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Chinook Blast 2025 Unveils Exciting Full Lineup for Its Fifth Anniversary Celebration

Calgary's signature winter festival is back, set to light up the city with an inspiring blend of art, culture, sports, and unforgettable celebrations!

Calgary, AB, January 16, 2025 - The return of Chinook Blast for its fifth year from **January 31 to February 17, 2025**, promises to illuminate downtown Calgary! This year's event features an exciting lineup of live music, thrilling outdoor sports, mesmerizing art installations, and one-of-a-kind cultural experiences—promising something unforgettable for locals and visitors.

"Winter is a season that begs participation and we answer the call with gusto. Now in its fifth year, Chinook Blast is gaining national and international recognition as a must-attend winter festival. Starting January 31st, bundle up and take part in this year's incredible lineup of outdoor sports, performances, and art installations."

- Mayor Jyoti Gondek

The 2025 edition of Chinook Blast will bring vibrant winter experiences to life in a reimagined footprint, spanning Stephen Avenue (from 1st Street SE to 3rd Street SW) and The Confluence Historical Site and Parkland. The city continues to see the strength of collaboration with more than 70 partners creating over 120 events this year across YYC. With eight all NEW art installations to visually delight, three diverse markets to peruse, and a new outdoor sporting hub at The Confluence, this year promises to bring warmth on these cold winter days! The return of festival partners, High Performance Rodeo, Calgary Folk Festival's Block Heater, and Ethnik Festivals of Arts and Culture, add to the wide array of programming magic this year to transform the city into an art and culture hub.

"As we celebrate the 5th year of Chinook Blast, it's incredible to see how this festival has grown and evolved. Each year, we've built on our success by listening to Calgarians and creating a festival that connects people and brings vibrancy to our city. This year's lineup is one of our most exciting yet, with new installations, unforgettable performances, and the dynamic energy that makes Calgary's winters so unique."

-Patti Pon, Chair of Chinook Blast Executive Committee and President and CEO of Calgary Arts Development

"The Confluence is the perfect place for community to gather and celebrate winter on this amazing land. We are thrilled to partner with Chinook Blast this year and contribute to all the vitality and fun of this big winter festival that gets people out to enjoy our city and the beautiful winter season. Chinook Blast gets better and better each year, and we are so proud to host the daytime programming on the site."

-Jennifer Thompson, President of The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland



In 2025, Chinook Blast includes:

Free programming across Chinook Blast's New Festival Footprint – Stephen Avenue and The Confluence

- **January 31-February 2 - Opening weekend fused with music and excitement**
 - Opening night heats up on **Friday, January 31**, on the RISE UP Community Outdoor Stage on Stephen Avenue with [Dhanak](#), featuring the spirit of Bollywood live with a journey through timeless classics and modern hits. Followed by a Calgary favourite, [Sargeant X Comrade](#) bringing an exploration of outer-planetary vibrations through psychedelic funk, soul and hip hop.
 - On night two, **Saturday, February 1**, discover new tracks and unique vibrations with DJ duo [Nu Bounce](#) followed by an electrifying performance by top 10 finalist from the 2024 CBC Searchlight competition, [Kam Prada](#) set to entice audiences with chart-worthy anthems and heartfelt storytelling fusing pop and hip-hop.
 - [Madhuban Performing Arts](#) is back this year to ignite Stephen Avenue and captivate on-lookers with their performances. Madhuban showcases South Asian art forms in Calgary's diverse cultural scene and a crowd favourite from 2024.
 - The first of three unique weekend markets hosted at [The Pioneer](#) is the [Art Spot Inc. Under \\$200 Art Show-Mini Showcase](#). A "boutique edition" of Calgary's beloved Under \$100 Art Show, it promises to not only feature pieces from 30 local artists but also live entertainment, art demos and workshops to engage budding artists from all ages and skillsets.
- **February 7-9 - A weekend of brimming with arts and culture**
 - On **February 7**, the second weekend of Chinook Blast warms up with, [Zenon+](#), a mighty duo whose vibe embraces Neo-soul melodies, provocative lyrics and powerful vocals to light up the evening. Closing the night is [One Big Jam](#), get ready to dance to an ensemble with some of Calgary's finest musicians set to create a fully improvised and interactive concert on Stephen Avenue.
 - [Brother Ray Lemelin and the Matinee Kings](#) take the stage on **February 8**, a four piece award winning Blues/Roots band from Calgary fuses soulful sounds with passion, promising to create an unforgettable vibe in downtown YYC.
 - Ready to surprise and delight on **February 8**, the [Festival of Animated Objects' Puppet Pop-Ups](#) feature a mischievous squirrel, an enchanting ice dragon and a



trickster giving viewers an interactive taste of what the festival brings to the city every March.

