts Commons", said Alex Sarian, President & CEO. "Calgary, like many other cities, is coming out of a very difficult few years and this election is critical to creating a Calgary that not only recovers, but thrives into the future."

The Calgary Municipal Election takes place on October 18, 2021.

For media inquiries, high resolution images, or more information contact:

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Arts Commons is the largest performing arts centre in Western Canada and third-largest performing arts centre in the country, located in the heart of downtown Calgary. For over 35 years, it has been a key contributor to the social, economic, cultural, and intellectual life and well-being of Calgarians. It is home to six resident companies, including Alberta Theatre Projects, Arts Commons Presents, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Downstage, One Yellow Rabbit, and Theatre Calgary. It



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houses six gallery spaces, five theatres, and the Jack Singer Concert Hall, and promotes local, national, international, emerging and established artists with a focus on inclusion, diversity, accessibility, and equity.

Calgary Downtown Association is a Business Improvement Area established under Alberta's Municipal Government Act and represents over 2,500 businesses in a 120-block area in the city centre. This area comprises over 50 million square feet of office, hotel, retail, restaurant, entertainment, attractions, cultural and government buildings. The Association was formed as a result of a petition by Downtown businesses in November 1988. It is funded primarily by a levy on the business taxes paid by Downtown businesses.

Creative Calgary is a non-partisan group of artists, arts organizations and citizens at large who are committed to and advocate for a thriving arts sector with a positive public profile. Founded in 2017, it is led by a volunteer Steering Committee of arts advocates from across the community.

Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) is a professional organization for commercial real estate professionals. Its membership includes building owners, managers, developers, leasing professionals, corporate facility managers, asset managers, and the providers of the products and services needed to operate commercial properties.

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