



# News release

August 16, 2010

## Lethbridge Arts Days Promises Something for Everyone

Lethbridge's Arts Community is thrilled to present this year's Arts Days festivities; a celebration of the city's diverse community of artists, arts organizations, facilities and supporters. This year's Arts Days celebrations take place from Friday, September 17 to Sunday, September 19. The City of Lethbridge has been chosen by the Government of Alberta as one of five flagship sites for this year's Arts Days Celebrations. Bob Tarleck, Mayor of Lethbridge, agrees the designation is a good fit: "The arts are alive and well in Lethbridge! Ours is a vibrant, diverse, creative community where artistic and cultural activities are the basis for many of our festivals and celebrations."

The Honourable Lindsay Blackett; Minister of Culture and Community Spirit, opens the weekend on Friday with a ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the **Southern Alberta Art Gallery (SAAG) Grand re-opening**. The gallery is offering free admission for the duration of the Arts Days weekend. "Alberta will be humming with creative energy during Alberta Arts Days and people will have the chance to experience our province's vibrant cultural scene in new and exciting ways," said Blackett. "I look forward to the celebrations in Lethbridge and congratulate the community on taking part in this important initiative. From visual art to music to dance, there will be something for everyone."

The **7<sup>th</sup> Annual ArtWalk** takes place from 10:00 am -4:00 pm on Friday and Saturday. ArtWalk is a free self-guided tour of over 30 venues exhibiting the work of local artists. Venues include the University of Lethbridge, Bowman Arts Centre, Lethbridge Public Library, Galt Museum & Archives and local businesses throughout the downtown core.

The **Blackfoot Canadian Cultural Society** presents AB FEST; celebrating Blackfoot culture and art. The event takes place on Saturday afternoon at the Yates Memorial Centre from 2:00 – 6:00 pm. Events continue throughout the weekend at the Blackfoot Art Gallery in Lethbridge Centre.

**Arts Fest** brings together Lethbridge's diverse arts community with a festival beginning on Saturday evening at 6:00 pm at Galt Gardens Park. Lethbridge's local music scene will be showcased and a number of local cafes and lounges will present live music.

Arts Fest continues on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup> in Galt Gardens Park from 11:00 am to 9:30 pm. Local dancers, musicians and actors will take the stage, while local artisans sell their wares in an artisan market. The newly formed **Wind City Kids Festival Society** will provide family focused activities and entertainment from 11:00 am -5:00 pm.

All events are free of charge and are open to the public. Arts Days programs outlining detailed event information will be available starting September 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Allied Arts Council office or online at [www.artsdayslethbridge.org](http://www.artsdayslethbridge.org).

Lethbridge Arts Days is part of the celebrations occurring throughout the province during Alberta Arts Days 2010. Alberta Arts Days, which is part of National Culture Days and runs from September 17-19, is all about discovering, experiencing and celebrating our unique blend of peoples and passions, and the importance of arts and culture to a healthy and vibrant Alberta. To learn more, visit [www.AlbertaArtsDays.ca](http://www.AlbertaArtsDays.ca)

**Backgrounder:** Lethbridge's Arts Organizations Come Together for Arts Days

**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Ashley Markus, Communications Coordinator  
Allied Arts Council Lethbridge

Ph: (403) 320-0555

Email: [communications@artslethbridge.org](mailto:communications@artslethbridge.org)



# Backgrounder

*August 16, 2010*

## Lethbridge's Arts Organizations Come Together for ArtsDays

A number of partner organizations are coming together for this year's ArtsDays. The following information highlights the events being presented by ArtsDays partner organizations.

### **Southern Alberta Art Gallery (SAAG) Grand Re-opening**

Between 1976 and 2008 the Southern Alberta Art Gallery developed into one of Canada's most respected, cutting edge, and leading contemporary art galleries. During these three decades the SAAG's structure has seen only minor upgrades or renovations. Demands on the infrastructure due to a growing staff, expansions in gallery programming, more challenging and demanding artist's works, and major challenges in integrating advances in technology with artistic installations at the SAAG has, over the years, resulted in the space becoming cramped and outdated. Spaces originally designated for storage became offices, a classroom/studio and a library/meeting room.

The present renovation and expansion project of the Southern Alberta Art Gallery is the first project to break ground in the Arts Re: Building Together campaign spearheaded by the Allied Arts Council and supported by the City of Lethbridge. The local architectural firms of Savill Group Architects and Ferrari Westwood Babits Architects teamed up to complete the design.

Features of the expansion and reconfiguration of the gallery will include: a new classroom and library with generous windows onto the park, a multi-media/video viewing gallery, and new configuration to the gift shop. The architects have created an innovative new structure between the original Carnegie Library and 50s addition with new finishes throughout the existing spaces. Other project highlights include: a renovated entrance and gathering space, new kitchen/server, and improved barrier-free access throughout the gallery.

