

Alberta Arts Days

Putting together your Alberta Arts Days experience



What is art? What is culture? You could answer in a hundred different ways, and there are at least as many ways to celebrate Alberta Arts Days. The ideas here will help you get started.

No Time to Plan?

No worries. Here are some ideas that are 100 per cent fun, no planning required.

- **Play a Starring Role: Audience Member**
Audiences are crucial to the success of Arts Days. Visit the [Culture Calendar](#) to see what you can attend in your community.
- **Take in a Festival**
There are thousands of festivals taking place in communities all over Alberta during the summer and early fall. Visit www.travelalberta.com for festival listings in your area.
- **Of Course You Can**
School boards, community colleges and private art schools all over Alberta have art classes starting this fall. They love beginners.
- **Take an Art Walk**
Even if your community doesn't have a dedicated art gallery, there is still art to explore. The Alberta Foundation for the Arts (AFA) lends Alberta artwork to community facilities across the province. Visit your town hall, library and other community facilities to view the art in your area. (If you think there could be more art in your community, talk to your MLA and other community leaders. It could become your own Arts Days legacy project.)
- **Look Behind the Curtain**
You may be surprised at the range of people and skills it takes to bring art to life in your community... and you might just discover a new career! Check our [Culture Calendar](#) to find out if your local theatre, performing arts facility, studio or art gallery is planning to take you behind the scenes.
- **Take Alberta Literarily**
Alberta authors can take you from the forest primeval to outer space and from ancient Egypt to beyond the grave. The [Book Publishers Association of Alberta](#) features a listing of new books by Alberta authors. You can also ask your local bookseller or librarian for recommendations or check out our [Culture Calendar](#) for author readings in your area.

Big Fun in Small Events

There's huge fun to be had when you have a small Alberta Arts Days event in your home or community. Here are some great ways to celebrate with your family and friends:

- **Make or Hear Alberta Music**
Organize a karaoke night featuring songs of Alberta performers. If you're not into singing, check out a local band with your friends and family.
- **Shoot and Click**
Take your digital or video camera on a walk around the block and capture some unique moments in your neighbourhood. Host a premiere party.
- **Crafternoon Delights**
Choose a craft project with a few friends or family members, and host a "crafternoon" at your home. There are many different things you can do – quilting, pottery, card-making, painting, wood carving. Send around a list of supplies in advance so everyone knows what to bring. One experienced person can teach the craft, or you can follow instructions as a group. If you're not into making crafts, try visiting a shop featuring local or Alberta crafts.
- **Food: Everyone's Favourite Art Form**
Host a potluck where everyone is encouraged to celebrate artistic expression through food. Encourage them to be adventurous! Issue a challenge, for example to use local ingredients from local producers. For dessert, see who can decorate the most artistic cupcake.
- **Become an Exhibitionist**
Turn your neighbourhood into an art gallery. Host a painting party with neighbourhood kids and tape their artworks to your fence. Or, hand out the sidewalk chalk and make each square of pavement a blank canvas. Ask a local artist or art club to give pointers and perhaps critique the results.
- **Invite the World**
Embrace Alberta's cultural mosaic by hosting a multicultural arts and craft show in your community or backyard, featuring arts, dance, food and stories.
- **Have a Reel-to-Real Adventure**
Visit some great Alberta movie locations – see where movies such as The Assassination of Jesse James, RV, or Brokeback Mountain were filmed. Maps are available at www.travelalberta.com.

- **Host a Story Slam**

Gather local writers and story tellers. Throw out a theme and have them create a story on the spot. Encourage young writers to share their experiences.

Theme it!

Why not give your Alberta Arts Days activities a theme? You can use wildlife, landscapes, famous Albertans, great events in Alberta history, or anything else that catches your imagination as the key to your artistic expression.

Post it!

Post your event information to the [Culture Calendar](#).