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Chinook Blast 2024 returns for its fourth year with 'Winterful' festivities

Organizers unveil initial lineup of diverse programming, featuring sports, arts, music and more

Calgary, AB, December 8, 2023 - Chinook Blast, Calgary's signature winter festival, is set to return for its fourth year from **February 2 – 19, 2024**. The annual winter festival is fast becoming a Calgary staple with more exciting events bringing locals and visitors alike to Calgary's downtown. Chinook Blast 2024 promises an array of engaging events, diverse community collaborations, and a fusion of arts, culture, sports, and unique experiences that will make this winter truly memorable.

"Chinook Blast is an ode to the exceptional talent that embodies the spirit of our city, bringing joy to Calgarians and visitors alike. As we gear up for the festival's fourth year, we are thrilled to unveil the initial lineup - a testament to the unique community collaboration that makes Chinook Blast and our city special. We hope visitors will have a 'winterful' experience!"

– Patti Pon, Chair of Chinook Blast, and President and CEO of Calgary Arts Development

Chinook Blast's staple festival partners are back!

Our partners have curated an array of distinctive events leading up to and during Chinook Blast's festival dates for all to enjoy.

- [High Performance Rodeo](#) launches the celebration with an extraordinary blend of theatre, music, dance, and multidisciplinary art, featuring a diverse lineup of local, national, and international artists. Now in its 38th year, this event stands as a testament to the pinnacle of contemporary performance. **January 15–February 4**
- [BIG Winter Classic](#) returns for its 8th year, bringing music, arts, and culture together in Calgary's Beltline area. **January 24–28**
- [Ethnik Festival](#), one of Calgary's newest arts and cultural festivals, returns as Afro-Canadian and Caribbean communities share their diverse and vibrant cultural traditions. The 2024 edition will display creative genius from artists in Calgary, other parts of Canada, and from around the world. **February 9–10**
- [Block Heater](#), now in its 9th year, returns as one of the city's fastest-growing music festivals. With shows catering to every taste and vibe, Block Heater features independent artists from both our local scene and around the globe. Block Heater will also take over Olympic Plaza on **Saturday, February 17**, livening up the stage with artists including Le Vent du Nord, Cheikh Ibra Fam and Odario. **February 15–17**

What to look out for in 2024:

- **Sports take centre stage** - This year, Chinook Blast becomes a huge arena to showcase an impressive lineup of major sporting events that will ignite the passion of sports enthusiasts. Key events include:
 - [Nitrocross](#) returns this year. An adrenaline-charged motorsport event that showcases elite drivers like Travis Pastrana facing off in the world's most explosive electric race cars on snow and ice. **February 2–3**
 - [Snow Rodeo: FIS Snowboard Slopestyle & Halfpipe World Cups](#) The best snowboarders in the World will be dropping in for a Slopestyle World Cup, a Halfpipe World Cup evening event under the lights, and adding to the party will be live Red Bull DJ's on site to keep the crowd rocking, a beer garden on the snow, a new Rail-Jam contest and more. **February 8–11**
 - [Sport Calgary](#) is bringing back their Sport Festival at Olympic Plaza. For this 3rd iteration, visitors will get to learn, watch and dive into the excitement of unique winter activities on and off ice with try-out opportunities for free! **February 3**
 - [Deadcold Run](#) promises an unforgettable experience by blending the excitement of offering various running distances - 21k, 10k, 5k and 1k - with the vibrant energy of Chinook Blast. **February 4**
 - [ISU World Speed Skating Championships](#) For the first time in 25 years, Calgary will once again welcome the world's top long track speed skaters for the ISU World Speed Skating Championships. Cheer on Canada's very best as they compete for medals and world records on 'The Fastest Ice in the World' for the first time since 1998! **February 15-18**
 - **Snow Rodeo FIS Freeski Halfpipe World Cup** Back again, this free, family-friendly event brings the best freestyle skiers in the world to WinSport to hit the hill and compete in the halfpipe. **February 15-17**
 - [2024 Scotties Tournament of Hearts](#) The best in women's curling from across the country compete at the WinSport Event Centre for the opportunity to win the Canadian women's championship and wear the Maple Leaf at the World Women's Curling Championship. **February 16 - 25**
 - [2024 Special Olympics Canada Winter Games](#) Athletes with an intellectual disability from across Canada's 12 Provincial/Territorial Special Olympics Chapters will converge in Calgary, to compete with the goal of achieving personal bests, and in some cases, the opportunity to be named to Special Olympics Team Canada. **February 27-March 2**
- **All NEW interactive installations!** Calgarians can look forward to immersing themselves in the enchantment of all new, unique light and art installations crafted by local artists in and around Olympic Plaza. Enjoy the new facade and programming of Big Art's one-of-a-kind intergalactic aquarium to Ken Hacke Arts' interactive luminescence of "Cosmic Nexus" that will tower over 20 feet in height and 10 feet wide, get ready to capture and share these mesmerizing experiences!
- **Live events and experiences at Olympic Plaza-** The heart of Chinook Blast, Olympic Plaza, will once again host cultural experiences and live performances from a diverse array of performers and artists. These lively showcases will not only entertain but also keep the spirits high and the atmosphere warm, ensuring an unforgettable experience for all.

