

[Alberta Culture Days Newsletter](#)

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Alberta Culture Calendar

Event Planners rejoice! The [Alberta Culture Calendar and mobile app](#) are free tools you can use to promote your events and activities across the province.



Funding for 2014

Culture matters to the growth of our communities and our province. It matters to the lives of Albertans today and to the generations to come.

Every year, a growing number of Albertans are using the last weekend of September to make culture centre stage. You too could play a lead role in shinning a spotlight on your community's vibrant culture scene!

The Government of Alberta is providing funding to organizations interested in becoming Alberta Culture Days 2014 Celebration Sites, September 26 – 28. Last year, 64 different groups across the province seized this opportunity.

Visit AlbertaCultureDays.ca for details on this funding opportunity, as well as additional resources to help kick-start your planning! The deadline to apply for this grant is April 28.





Spotlight

Jasper: A Cultural Habitat

From golden fields and snow covered mountain tops, to dense boreal forest; Alberta's cultural life mirrors our province's diverse and exquisite landscape.

Born from stunning natural terrain and the toil of our earliest pioneers, Alberta's cultural legacy is further strengthened by the customs and traditions brought by more recent inhabitants. This rich heritage, combined with our talented local artists and dedicated nonprofit organizations, form a vibrant and progressive cultural lifestyle that is uniquely Albertan.

Every year, at the end of September, Alberta Culture Days honours and celebrates our province's dynamic cultural life. This three-day celebration, which personifies Albertans' immense provincial pride, would not be possible without the hard work and commitment of countless volunteers and nonprofit groups.

One organization that has been participating

since the inception of Alberta Culture Days in 2008 is IOTAD (It Only Takes a Dream). Each year, directors, Marianne Garrah and David Deker plan week-long events leading up to Alberta Culture Days. Garrah and Deker are excited for Alberta Culture Days 2014 because their new artist space, Jasper Community Habitat for the Arts, located in Jasper's Library and Cultural Centre, will be hosting numerous events. The new space allows artists of any age to educate, experiment, engage, and entertain.

To involve the whole town, programming includes local schools, the library and theatre. Jasper Community Habitat for the Arts also coordinates town permits to involve street performers and artists in the community celebrations. As well, Garrah and Deker tap into the tourist market by arranging hotel packages and artist displays in hotel lobbies.

But their favourite part of Alberta Culture Days is sourcing out new talent and being able to pay them. As sometimes the case in rural communities, many local artists find themselves travelling to larger metropolitan areas to find paid work. "We're connecting community to artists," says David. The amount of local talent and variety of disciplines always amaze David and Marianne. They feel artists, "just need an opportunity to showcase their skills."

"Arts and culture is a critical part of any community's health and well-being. It is a renewable economic resource, which is the first thing noticed by travellers no matter what town, city, or country they go to," adds David.

Visit the Jasper Community Habitat for the Arts [Facebook page](#) for more information on its Alberta Culture Days plans and upcoming workshops.



Alberta Culture Days

2013 Stats

Between September 27 and 29, 2013, thousands of Albertans participated in 1,455 events in 94 communities throughout Alberta. Approximately 2,200 Albertan artist and performance groups were hired or supported by the 65 Feature and Host Celebration Sites.

Top Five Cities (ranked by number of events)

1. Calgary - 295 events
2. Edmonton - 239 events
3. Lethbridge - 153 events
4. Medicine Hat - 47 events
5. Red Deer - 42 events

Top Five Rural Communities (by number of events)

1. Banff - 52 events
2. Canmore - 33 events
3. Stony Plain - 25 events
4. Fort McMurray/Wood Buffalo - 28 events
5. Barrhead - 20 events

Top 5 Types of Community Event Planners

1. Arts - 33%
2. Schools K-12 - 16%
3. Libraries - 10%
4. Heritage/Museums - 9%
5. Community Associations - 6%



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