

Culture Days Manitoba and Nuit Blanche Winnipeg 2017

Attendee and event numbers increase in rural communities and throughout Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, MB (Oct. 11, 2017) - From September 29 to October 1, over two million people celebrated arts and culture from coast to coast to coast, as part of Culture Days. Here in Manitoba, 450 arts and culture events took place in 25 communities, attracting just over 50,000 people across the province to create, participate and share.

This year, Culture Days Manitoba organizers credit the growth of activities to the increase of events in rural communities, like Flin Flon, Brandon, Gimli, Portage La Prairie, Virden and Dauphin. Organizers have also seen an increase in Culture Days and Nuit Blanche events that spread across Winnipeg, which included Transcona, West Broadway, the West End and the North End.

Student Day and Storytelling Day at The Forks, a feature project of Culture Days Manitoba that provides students, children and schools an opportunity to share, create and participate in arts, craft, film, theatre, sport, historical and cultural activities for free also saw exponential growth and participation. Thirty-one schools, 645 workshop spots and over 800 students, kids, and attendees participated in free activities, performances and workshops on the Friday of Culture Days.

Nuit Blanche Winnipeg (NBW), produced by Culture Days Manitoba with support from the Winnipeg Arts Council, celebrated contemporary art from 6 p.m. to 4 a.m. on Saturday, September 30, and drew a larger crowd than last year, with an estimated 25,000 participants.

The evening's highlights included Khan Lee's *Red, Green and Blue*, which let crowds play in the primary colour lights reflected against a brick wall in the Exchange District.

During NBW, a jury of art professionals toured the Emerging Voices projects and awarded the grand prize of \$1,500 to Meighan Giesbrecht and Tia Watson for PEG and \$500 to runner-up Black Space Winnipeg for Nuit Noir. The prize was generously sponsored by Winnipeg artist Jeff Funnell.

With funding for the Downtown BIZ's Host It Downtown and in collaboration with Synonym Art Consultation, Le Nuit Blanche Rendezvous at The Market Lands became a popular gathering place to experience a trifecta of visual, performance and mixed-media art. Mike Valcourt's completed mural, *Nibaa*, was revealed, the Sunshine House Queens put on fierce performances every hour, and jaymez jansen reconstructed the former Public Safety Building using video-mapping.

Kal Barteski's *Back Alley Arctic* celebrated its opening in the heart of Wolseley with over 1,000 friends, neighbours and attendees during Nuit Blanche.

The Forks hosted a variety of artists and events throughout Culture Days and Nuit Blanche. The WAG hosted a grand-finale showing of their ART EXPRESS'D shipping containers under the canopy. The artwork created came to life with help from Evolution Presentation Technologies, which projected the art created by children onto the ground.

Mark your calendar because plans are underway for next year's Culture Days weekend, which will take place September 28, 29, and 30, 2018.

For Culture Days Manitoba photos, visit: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm96wBBy>

For Nuit Blanche Winnipeg photos, visit: <https://flic.kr/s/aHsm6EWmX9>

ABOUT

Culture Days Manitoba is a collaborative pan-Canadian volunteer movement to raise awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. The next Culture Days weekend (Sept. 28, 29 and 30, 2018), will feature thousands of free, hands-on, interactive activities that invite the public to participate “behind-the-scenes,” to discover the world of artists, creators, historians, architects, curators, designers and other creative people in their communities. mb.culturedays.ca

Nuit Blanche Winnipeg is a free all-night exploration and celebration of contemporary art that takes place every Saturday of the Culture Days weekend from dusk to dawn. Held annually since 2010, all Nuit Blanche Winnipeg events and exhibits are spread across three main zones of activity - St. Boniface, Downtown, and the Exchange District. Nuit Blanche Winnipeg is produced by Culture Days Manitoba and the Winnipeg Arts Council. nuitblanchewinnipeg.ca.

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