- **Three weekends of night markets** - Back by popular demand, the Four Winds Indigenous Showcase and Market, the Asian Heritage Foundation, and Market Collective will all be returning to the City Hall atrium, providing festival-goers with a unique shopping and cultural experience.
 - **Four Winds Indigenous Showcase and Market** - Check out 75+ Indigenous vendors with a range of handmade products like beadwork, woodworking, artwork, home decor, wellness products, apparel, hand-sewn items and much more! **February 2-4**
 - Coinciding with the Lunar New Year, **Asian Heritage Foundation and its community partners** are bringing the **ImaginAsian Night Market**, featuring the sights, sounds and taste of Calgary's diverse Asian-Canadian communities. Calgarians will experience the vibrancy and dynamism of our communities through live performances, art displays, calligraphy writing, unique merchandise, interactive games, lantern making, participation in winter activities and many more. **February 9-11**
 - **Market Collective** will help everyone celebrate Family Day long weekend. Visitors can expect amazing tunes spun by local DJ's, art installations, love note making stations, incredible designs by Rebecca Reid + Ryan Bourne, and 50 + creative entrepreneurs offering some of the most singular goods for that special (or not so special) someone. **February 16-18**
- **Savour a tastefully crafted food tour!** This year, Chinook Blast will be partnering with Taste the City who will be curating a walking taste tour of some of the best local restaurants along Stephen Avenue. This taste tour will be the perfect compliment to festival-goers' experience.

"Over the past four years, Chinook Blast has grown into one of Calgary's must-attend festivals. This year's initial lineup is shaping up to be truly incredible, offering a diverse array of programming with exciting activities and events. Winter is a season that begs participation and we answer the call with gusto. Start making your February plans now - you won't want to miss it!"

- Mayor Jyoti Gondek

Our partners including **Arts Commons and its programming arm Arts Commons Presents, The Calgary Central Library, National Music Centre, Platform Calgary, East Village, Calgary Downtown Association, and Contemporary Calgary**, will have programming for all to enjoy and explore. Don't forget to bundle up – the excitement is sure to bring a chill that's worth embracing! **The Telus Convention Centre** will also be offering restroom facilities for festival-goers.

Some sneak peeks include:

- Find year-round placemaking and programming activations in [East Village](#) and [The Culture + Entertainment District](#). Enjoy the fire pits at [Hygge Hut](#) every weekend, join a guided [birdwatching](#) tour on February 17, hurry hard to the curling rink on St Patrick's Island or play a game of pickleball at [Pixel Park](#)– there's something for everyone in downtown Calgary's east end this winter.
- [National Music Centre](#) is once again bringing back the popular Rock the Nation, a rousing musical revue presented by Annerin Productions, every Saturday and Sunday at Studio Bell from January 27-April 28. On February 9 and 10, legendary Canadian rocker Randy Bachman will return to Studio Bell for a live concert backed by his band. And on Family Day February 19,

Studio Bell will be offering entertaining activities suitable for all ages, promising to be a fun-filled day of music and connection.

- [Exposure Photography Festival](#) The annual Exposure Photography Festival presents exhibitions that showcase photographic work by internationally renowned practitioners, alongside emerging and established talent from Alberta. The festival provides an exciting, innovative meeting place for photographers and art lovers to connect with one another, along with curators and photography professionals from around the world. **February 2-19**
- [Calgary Opera](#) - *Storytime at the Opera* returns for one fun-filled afternoon! Calgary Opera's interactive family-friendly programs were wildly popular as part of their Opera 212 partnership at the Calgary Public Library, and Chinook Blast brings together all 4 musical stories in one day! Featuring local artists in musical stories rooted in four different cultural backgrounds (Ukrainian, Indigenous, Zambian, and South Asian), drop in for one, two, or all four stories. **February 17**
- [YYCHacks](#) - the city's premiere hackathon is back for a second winter edition of YYCHacks. Participants will have the opportunity to create innovative software that helps newcomers navigate our Winter City destination, network with tech industry insiders, all while competing for real rewards. **February 2-4**
- [Fort Calgary](#) will be celebrating Chinook Blast at the confluence with fireside stories, Films at the Fort, guided tours, a haiku writing workshop, featured poetry by local writers, and a very exciting indoor activation.

Chinook Blast's Impact:

Chinook Blast is a true community collaboration amongst partners, including The City of Calgary, Calgary Arts Development, Calgary Economic Development, and Tourism Calgary. It features a mix of free and ticketed arts and culture festivals, sports activities, and unique experiences from our partners. Last year, we collaborated with 60 partners, showcasing over 200 winter experiences. In 2023, the festival saw over 373,000 attendees, generating an economic impact of \$13.48 million. In 2023, we supported 920 artists, 200 businesses, and 20 non-profits joined the celebration. This year is slated to be even bigger with more activations and partnerships!

The full programming for Chinook Blast will be released in mid-January 2024. In the meantime, please visit chinookblast.ca for more information.

Chinook Blast Assets - <https://platform.crowdriff.com/m/tourism-calgary/folder/17100/album/179693>

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

As the third largest municipality in Canada, we serve a city that more than 1.5 million people call home, a population that is young, diverse, and growing. An excellent quality of life, with terrific access to nature and cleanliness make Calgary one of the most liveable cities on the planet! We are part of that success story—serving the city we live in and providing a wide range of services, like Water Treatment, Public Transit and Event Services. Learn more at Calgary.ca. We're working to promote and celebrate all that Calgary offers in the winter through our **Winter City Strategy**. Chinook Blast is an important new annual event that is helping to achieve our strategy goals—to find ways to create more economic, social and cultural opportunities during Calgary's winter months. We want to extend Calgary's festival and event season, find ways to improve safety and accessibility and improve the economy, especially in our downtown core, in winter. Learn more at Calgary.ca/lovewinter

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 official destination marketing and development organization for Calgary's tourism industry. For more than 50 years, the organization's primary purpose has been to promote Calgary and the area as the destination of choice for leisure travellers. Tourism Calgary markets Calgary in new and exciting ways, advocates for what's best for the quality of life of Calgarians and for Calgary's growing tourism industry, hosts visitors and events that build Calgary's brand and offer shareable experiences, and activates experiences in ways that attract, connect and inspire. For more information, visit: visitcalgary.com.

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