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Arts Commons  
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*Becoming a member of  
**Founders Circle** is one of the  
most rewarding ways to support  
the Arts Commons ecosystem.*

As a member, you help us create a home where audiences, artists, and organizations can experience excellence on stage and behind the scenes: in our many programs for children, teachers, and aspiring artists; or the companies who call Arts Commons home; and to the hundreds of community-based organizations that depend on our support and facilities. Your gift of membership is vital to our mission and our collective success, making world-class arts and culture experiences accessible to all Calgarians!





Kim & Enata Lampen at a Founders Circle Event. ©Sam Obadero



Aindya Paul, Paul & Christina Marlett at a Founders Circle Event. © Will Young



Vicki Reid & Margo Bandles at a Founders Circle Event. ©Sam Obadero

“We love bringing our family to the behind the scenes events. Our teenagers benefit from being exposed to people who are living their passions and following their hearts. It’s a powerful message to instill in them to show that there are so many options on how to live a meaningful life.”

*Christina Marlett, Benefactor*

“We believe in a balance in life, including academics, sports and the arts. We’ve been bringing our daughter to Arts Commons Presents from a young age to expose her to high quality artists. To us, the arts scene is important to our family and our city.”

*Mike & Mireille Robinson*  
**Benefactors**



Maestro Amjad Ali Khan at Founders Circle Event. © Will Young



Stu & Vicki Reid, Glen & Brenda Andrews at a Founders Circle Event. @Will Young.



Mireille Robinson & daughter at a Founders Circle Reception. © Mike Hopkins

The arts inspire, enlighten, and entertain. We are grateful to the following members of Founders Circle that support our work in performance, learning, and community engagements. Enriching the lives of Calgarians through the arts and championing our city's artists, young people, resident companies, and underrepresented communities, is our shared aspiration.

**FOUNDERS -  
HONOURARY MEMBERS**

Dr. Martha Cohen, C.M., LL.D.  
(in memoriam)  
Sandra LeBlanc  
Vera Swanson, O.C.  
(in memoriam)

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& Tim Flaman

Please note that only gifts of \$1,000 or more are listed above. For a complete list of individual donors, please visit our website at [artscommons.ca](http://artscommons.ca).

To inquire about becoming a member of Founders Circle, please contact Meaghan Underhill at 403-294-7497 or [munderhill@artscommons.ca](mailto:munderhill@artscommons.ca).

Acknowledgements are current as of print date. Any errors or omissions are purely accidental. Please advise of any changes or updates to your information.

## FOUNDERS CIRCLE EVENTS

### 1ST EVENT

Special Guests: **Artists from Classic Albums Live:  
Led Zeppelin – *Houses of the Holy***

Location/Date: Engineered Air Theatre  
Thursday, October 19, 2023 – 7:00pm

Event Partner: Arts Commons Presents & Classic Albums Live

Kick off the Founders Circle season with an intimate reception and conversation with the artists performing Led Zeppelin's *Houses of the Holy*, named by Rolling Stone as one of the top 500 albums of all time. Grab a drink (it's on us!) and learn the process by which their impeccable musicianship and attention to detail honour the legacy of Led Zeppelin, from the hard-driving riffs of "The Song Remains the Same" to the soulful ballad "The Rain Song."

### 2ND EVENT

Special Guest: **East Coast Kitchen Party with The Barra MacNeils**

Location/Date: Arts Commons Artist Lounge  
Thursday, November 23, 2023 – 7:00pm

Event Partner: Arts Commons Presents & BD&P World Stage

As friends and family gather across the Maritimes, inevitably, they end up in the kitchen surrounded by food, drink, and music. Join us for an East Coast Kitchen Party with Nova Scotia's The Barra MacNeils as we delve into the musical traditions of the MacNeil family. From Christmas ceilidhs, to midnight masses, and general festive frolic, this special evening is sure to get you into the holiday spirit!

### 3RD EVENT

Special Guests: ***Queens of the Blues: Shemekia Copeland & Dawn Tyler Watson***

Location/Date: Jack Singer Rehearsal Hall  
Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 7:00pm

Event Partners: Arts Commons Presents

Founders Circle is proud to celebrate Black History Month with an exclusive interview featuring two of the most talented and celebrated women in the blues music industry: Billboard chart topper Shemekia Copeland and JUNO Award winner Dawn Tyler Watson. Join us to learn about the vital role women of colour have played in shaping the blues genre, from its roots in the Mississippi Delta to its evolution into rock and roll, and how their influence continues to inspire and inform contemporary blues music today.



Classic Albums Live. © Kiani Evans



The Barra MacNeils.

**Our Belief**

That equitable access to the arts is a human right.

**Our Mission**

To be an inspirational force where artists, community, and organizations celebrate identities, experience the full breadth of human emotions, and ignite positive change.



Shemekia Copeland. ©Victoria Smith



Jann Arden.

Join the Circle  
artscommons.ca/  
founderscircle



Puppeteers from Dinosaur World Live. © Dinosaur Live

“Founders Circle gives me an opportunity to directly engage with the premier aspects of Calgary’s arts community.”

*Rod Villanueva*



Jennifer Kingsbury & Rod Villanueva at a Founders Circle Dinner. ©Will Young



## 4TH EVENT

Special Guest: **Jann Arden, Narrator of Secrets of the Whales:  
A Film in Concert**

Location/Date: **Jack Singer Concert Hall Lobby  
Sunday, April 21, 2024 – 4:00pm**

Event Partner: **Arts Commons Presents & National Geographic**

Arts Commons is thrilled to premiere the National Geographic Film Concert: Secrets of the Whales. President & CEO, Alex Sarian hosts this special event featuring Canadian Music Hall of Fame inductee, and Secrets of the Whales narrator, Jann Arden, who will bring the Emmy award winning series to life. A self-described storyteller and activist, Arden has forged a unique musical career while using her voice to advocate for conservation and animal rights. Join us as we learn about the intersection of her art and activism.