- The second weekend features a market that showcases the rich diversity of Indigenous culture and artistry. The [Authentically Indigenous](#) Winter Market will take over [The Pioneer](#) from **February 7-9**, with over 50 local First Nations artisans and cultural performances and demonstrations, visitors can expect a vibrant celebration of Indigenous heritage.
- At the Winter Sports Hub at [The Confluence](#) on Saturday, **February 8**, get ready for [Drag on Ice 3!](#) [The Cabaret Company](#) is back, back, back again for 2025! Hosted by Karla Marx and starring Kaos (Canada's Drag Race Season 4), Addi Pose, Dogii Chow and more, Drag on Ice will feature stunning drag performances at The Confluence. On **February 9**, [Calgary Surge](#) is bouncing in to showcase outdoor winter basketball, keep your eye out for Surgio, their beloved mascot. [Arts Commons](#) will also be putting on the ultimate Disco Blast Sunday Skate Party the same day as well.

- **February 14-17 - Extended winter fun for Family Day Weekend**

- With an extra day to celebrate, the final weekend of Chinook Blast 2025 brings [Dempsey Bolton](#) to the outdoor stage on **Feb 14**, with a blend of pop, indie, alternative, rock and hip hop influences, he's sure to bring tons of energy to the night. Who doesn't love a 90s dance party? [The Cruz Brothers](#) invite you to dress in your finest 90's attire and come down to kick it to DJ Fatrok and DJ C-SIK's 90's themed DJ set.
- On **February 15**, dance away the chills with [Kaiya Gamble](#) as she puts on a show that will transcend musical and emotional boundaries and leave you with a night you won't forget. Followed by a showcase from Calgary Folk Music Festival's **Block Heater**, celebrating its 10th annual festival, get ready to celebrate, sing and dance with old and new friends!
- Bringing beautiful melodies and high energy to the RISE UP Community Outdoor Stage on **February 16** is [Ben Tizzard](#), putting together a selection of original and cover music to sway to. [Jamie Allanach and Johnny Munro](#) combine as **RJWA Music** to close out the night with their acoustic duo that tickles the ear drums with an eclectic mix of tunes from multiple genres.
- For Family Day on **February 17**, the **YYC Music Awards** will take over the stage for a daytime showcase to highlight just a fraction of the immense talent this city has to offer. Bring down the family to experience the latest from Calgary's music industry and close out the long weekend with some feel good vibes.
- On **February 17**, join the folks from **Heritage Park** around a warm fire for [Under the Sky: Indigenous Stories and Wisdom](#) while **Anita Crowshoe**, Senior Indigenous



Engagement Advisor and other accomplished storytellers share captivating tales within the Indigenous storytelling tradition.

- Keep your eyes peeled for [Green Fools Theatres](#) life-size “**Great White Elk**” and The Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo’s Wilder Bunch’s “[Life-Sized Caribou Puppets](#)” on **February 15**, you won’t want to miss this picture-worthy experience.
- Staying family and puppet friendly on **February 16 and 17** is [Puppet Stuff Canada](#), Western Canada's only full-time puppet creation studio and they played a key role in the reboot of Jim Henson's original series "Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock," with **CREATURES OF THE DEEP** and **BIRD IS THE WORD**. Dive deep underwater and meet the bioluminescent creatures or look up to meet their goofball birds flying around making friends.
- [Asian Heritage Foundation](#) closes out the final market weekend with their [ImaginAsian: Asian Night Market](#) from **February 14-16** at [The Pioneer](#). Calgarians and visitors can take in the sights, sounds and taste of the city’s diverse Asian-Canadian communities through live performances, art displays, calligraphy writing, unique merchandise, lantern making and so much more!

- **Throughout the three weeks**

- [Eight New Art Installations!](#) – Stephen Avenue will be transformed into an art lover’s paradise with eight never-before-seen installations debuting exclusively at Chinook Blast. From Brian Faubert’s shadow mural artwork performances to Tonya Hart’s piece INFRA, composed of adult-sized wolf sculptures, and AZMA’s projection mapping, these works highlight the incredible talent of our local artists. Each piece will have you snapping photos and striking poses for unmissable Instagram moments.
- **Three Left Feet** returns with a new stilt roving program, [GLOWful Wanderings](#), bringing enchantment to Chinook Blast 2025. This year, they’ll dazzle along Stephen Avenue with LED glow, light-bending props, and mesmerizing stilt performances. Keep an eye out for the dragon staff and contact staff, adding a touch of fantasy to their roving art. It’s the perfect chance to capture an illuminating photo moment!
- [aGoGo Fire & Flow/LED Performances](#) return to combine their passions and talents to exhibit beautiful displays of dance and prop manipulation, some of which are on fire!
- Enter a whole new colourful dimension with [The Little Red Ball Company!](#) This live circus animation activates the downtown core and brings life to the city by creating unique movement in an unusual environment, as well as encouraging physical activity and play-based learning among its audience and bringing joy to those around!



