

## CULTURE DAYS' CONGRESS HEADS TO EDMONTON FOR 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

TORONTO/EDMONTON, Wednesday, April 29, 2015– Culture Days' 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Congress, A *CULTURE OF STORIES: EVERYONE. EVERY STORY* will take place May 7-8<sup>th</sup> at the stunning Citadel Theatre in Edmonton, Alberta. Featuring keynote sessions from **Todd Hirsch, Chief Economist, ATB Financial and Chair, Alberta Premier's Council on Culture**, **Jean Grand-Maître, Artistic Director of the Alberta Ballet**, and an exclusive interview with **CTV Canada AM's Marci Ien** and award-winning interdisciplinary artists **Eric & Mia**, the congress program includes a range of educational sessions and breakout workshops.

"Hosting this national event in Edmonton is quite befitting as Alberta Culture Days has played such an instrumental role as one of the forerunners in the successful expansion of Culture Days across Canada," commented Sarah Iley and Rick Walters, Co-chairs of the Congress. "This event is a reflection of the passion and commitment Canadians have to ensuring the vibrancy of arts and culture as a daily part of our lives."

Since its inception in 2010, over 7.5 million Canadians in some 900 cities and towns have participated in 33,000 Culture Days activities over the annual weekend event. In many cases, bold and passionate individuals, stalwart organizations and visionary municipalities have taken up the local charge. The Congress will culminate with a celebration of Culture Days' success Stories by honouring the following 2014 award winners at a special dinner hosted by **Marci Ien**, Co-Host of CTV's Canada AM:

- **Swift Current Museum – *Innovative Event Award***
- **Westbank First Nation – *Cities for People Award***
- **Milton Home Depot – *Business Visionary Award***
- **Pam McKenzie from the District of Temiskaming – *Antoni Cimolino Leadership Award***
- **City of Brampton – *Marketing Award***

The 2015 Congress will showcase some of the extraordinary stories inspired, nurtured, created and curated from our cultural colleagues across Canada. It will provide practical insights and direction into how to best articulate these stories, and look at how evaluating and communicating the impact of our work can inspire many more. Visit the [Congress website](#) to learn more about the program and [register now](#).

### **ABOUT CULTURE DAYS**

Culture Days is committed to reaching the goal of having all Canadians in every community declaring "I Love Culture" and making culture a daily habit.



Founded in 2009, Culture Days is a non-profit organization dedicated to building a national network of cultural connections devoted to providing Canadians with opportunities to participate in, and appreciate, all forms of arts and culture. Through an annual three-day national celebration each September, hundreds of thousands of artists and cultural organizations in hundreds of cities and towns come together and invite Canadians to participate in free interactive and behind-the-scenes activities to discover their cultural spirit and passion.

As a leading national voice for the active and engaged cultural life of all Canadians, Culture Days provides support, tools and resources to a wide variety of artists and cultural organizations to help them unite the country through engagement in culture. Culture Days was initiated by four Founding Partners: The Canadian Arts Summit, Culture pour tous (producer of Journées de la culture in Québec), Canada Council for the Arts and The Banff Centre. National partners are Sun Life Financial and The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation. National Broadcast Partner is Bell Media (CTV). National Creative Partner is BT/A. National Engagement Partner is the Canada Council for the Arts. Federal Government support is provided by the Department of Canadian Heritage.

Provincial Partners are: Government of British Columbia, Government of Alberta, SaskCulture, Government of Manitoba, Manitoba Arts Council, Government of Ontario, Ontario Arts Council, Government of Québec, Government of New Brunswick, Government of Nova Scotia, Government of Prince Edward Island, Government of Newfoundland & Labrador, Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

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