



imagineCALGARY
imagination into action

It's Never Too Late to Pick Up a Paint Brush!

Have you ever looked at a painting or gone to a musical and wondered what it would be like to try something like that? Or maybe you haven't expressed your artistic side since your college or high school days but have been thinking about getting back into it. The EPCOR Centre is the place for you. Their Evening Arts Studio offers over twenty classes to fit a number of interests. Classes are taught by professionals and are adapted to fit different skill levels. Participants can take up Chinese brush painting or work their improv skills.

The workshops are a great way to see what your artistic potential is and explore your imagination with other members of your community. Visit www.epcorcentre.org for more information about Evening Arts Studio. It's never too late to express yourself.

imagineCALGARY Committees: Turning Imagination into Action

The new imagineCALGARY Committees got off to a successful start with orientation sessions on October 30 and Nov 1. The session included "imagineCALGARY 101" – an overview of how the imagineCALGARY Plan was created and the current status of the imagineCALGARY Partnership. The orientation sessions provided an opportunity for Partners who will be participating on the Committees to think about how their organizations relate to the imagineCALGARY Plan and how they relate to one another.

"Having both long-standing Partners and new Partners in the same room to review imagineCALGARY's history, as well as the opportunities that are available in the year ahead, felt very promising. There was certainly a sense of anticipation to develop the respective Committees' mandates," said Debbie Korzenowski of the Calgary Health Region.

The imagineCALGARY Committees will now begin the work of creating work plans for activity on imagineCALGARY for 2008. The Steering Committee, Collaborative Action Committee, and Communication & Awareness Committee have nearly 40 participants representing 25 Partner organizations in the community. Building from actions by Partners, these Committees represent an exciting new phase of imagineCALGARY that will allow increased support, inspiration and connection towards a more sustainable future that has been defined in the imagineCALGARY Plan.

Students get a Crash Course in Sustainability

From October 25 to 27, two imagineCALGARY Team members participated in "A Boot Camp For Long Range Sustainability Planners" at Simon Fraser University (SFU). The course was the first of its kind offered by the SFU City Program and featured professionals from across Canada and around the world.

John Lewis, imagineCALGARY Community Sustainability Leader and Pat Gordon, Program Manager for the City of Calgary's Sustainable City Team, led a group of participants through the imagineCALGARY methodology and provided recommendations on the implementation of Surrey's new Sustainability Charter.

"Learning opportunities, like this one are valuable because you have the chance to exchange ideas and information that can shape the direction of your own community's sustainability planning framework," said Kim Graham, Project Manager for the Vision 2015 process in Saint John, New Brunswick. "Pat and John shared the lessons they learned and their experiences from imagineCALGARY. It was a great opportunity to gain knowledge from these leaders in public engagement."

imagineCALGARY's Partners : Al-

berta Ecotrust Foundation • Alberta Environment • Alberta Real Estate Foundation • Arusha Centre • Bow Valley College • Calgary Airport Authority • Calgary Arts Development • Calgary Board of Education • Calgary Chamber of Voluntary Organizations • Calgary Economic Development • Calgary Farmers' Market NGC Inc • Calgary Foundation • Canadian Freightways • Calgary Health Region • Calgary Heritage Authority • Calgary Public Library • Calgary Region Home Builders Association • Calgary Sport Council • Calgary Stampede • Canadian Pacific Railway • Child Youth and Friendly Calgary • City of Calgary • Climate Change Central • Community Mediation Calgary Society • Cultural District Renaissance Society of Alberta • ENMAX • EPCOR CENTRE • Faith & The Common Good • Federation of Calgary Communities • Flextronics Calgary Centre • Glenbow-Alberta Institute • Goodwill Industries of Alberta • Mount Royal College • Pembina Institute • REAP Business Association • SAIT Polytechnic • Sierra Club of Canada • Sustainable Calgary • Theatre Calgary • Torode Commercial Ltd. • United Way of Calgary • University of Calgary • Urban Youth Worx • The Van Horne Institute • Vibrant Communities Calgary • Volunteer Calgary •

Do you have a story idea or event you think should be included in the imagineCALGARY newsletter?
Email your ideas or event information to info@blueflamegroup.com.

Oil and the Environment in Alberta: Finding the Balance

On Tuesday November 6th, the Calgary Public Library held the third forum in the Environment Matters Series. This discussion, called "Oil and the Environment in Alberta – Finding the Balance", brought together leaders from industry, government, environmental groups, and the media. The panel discussion was moderated by David Gray, CBC Radio One's host of The Business Network and CBC Newsworld.

This event provided an opportunity for community members to hear both sides of this debate. Panelists discussed how the pace of development is challenging the environment but also how development is contributing to the economy. Alberta has reached its 2020 goal of extracting 1 million barrels of oil per day, 17 years early. A representative from The Pembina Institute expressed the need for a pause on new approvals until such laws and policies can be put in place to account for these production levels. A representative from the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers highlighted the industry's economic contribution to Alberta. Noted contributions include 265,000 jobs, \$12 billion dollars of revenue to the province and the contribution to the provincial GDP.

This will no doubt be a debated issue for years to come. This event gave both sides of the issue an open forum to articulate their position. Panelists noted the challenges of reducing the carbon emissions resulting from the energy input involved in oil production, the need to find cleaner energy sources, and the future of carbon capture and sequestering in Alberta.

Over 200 people attended the event. Participants were invited to take part in a formal question period. This event displays the Calgary Public Library's commitment to encouraging civic discourse on issues that matter to the public. Email your suggestions on programming that engages the community to marilyn.wallace@calgarypubliclibrary.com.

Here today...NOT GONE TOMORROW

When it comes to Calgary's hot job market, the revolving door of employees is inevitable. Leaving employers facing the challenge of finding creative ways to attract and retain employees. Smaller organizations are even further challenged because they have to compete with organizations that have more resources to attract and retain employees.

To assist smaller, independent employers, Vibrant Communities Calgary's Living Wage Action Team recently published an HR Guide highlighting the ideas and solutions of fourteen local businesses for employee retention.

The guide provides innovative strategies that focus on what's important to Calgarians and all the strategies can be adopted by large and small businesses. The methods mentioned in this guide range from low-cost, one-time initiatives to long-term sustainable practices. The intent of these methods is to keep current employees happy and energized as well as to catch the eye of potential new employees.

Events

Arusha Action Film Series

Date: Wednesday, November 21, 2007
Time: 7:00 PM
Where: Plaza Theatre,
1133 Kensington Road NW

For more information please visit films.arusha.org.

Calgary Dollars

hosts a potluck every second Wednesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Potlucks are held at the Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Association. For more information, call 270-8002 or visit www.calgarydollars.ca.