## 5TH EVENT

Special Guests: **Puppeteers from Dinosaur World Live**

Location/Date: **Founders Room (Jack Singer Concert Hall Lobby)  
Saturday, May 25, 2024 – 3:00pm**

Event Partners: **Arts Commons Presents**

Dinosaur World Live brings to the stage a pre-historic world of astonishing (and remarkably life-like) dinosaurs. At this special Founders Circle matinee, President & CEO Alex Sarian will sit down with the artists of Nicoll Entertainment, whose state-of-the-art puppetry and awe-inspiring shows have put them at the forefront of children's theatre. Join us for a "behind-the-strings" experience and learn what it takes to create this larger-than-life stage show.

## FOUNDERS CIRCLE DINNER

Special Guest: **You!**

Location/Date: **Stay tuned!  
Friday, June 14, 2024 – 6:00pm**

Celebrate a remarkable year of memorable experiences at Arts Commons by joining President and CEO, Alex Sarian, fellow members of Founders Circle, and many of Calgary's acclaimed artists for an exquisite dining experience with special performances throughout the evening. Please note that the Founders Circle Dinner is open to Silver, Gold, and Platinum Founders Circle Members only.

### **Make your membership go further!**

All contributions to Founders Circle will be matched up to 50%, through Shaw Birdies for Kids presented by AltaLink!

All Founders Circle events (special guests dates, times and locations) are subject to change.

## FOUNDERS CIRCLE (FC) MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

	ASSOCIATE \$20 TO \$99	FRIEND \$100 TO \$499	FELLOW \$500 TO \$999	BENEFACTOR \$1,000 TO \$2,499	FOUNDER – SILVER TIER \$2,500 TO \$4,999
<i>Official receipt for tax purposes pursuant to Canada Revenue Agency regulations</i>	Donation Amount	Donation Amount	Donation Amount less \$50	Donation Amount less \$150	Donation Amount less \$250
<i>Grateful acknowledgement of your name on the Arts Commons website</i>					
<i>Grateful acknowledgement of your name in Arts Commons 2023-24 Report to Community</i>					
<i>Invitations to attend exclusive Founders Circle Events (See pages 5 through 8 for details)</i>		One FC Event	One FC Event	All FC Events	All FC Events
<i>Complimentary parking to attend Founders Circle Events</i>		One FC Event	One FC Event	All FC Events	All FC Events
<i>Complimentary bar &amp; beverage service in the Jack Singer Concert Hall Founders Room when the member is attending select Arts Commons Presents performances*</i>			Two Arts Commons Presents Concerts	All Arts Commons Presents Concerts	All Arts Commons Presents Concerts
<i>Concierge Services - Priority Seating through the Development Office</i>					
<i>Grateful acknowledgement on the Honour Wall in the lobby of the Jack Singer Concert Hall throughout the 2023-24 Season</i>					
<i>Front of the line ticket purchasing privileges for select performances at Arts Commons</i>					
<i>Private Behind-the-Scenes Tour of Arts Commons</i>					
<i>Invitation to attend the Celebration for the Arts hosted by Mayor Gondek on October 18, 2023</i>					
<i>Invitation to attend the Founders Circle Dinner with some of Calgary's most celebrated artists on June 14, 2024</i>					
<i>Invitation to dedicate a performance presented by Arts Commons Presents</i>					
<i>Complimentary use of the Founders Room for a private event (subject to availability)</i>					
<i>Invitation to align your gift towards a programming priority at Arts Commons</i>					

Membership is for a 12-month period; benefits are provided throughout that period.

\* Includes all concerts in BD&P World Stage and Classic Albums Live.

FOUNDER – GOLD TIER	FOUNDER – PLATINUM TIER
\$5,000 TO 9,999	\$10,000+
Donation Amount less \$250	Donation Amount less \$250
✓	✓
✓	✓
All FC Events	All FC Events
All FC Events	All FC Events
All Arts Commons Presents Concerts	All Arts Commons Presents Concerts
✓	✓
✓	✓
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Arts Commons wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the following event partners that have offered inspiration, encouragement, and most notably support of Founders Circle.

EVENT PARTNERS



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STUDENT ENGAGEMENT PARTNER



Kaeyae Alo & Abby Amu performing at the Founders Circle Dinner. © Will Young

“My membership gives me superb opportunities to stretch the boundaries of my involvement with and exposure to the ticketed events I attend at Arts Commons. I’ve gained new appreciation for the artists and the way shows are presented.”

*Brian Mills, Founder, Silver Tier*



Susan Tyrrell, Brian Mills & Zenon at the Founders Circle Dinner. © Will Young



*Founded on a vision,  
built for the community,  
and supported by you!*

**Arts Commons**

205 – 8 Avenue SE, Calgary, Alberta T2G 0K9  
403-294-7497 / [artscommons.ca](http://artscommons.ca)

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Cover photo, *Top*: Founders Circle Members Rob Nipp, Leigh-Ann Duke & Alex Sarian at a Founder's Circle Event. © Will Young

Cover photo, *Center*: Jann Arden, Narrator of Secrets of the Whales: A Film in Concert.

Cover photo, *Bottom*: Performers for Dinosaur World Live.

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