

NEWS RELEASE November 9, 2018

## Calgary 2026 Shares \$30M Culture & Education Plan for 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Games

*Plan Will Shine a Light on the Creative Spirit of the Nation*

CALGARY, ALBERTA, November 9, 2018 – Calgary 2026 Bid Corporation (BidCo) announced today details of a three-year, \$30 million Cultural Olympiad plan dedicated to showcasing and celebrating Calgary and Canada’s wealth of artistic talent and cultural diversity. This will be done in a number of ways:

- The **Flag Handover Ceremony** at the Closing Ceremonies of the Beijing 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, where the next host city is showcased to a global audience;
- **Cultural Olympiad** from 2023 through to the end of the Games in 2026 showcasing Calgary, Alberta and Canadian artists culminating in a 60-day arts & culture festival that spans the Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- **Education Programs** designed to share the values of the Olympic and Paralympic movement, and to illuminate the pillar of sport, culture, sustainability, inclusion and accessibility; and
- **Youth Programs** designed to attract young audiences to engage with Olympic and Paralympic activities designed to offer positive role models through athletes and inspire healthy living, sportsmanship and fair play.

For three years leading up to and during the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, Calgary and Canada’s rich tapestry of art will be showcased through the Cultural Olympiad and students of all ages will be engaged in the world of the Olympic and Paralympic movements.

“The Cultural Olympiad is an opportunity to shine a light on the creative spirit of Canada, Alberta and Calgary,” said Patti Pon, President & CEO of Calgary Arts Development. “It will allow our creative leaders, artists, youth, thinkers and dreamers a stage on which to showcase how living a creative life is part of Calgary’s DNA.”

The 2026 Culture and Education Plan is based on the highly successful Vancouver 2010 program, where the \$20 million budget was leveraged into \$80 million.

The Cultural Olympiad is included in the Calgary 2026 operating budget which is part of the Draft Hosting Plan released publicly September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Calgary 2026 hosted meetings on culture and education with 18 different groups and had 13 specific engagement sessions on culture throughout this past summer and fall.

More details on the 2016 Cultural Olympiad and Education Program, including how the HostCo programs can influence culture and education programs planned and budgeted by others, are available at [Calgary2026.ca](http://Calgary2026.ca)

### \*\*\*MEDIA AVAILABILITY:

Local artist & producer Josh Dalledonne is available Saturday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at Arts Commons (North door facing Olympic Plaza) to speak with reporters about how this \$30 million investment will benefit the arts community.

Joshua Dalledonne is a theatre and live performance producer and artist. He’s currently developing a new programming portfolio at Arts Commons focused on making space for underserved voices and frankly, just more, different – everything. Previous producing gigs include stints with the Calgary International Film Festival, the International Festival

of Animated Objects, One Yellow Rabbit and the High-Performance Rodeo, Alberta Theatre Projects and the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. He's a struggling French speaker, avid skier and snowboarder, and is picky when it comes to coffee.

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ABOUT CALGARY 2026 The mandate of Calgary 2026 Bid Corporation is to support and promote the development of sport and amateur athletics in Canada through the development and promotion of a bid to hold the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in the City of Calgary, the Town of Canmore and surrounding and other areas as needed to host the Games and, in particular, to develop, co-ordinate and present to the International Olympic Committee a bid to have the City of Calgary named as the host city to stage the Games.