- Enter the enchanting winter wonderland of The Oratory Presents: [‘Wish Upon a Snow Globe!’](#) Unfreeze your wishes, hopes, and dreams by adding them to a personalized snowflake. Just as no two snowflakes are alike, each wish is valued and captured inside this life-size community snow globe, offering a moment to pause, reflect, and dream.
- **All-New Winter Sport Hub – [The Confluence](#)** will be the new hub for daytime and sports programs. Whether it’s **skating, cross-country skiing, outdoor activities, or sports programs**, this is the ultimate destination for **thrills, joy, and memorable family moments**.
 - Featuring a beer garden, food trucks, hot chocolates and more! Once you’ve had your fill outside, come inside to warm up with winter-themed movies, craft sessions, a poetry reading or a haiku writing workshop.
 - Hop aboard a horse-drawn wagon and take a ride around the lands at The Confluence for winter views of the beautiful urban parkland. Provided by [Once Upon a Time Wagon Carriage and Sleigh Rides](#), teams will leave every 10-15 minutes to take groups on a fun-filled scenic ride around the site. **February 1, 2, 8 & 9**
- **[Stay, Dine, and Celebrate!](#)** – Turn your festival adventure into a full weekend escape! Calgary’s hotels and restaurants are rolling out **exclusive deals and packages** to keep the fun going. Whether you’re visiting from out of town or planning a staycation, the winter vibe doesn’t stop at the festival. Be sure to check out a curated walking tour of downtown Calgary restaurants with [Taste the City](#), a fun night out you don’t have to plan for yourself!

Chinook Blast Festival Partners Return!

- [High Performance Rodeo](#) kicks off the new year with an extraordinary showcase of theatre, music, dance, and multidisciplinary art. Experience three exhilarating weeks featuring over 190 talented artists and a spectacular lineup with 28 productions and 10 free events, from heart-wrenching marionette masterclasses to riotous clowning and unconventional book club meetings. **January 14–February 2**
- [Block Heater](#), **powered by ATB**. Calgary’s dynamic winter music festival is back, celebrating a decade of ice-melting programming, with an eclectic mix of independent artists from the local scene, Canada and the globe. Experience magical performances at downtown venues, with a spectacular lineup featuring Kathleen Edwards, Basia Bulat, Black Mountain, TEKE::TEKE and more! **February 14–15**
- [Ethnik Festival](#) returns to celebrate the rich traditions of Calgary’s Afro-Canadian and Caribbean communities. This vibrant cultural gathering will showcase an impressive array of talent from Calgary, across Canada, and around the world, spotlighting creativity and connection. **February 21 - Calgary Food War @ Carya Village Commons East Village. February 22 - Main Festival Celebration @ The Genesis Centre Northeast Calgary.**

Additional Must Visit Events

- This winter, [East Village](#) invites you to embrace the season with unforgettable experiences that celebrate the beauty, coziness, and adventure of the colder months. Every day after sunset **until February 17**, delight in a wintertime short story exhibit that moves you through four locations in the heart of East Village with [Journey Through the Stars](#). After which, strap on your cross-country skis and hit the [East Village Nordic Loop](#), and then warm your toes by the fire pit at the [Hygge Hut](#).
- [National Music Centre](#) On **February 8**, in celebration of Black History Month, the National Music Centre will present a special event spotlighting the evolution of Black Canadian music, stay tuned for lineup. Visit Studio Bell on Family Day, **February 17**, for a jam-packed day of musical fun for all ages! Admission is free. Explore five floors of interactive activities, National Music Centre's latest exhibitions, and enjoy live performances, including a headlining set from a local favourite – soon to be revealed!
- [Exposure Photography Festival](#) The annual Exposure Photography Festival celebrates the art of photography by featuring exhibitions from internationally acclaimed artists as well as emerging and established talent from Alberta. This vibrant event serves as a dynamic hub for photographers, art enthusiasts, curators, and photography professionals worldwide to connect and engage.
- [SkijorDue](#) Eat Cheese. Go Fast. Coming to Calgary for the first time, this annual winter festival pairs spectacular skijoring exhibitions with fondue flavour in a 2 day groovy après ski party at the Confluence in the heart of Calgary. The intoxicating mash up of cowboy and mountain cultures generates a SkijorStyle fromage-fest attracting a unique crowd of extreme athletes, local makers and enthusiastic spectators.
- This February at the Municipal Building, the City of Calgary's [Indigenous Place Keeping](#) program is putting on workshops, a performance, and an artist talk on the first three Wednesdays at noon, alongside a digital showcase of stunning artwork by Indigenous artists throughout the month.

