

THE GRAND

The GRAND Theatre welcomes new General Managers and Artistic Director for the upcoming 2021 season

The oldest theatre in Western Canada will soon be offering new artistic programming under new management.

Moh'kinsstis and the traditional territory of Treaty 7 (Calgary, Alberta) (March 23, 2021) -

The iconic [GRAND Theatre](#) welcomes a new chapter in its 100+ year history as plans to reopen are on the horizon. The nature of arts and engaged audiences has radically shifted. In keeping with an ever-evolving city, The GRAND is reimagining its future as an innovative culture house and community hub.

The GRAND aims to cultivate local and international art of consequence that reflects the issues of our times, while showcasing Calgary's innovative spirit and placing it in conversation with a global community. Through a suite of programming initiatives that support new ideas, new aesthetics, new thinking, new performance work, and new audiences – The GRAND will focus on contemporary performance and arts incubation in all its forms of diversity reflected on the stage and in the audience. The GRAND will offer a bold and original season of local, national and international programming envisioned as a much-needed platform for creating a new context for the performing arts here in Calgary – one that is hyper local and globally connected.

In anticipation of this direction, The Board of Directors are pleased to announce that acclaimed Canadian curator, artist, and artistic director Nicole Mion is the new incoming Artistic Director at The GRAND. This appointment paired with the hiring of Calgary-based events administrator Erynn Lyster as the interim General Manager and Zach Lyster as the interim Operations Director, means Calgary's oldest contemporary culture house will now be led by an exciting new team.

As an artist, curator, and artistic director, Mion has a reputation for innovation and depth in the presentation of contemporary performing arts. Mion brings a broad international network and a reputation for artistic excellence with programming objectives for the theatre that are fresh, collaborative, and ambitious. Mion is a founding member of [Springboard Performance](#) where she is currently Executive and Artistic Director. The new appointment will see Springboard

Performance become a resident company at the GRAND (joining [Making Treaty 7](#) and [Black Radish Theatre](#) Companies), with Mion taking on the artistic direction of both organizations.

Erynn and Zach Lyster have taken over the general management of The GRAND, ushering in a new mandate to support Calgary's arts, culture and theatre community. Co-owners of [The Commons Collective](#), the brother-sister team tackles this new project with innovation and collaboration in mind. After eight years of dedication to the entrepreneurial community through creating novel spaces in coworking and events, the Lysters shift their focus to the management of unique properties, developing new relationships with the larger community and coordinating innovative events that will foster a deeper sense of connectivity in Calgary.

This trio of incredibly talented minds will create new ways for artists to connect with their audience, as well as host the space for culture to thrive in Calgary. The GRAND is dedicated to building platforms and spaces for individuals to meet, artists to collaborate and foster new relationships, and The GRAND's mission of creating vitality within the arts will be brought to the forefront. Allowing for more collaboration with local vendors, restaurants and artists of all mediums, the new management and artistic direction will be at the helm of ushering in a reimagined thriving artistic space in 2021.

About The GRAND Theatre

Built in 1912, the historic GRAND Theatre, became the home for arts organizations in Calgary. As Western Canada's first theatre, operas, ballets and concerts were performed here, as well as countless political and cultural events, making it a staple gathering spot in the community for the last 100+ years. Today, The GRAND houses a variety of event spaces perfect for a unique wedding and private event, as well as arts, culture, performance and theatre events.

Quote from Nicole Mion:

I am honored and thrilled to be joining The GRAND as Artistic Director, and to work and collaborate with its incredible artists and team. I am passionate about designing space for art creation and the systems that support a cultural ecosystem. Core to my curation is being a condition maker, designing the spaces for articulated synergies that enable creation, connection and experience to open up both the individual and community to the possibility of live performance. I am excited about how the arts can play an enormously positive role in reestablishing a sense of community, shared purpose, and local-national-international unity in the wake of a uniquely challenging period in our history.

Quote from Erynn Lyster:

The opportunity to bring The GRAND to life as a culture house, as well as creating a gathering point for artists and guests alike in innovative ways is extremely exciting. As a building steeped in historic relevance for the city of Calgary and Western Canada, I feel honoured to be on a team tasked with the mission to reimagine and recreate a welcoming cultural space. With our small but mighty team we have big plans for The GRAND and I am thrilled to be a part of its next chapter.

Quote from Jenn Lofgren, Chair of the Board of Directors of The GRAND Theatre:

I'm delighted to be stewarding The GRAND through reimagining its future with a passionate and dedicated board of directors and our new leadership team. Our new Artistic Vision and Strategy is refocusing on our core mission to support the arts by building a hub in Calgary that is a welcoming space for all artists for the next 100 years in our city. I'm excited to see The GRAND play an important role in building community through the arts in the years ahead for partners, stakeholders, audiences and our City.

For access to a gallery of High Res Images, [click here](#)

To arrange an interview or to learn more about The GRAND Theatre, please contact:

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