



ARTS COMMONS TRANSFORMATION DESIGN STATEMENT

At the heart of the Arts Commons Transformation (ACT) is an intentional effort to create a new performing arts space that is 'of and for Calgary' – a place where everyone is welcome. This simple yet powerful idea has laid the groundwork for a design philosophy centered around community, arts, and culture.

The design for the ACT Expansion seeks to answer one fundamental question: "How might a performing arts centre feel as open and inclusive as a park?" The answer to this is the creation of a purpose-built facility that reflects the spirit of the community it serves, is thoughtfully connected to its history and culture, and is designed with respect for its surroundings.

Deep research and focused engagement has led to the concept of a lodge as inspiration for the design of the building that includes a gently curved building form, the use of natural materials, and a design spirit that welcomes you in to share and hear stories. The lodge opens to embrace the adjacent public plaza and captures natural light from Alberta's expansive sky, creating a performing arts space that will welcome Calgarians with open arms.

The light-filled, wood-lined interior of the lodge defines the public space within the building, leading visitors to the theatre entrances, cafe, bars, and an upper floor hosting space. These public spaces flow between the building's two purpose-built performance spaces and provide direct connection to a re-energized public park in the centre of Calgary's urban centre.

Arts Commons' new venue will project the vibrancy of the arts beyond its walls and welcome all through the inclusive spirit of its architecture.

- KPMB Architects, HINDLE Architects, TAWAW Architecture Collective