



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release
November 3, 2009

November's First Thursday celebration offers over 30 events and deals

(Calgary, AB) – This month's First Thursday celebration offers over 30 events and deals in the Cultural District. From watering plants using Twitter, to world-class pianists, a wearable art fashion show and cakewalk, laughter yoga, rockabilly music, unique art gifts and more, First Thursday offers something for everyone.

Fashionistas and the sweet toothed should visit Art Central as they celebrate their 5th birthday party. ACAD is in the building with their much-anticipated annual wearable art show, and those with a sweet tooth could go home with a cake as victor of the night's cakewalk.

#garden lets tech-savvy green thumbs water plants using Twitter. Visitors can water the #garden and follow #garden nightly mood updates on its Twitter feed.

The Honens International Piano competition offers music lovers a chance to watch world-class musicians give it their all in an exciting round of competition finals. Three pianists perform with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra led by conductor Christoph Campestrini.

Laugh at Lunch! with the Glenbow Museum. Simple laughter exercises are combined with gentle yoga breathing which turns into real laughter when practiced in a group. A worldwide movement with more than 5,000 clubs across the globe, this is the first Laughter Club in downtown Calgary.

The Triangle Gallery is a mecca for early holiday shoppers with their Studio Art Sales Fundraiser. The sale offers affordable, small format works in a variety of media: painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, glass, ceramics, textile and mixed media compositions by some of Western Canada's leading and emerging artists and designers.

Highlights of November's First Thursday include:

**[5-9pm, Art Central's 5th Birthday Party and ACAD's Regalia Wearable Art](#)
100 7 Ave SW, FREE**

Join Art Central for their 5th Birthday with the much-anticipated wearable art show, Regalia, presented by students of ACAD's and Dee Fontans' Wearable Art - Object and Body Class. Music by one of our favourites, DJ Bruno, exhibition openings, holiday shopping and much more! Admission is free and all ages are welcome. Regalia begins at 8pm. Look out for the INFLUX's Cake Walk on the stairs before the show!

7:30pm, Honens International Piano Competition Finals I

Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts

Jack Singer Concert Hall, \$40-85

One of the world's most prestigious events of its kind and Canada's leading presenter of music for piano. Three finalists perform with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra led by conductor Christoph Campestrini. Tickets through Honens.com.

8am – 9pm, #garden

Truck Gallery +15 Window, 235 9 Ave SE

#garden is a piece that investigates the social media impulse. Several potted plants are set up in the exhibition space, rigged with electronic sensors and a water pump. Based on sensor data, the #garden will communicate its mood nightly via Twitter, a social media "microblogging" platform. Twitter users can give the #garden water by responding to its posts.

12pm, Out for Lunch & Laugh at Lunch! Laughter Yoga

Glenbow Museum, ConocoPhillips Theatre

130 9 Ave SE, FREE for Members or \$5 drop-in.

Fill up on art, culture and ideas. Bring your lunch and enjoy fascinating talks and special performances in our theatre. Take part in Laughter Yoga, which combines simple laughter exercises with gentle yoga breathing and turns into real laughter when practiced in a group. It's become a worldwide movement with more than 5,000 clubs across the globe – join the first Laughter Club in downtown Calgary and wind down at lunch!

7:30 – 10pm, Opening: 2009 Studio Art Sales Fundraiser

Triangle Gallery of Visual Arts , 104-800 Macleod Tr SE, FREE

This fundraising event offers affordable, small format works in a variety of media: painting, sculpture, printmaking, photography, glass, ceramics, textile, mixed media compositions by Western Canada's leading and emerging artists and designers. They are perfect for Christmas! Proceeds from the sale will support Triangle's art exhibitions and education programs.

6 - 7:30pm, The 24th Annual Gemini Awards at First Thursday

Calgary Arts Development, lower level, Art Central, FREE

Tell us what Calgary Culture means to you and be entered to win tickets to the 24th Annual Gemini Awards held November 14th in Calgary.

12:10pm, Lunchbox Theatre presents Under the Bright Sun

The TransCanada Stage at Lunchbox Theatre

160-115 9 Ave SE, \$15-18

Four people at a bus stop don't seem to know anything about their surroundings. Why are they there? Where are they going? And who can answer their questions? This is a fast-paced comedy about living, loving, and taking stock, from the always-entertaining author of The Christmas Tree and My Narrator.

7:30pm, Alberta Theatre Projects presents I, Claudia

Martha Cohen Theatre

Epcor Centre for the Performing Arts, \$18-82

This extraordinary one-woman show maps the raw but beautiful interior life of a misfit adolescent. Claudia, twelve and three-quarters, finds herself suffering from the triple afflictions of puberty, unpopularity and her parents' divorce.

5-9pm, The Smokin 45s

The Palomino, 109 7 Ave SW, FREE

The Smokin 45s are Calgary's premier rockabilly band. Led by singer and drummer Mike Fury and backed by stand-up bassist Rob Oxoby and guitarist Scott Martin, the 45s combine rockabilly, country, and rock and roll. The Smokin 45s will bring the swing for a hip-shaking, drink-taking party for all.

7:30pm, North British Columbia Canoe Trips by Laurel Archer

W.R. Castell Central Library, lower level meeting room 1

616 Macleod Trail SE, FREE

Discover new canoe routes and re-visit old favourites as Laurel Archer presents a slide show based on her new book.

For more information about these events or for full listings visit

CalgaryCulture.com/FirstThursdays and follow us on Twitter [@CultureDistrict](https://twitter.com/CultureDistrict).

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Contact Information

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About Calgary's Cultural District

Calgary's Cultural District is located downtown and is home to dozens of arts and culture hotspots like galleries, museums, theatres, concert halls and outdoor festival space, plus excellent shopping, dining and nightlife in the heart of the city. It's all within walking distance of downtown transit lines, several major hotels, Stephen Avenue Walk and Olympic Plaza, a key Calgary landmark that served as the medal ceremonies site for the 1988 Winter Olympic Games. This vibrant neighbourhood is filled with one of the highest concentrations of arts and culture venues in Canada, including the EPCOR CENTRE for the Performing Arts, the recently restored Grand Theatre, Vertigo Theatre, the Glenbow Museum, the Art Gallery of Calgary, Cantos Music Foundation and Art Central, along with many other galleries, music venues and festivals.

About Calgary Arts Development

Calgary Arts Development was created in 2005 to lead long-term, strategic development of the arts sector in Calgary, guided by the 2004 Civic Arts Policy. Calgary Arts Development invests municipal arts funding of \$3.75 million annually in 160 local arts organizations, provides support to the arts community, private developers and public and private sector funders engaged in arts space projects and engages in strategic marketing initiatives to increase arts participation and raise awareness of Calgary's arts sector locally, nationally and internationally. Visit CalgaryArtsDevelopment.com.