Sport Fans: Your Favourites Return

- [ISU Speed Skating World Cup](#)
 - Top skaters return to the fastest ice in the world! Long track speed skaters from over 3 countries return to Calgary's Olympic Oval for the third ISU World Cup Speed Skating event of the season. Tickets are on sale now, don't miss your chance to experience the mind-blowing speed in person! **January 24 – 26**



- **Snow Rodeo FIS Freeski Halfpipe World Cup**
 - Experience the thrill as WinSport's Canada Olympic Park hosts the world's top freestyle skiers. This family-friendly event promises jaw-dropping action in the legendary halfpipe, where elite athletes will showcase their gravity-defying tricks and precision stunts. Whether you're a dedicated freeski fan or just looking for an unforgettable winter outing, Snow Rodeo is the place to be. **February 12–16**
- **Snow Rodeo FIS Snowboard Slopestyle & Halfpipe World Cups**
 - The Snow Rodeo is back; bringing the double header action to Winsport Calgary Olympic Park with a FIS Halfpipe World Cup on Friday, February 21st and the FIS Slopestyle World Cup on Saturday, February 22nd! Don't forget your cowboy hat and saddle up for the big show as the world's best throwdown at the fifth edition of the Snow Rodeo. **February 21 – 22**

The Calgary TELUS Convention Centre will once again be offering restroom facilities for festival-goers. Our official hotel partner, **Calgary Marriott Downtown Hotel**, will be offering exceptional hospitality and serving as a hosting venue for the festival.

Chinook Blast's Impact:

Chinook Blast is a vibrant community-driven initiative powered by key partners The City of Calgary, Calgary Arts Development, Calgary Economic Development, and Tourism Calgary. The festival offers an exciting blend of free and ticketed arts and culture events, sports activities, and one-of-a-kind experiences.

The 2024 festival welcomed more than 433,000 attendees and generated an impressive \$15.7 million in economic impact. It also saw participation from over 1,700 creative makers, businesses and partners, with 200+ of those businesses supporting programming and logistics, and 20 non-profits in the festivities.

With a focus on collaboration and inclusivity, Chinook Blast continues to bring together local organizations, artists, and businesses to celebrate winter like never before. For full programming and updates please visit chinookblast.ca or follow @ChinookBlast on social media.

Chinook Blast Assets [here](#).



About Chinook Blast

Chinook Blast is Calgary's signature winter celebration that unites partners from arts, nonprofit, neighbourhood, tourism, and sports communities to showcase the best of the city during the winter season. Our vision is to create a uniquely Calgary winter experience that attracts visitors globally. Learn more at www.chinookblast.ca.

About The City of Calgary

The City of Calgary's approach to Winter in Calgary celebrates all the city has to offer during the winter months. From winterizing public spaces to enhancing economic, social and cultural opportunities, Winter in Calgary aims to make the most of the season for residents, visitors and businesses alike. Learn more about how to embrace winter in Calgary at Calgary.ca/LoveWinter. For media inquiries, contact media.relations@calgary.ca or 403-828-2954.

About Calgary Arts Development

As the city's designated arts development authority, Calgary Arts Development supports and strengthens the arts to benefit all Calgarians. They invest and allocate municipal funding for the arts provided by the City of Calgary and leverage these funds to provide additional resources to the arts sector. Their programs support hundreds of arts organizations, individual artists, artist collectives, and ad hoc groups in Calgary. For more information, visit: calgaryartsdevelopment.com.

About Calgary Economic Development

Calgary Economic Development is an opportunity-maker, helping to spark and fuel Calgary's growth. Our job is to connect people with resources that can help them grow their careers or businesses, thrive in new locations or markets, and feel at home in our community. We offer a wealth of information to help everyone succeed and we tirelessly promote Calgary, in Canada and around the world. We're exhilarated about our role in shaping and sharing Calgary's story and we're proud to be part of the energy. For more information, please visit our website at www.calgaryeconomicdevelopment.com.

About Tourism Calgary

Tourism Calgary is the destination management organization that for over 60 years, has enthusiastically told the story of the warm hospitality and adventurous spirit our city is known for. From conventions to leisure travel, major sports events to music and arts, Tourism Calgary promotes our unique experiences to the over 8 million people who visit Calgary every year. We market Calgary in new and exciting ways, driving over \$3B in visitor spend for the local economy and advocating for Calgary's growing tourism industry to host visitors, offer shareable experiences, and activate experiences in ways that attract, connect, and inspire. For more information, visit: visitcalgary.com.

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