The grand opening celebration starts at 9:00 am on Friday, September 17 with a ribbon cutting with the Honourable Lindsay Blackett; Minister of Culture and Community Spirit in attendance. Festivities continue Saturday morning with a pancake breakfast from 9:00 – 11:00 am. The gallery will be offering free admission for the duration of the weekend.

The Southern Alberta Art Gallery is committed to the learning and growth of its visitors and community; a bridge between artists and audiences, a container to access and experience ideas.

**Contact: Christina Cuthbertson, Public Relations/Volunteer Manager, 403 327 8770 ext. 4**

## **Blackfoot Canadian Cultural Society**

The Blackfoot Canadian Cultural Society presents ABFEST 2010; a multidisciplinary arts festival to encourage artistic development and appreciation. A number of aboriginal artists will perform on Saturday, September 18 from 2:00 – 6:00pm at the Yates Memorial Centre. Events continue at the Blackfoot Art Gallery in Lethbridge Centre throughout the weekend, including an art exhibition and performances.

**Contact: Mary-Ann Crow Healy, 403-327-6807**

## **Bowman Arts Centre**

The Bowman Arts Centre presents three exhibitions as part of ArtWalk:

In the main gallery: "Cover", paintings by Brenna Kanski

In the Music Room: "Duality", photographs by Mark Vitaris

At the Yates: "People Scapes", photographs by G Wayne Dwornik

**Contact: Darcy Logan, Gallery Services Coordinator, 403-327-2813**

## **Galt Museum & Archives**

The Galt Museum & Archives will host the 3rd annual sculpture show called 3 Dimensions during Art Days 2010. Southern Alberta is home to many talented artists who create three dimensional artwork. The range of expression, media, style, genre, color and size is boundless and intriguing. The Galt Museum & Archives is pleased to present the third annual Art Walk sculpture show September 17, 18 and 19, 2010.

Admission is free for the sculpture show (admission applies if patrons wish to view the Discovery Hall permanent and special exhibits). Hours are 10:00 am to 4:30 pm on Friday and Saturday and 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm on Sunday. Sculpture demonstrations will occur each afternoon from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm.

**Contact: Wendy Aitkens, Curator, 403-320-3907**

## **Lethbridge Public Library**

The Lethbridge Public Library presents the film *Georgia O'Keeffe*.

Showtime is 2 – 4 pm in the Theatre of the Lethbridge Public Library. Admission is free

When fiercely independent and then-unknown female artist Georgia O'Keeffe (Joan Allen) discovers famed photographer and art impresario Alfred Stieglitz (Jeremy Irons) is displaying her drawings in his gallery without her permission, she confronts him and orders him to remove the collection. But Georgia finds herself taken with Alfred's charms as he convinces her to allow him to become her benefactor and to champion her artistry. Their working relationship evolves as they fall deeply in love and Alfred eventually leaves his wife for Georgia. She soon becomes a rising star who is poised to eclipse Alfred's light. As their relationship suffers, Alfred finds twisted ways to emotionally wound her, including taking a younger lover. Georgia's search for solace moves her west, where she finds new inspiration for her paintings – and ultimately her own voice – in the New Mexico landscape.

**Contact: Sheila Braund, 403-380-7310**

## **The University of Lethbridge Art Gallery**

The U of L Art Gallery presents *the Lethbridge Mandala Project* as part of ArtWalk on Saturday, September 18 from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

Participants will create a section of a large scale mandala that reflects how they feel about the place they live. Inspired by the works of Jamelie Hassan, each section of the mandala will use archival photos, text, and images from our current culture to create a massive piece of art that will be displayed in the Atrium until the end of the day.

The exhibitions on display are Jamelie Hassan's *At the Far Edge of Words* (main gallery) and *Shifting Myths* (Helen Christou Gallery).

**Contact: Josephine Mills, Director/Curator, 403-329-2690**

## **Wind City Kids Fest**

Sunday, September 19, 2010 will mark the beginning of the Wind City Kids Festival (WCKF). In partnership with the Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge, the WCKF Society will incorporate family focused activities and entertainment into the ArtsFest component of ArtsDays. WCKF hopes to help build a positive community gathering with a focus on children, highlight Lethbridge's recreational opportunities, provide education on environmental sustainability and promote music and the arts through creative workshops and performances. The activities will take place at Galt Gardens in conjunction with ArtsFest, and will run from 11-5pm.

The loss of the Children's Festival Society 5 years ago has created a lull in family focused entertainment, namely in the summer months. With 10,000 people in attendance for the last Children's Festival, it's apparent that interest in these happenings is strong. The Wind City Kids Festival Society aims to bring renewed sense of family festivities to the Lethbridge core and support the Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge with their event.

The WCKF hopes to be a part of Lethbridge's cultural events scene for years to come, and help to entertain and educate the children of Lethbridge with creative and inspiring programs.

**Contact: Lorinda Peel, 403-360-7473**