

A new Nuit Blanche to see, feel and experience.

Winnipeg turns into an interactive-arts playground during Nuit Blanche Winnipeg.

Winnipeg, MB (September 4, 2018) - On Saturday, September 29, Nuit Blanche Winnipeg (NBW) will celebrate its ninth year with exciting changes that will benefit the artists, venues and its estimated 25,000 attendees.

NBW is focusing on bringing bigger, brighter and more interactive art installations to provide attendees with a safe and inspiring experience. This year, NBW will pack its full night of events into eight-hours from 6:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m. The festival will also be expanding and adding the West End as an official zone, to join the long list of activities happening in St. Boniface, Downtown, The Forks, and the Exchange District.

NBW's most popular meeting space, the Exchange District, will be transformed into an adult playground of interactive arts with two large feature works and several *Illuminate the Night* works funded by Producing Partner, the Winnipeg Arts Council.

"Unlike other Nuit Blanche events in Toronto, Montreal and Paris, Winnipeg's Nuit Blanche has a real grassroots feel, something we want to keep as the event expands. We're excited to bring new never before seen installations to Winnipeg," says Nicole Matiation, Co-Chair of Culture Days Manitoba. "The not so big secret behind the success of Culture Days Manitoba and Nuit Blanche Winnipeg is the high level of collaboration amongst artists, arts organizations, funders, patrons, volunteers and audience."

This year's feature art installations funded by the Winnipeg Arts Council include;

Impulse presented by the Winnipeg Arts Council, produced by Quartier des Spectacles (Montreal) and created by Lateral Office (Toronto) and CS Design. *Impulse* is a publicly activated light and sound experience made up of illuminated seesaws. When put into motion by people the seesaws form units of light and sound to create an ever-changing composition powered by play. *Impulse* is an urban instrument where the public are the musicians and artists. By playing on the seesaws, you create a dynamic light and sound wave giving a pulse to the urban atmosphere. *Impulse* will be installed in Old Market Square in the Exchange District from September 29 until October 3.

"The Winnipeg Arts Council is thrilled to partner with Nuit Blanche to present an exciting line up of playful contemporary art that is free to all. The family-friendly spectacle of *Impulse* will be extraordinary, and we are looking forward to seeing the art and streets alive with Winnipeggers," says Carol A. Phillips, Executive Director, Winnipeg Arts Council.

CONTROL NO CONTROL by Colombian-born, Montreal based artist Daniel Iregui is an interactive LED sculpture that invites the audience to use their hands and body to act on its audiovisual patterns. Presented as a stranding monolith, simple geometric forms repeat to create patterns that are in constant movement as they wait for interaction. When someone approaches the monolith and touches the surface, the patterns react re-configuring its sound and visual properties allowing the person, or many, to create their own new patterns. As people explore different gestures and how the sculpture reacts to them, one can question - who is controlling who. **CONTROL NO CONTROL** will be installed in Bijou Park in the Exchange District.

On Saturday, September 29, starting at 6 p.m. NBW will kick-off the night with a contemporary dance performance featuring the touch-activated **CONTROL NO CONTROL**.

Bannatyne Street, Arthur Street, Albert Street, and King Street surrounding the Cube will be closed for pedestrian foot traffic and will feature an Art Market by luckygirl POP UP.

The Winnipeg Trolley Company, sponsored by the Exchange District BIZ, will shuttle attendees between each main zone for free, but for those who can, NBW coordinators encourages attendees to walk and bike to truly explore, experience and rediscover their city.

“Attendees are always in awe with how alive Winnipeg feels during Nuit Blanche,” says Melissa Courcelles, Project Manager of Culture Days Manitoba and Nuit Blanche Winnipeg. “The energy everyone has during the weekend is just as exciting as the art installations.”

Illuminate the Night events funded by Winnipeg Arts Council:

- **Hand of the Machine by Solmund MacPherson (Winnipeg, MB)**
Hand of the Machine is a massive mechanical hand that invites interactivity from viewers and encourages engagement as a group. This installation is based on the idea that machines live underground. Thousands of kilometres below our cities, they rest their weary feet on the boiling hot bedrock at the centre of the earth and manipulate our societies with a delicate touch. This work will be installed at the Millennium Library Park, after which it will recede back into the earth where it resides. Millennium Library Park, Smith Street.
- **Heavenly Bodies; Illuminated Rocket by Kate Tupper (Nakusp, BC)**
Heavenly Bodies is a 16' tall 6' diam steel and illuminated resin rocket planetarium. Its cosmic patterns seek to connect us to our origins. Mystery, Connection, Awe, Beauty, and Disequilibrium. Scientists tell us that everything our physical bodies is made of was once a star. This concept illuminates the connections between ourselves and our environments. We are but a small part of a huge system. This installation provides an opportunity to connect three-dimensionally with our origins; it possesses the alchemic visual power to transport the viewer back into their heavenly bodies; to become “star stuff”.
Artspace Alleyway, between Red River Books and Artspace in the Exchange.
- **Moon (Picnic) II by Melany Nugent-Noble (Kelowna, BC)**
Moon (Picnic) II includes a large, spherical, illuminated moon, and a fog machine and the installation will be activated with performances throughout the night. The public is encouraged to bring blankets to activate and define the space and leave behind as a donation for a local charity, Main Street Project, that serves the needs of Winnipeg’s most vulnerable residences. Attendees are encouraged to interact, perform and activate the installation throughout the evening, in-between scheduled programming. *Moon (Picnic)* was first commissioned and exhibited by the Lake Country Art Gallery in (Lake Country, BC) and was activated throughout the summer into the fall by opera singers, pianists and spoken word poets.
The Forks, 1 Forks Market Road.
- **Muisiriún Illuminé by Daniel Dorge (Lorette, MB)**
What originally started as an idea in a garage, this project culminated into an illuminated mushroom that stands a towering ten feet tall with a grass turf covered base to transport the audience to a woodland-like atmosphere in any environment. From base to mushroom cap, over 750 unique LED lights fill the mushroom and illuminate the piece with a beautiful flow of colour and rhythm. *Muisiriún Illuminé* can be seen from near and far, hailing a curious audience to experience its mountainous, nature-inspired beauty.
Little Brown Jug Brewing Company, 336 William Avenue.
- **No, I’ve never herd of bison by Kale Bonham and Todd Scott (Winnipeg, MB)**
Winnipeg is an area with a long history, but a surprisingly short memory. “Was this here before?” is commonly heard. It might have, but we either didn’t notice or haven’t been at that end of town in a

while. It is hard to imagine that less than 200 years ago, you would've had herds of bison go by instead of cars. Wander through a herd of illuminated cardboard bison and learn the history, Cree names and stories of how every part of the bison is used. Each bison has a QR code attached. Each code reveals the history, names, and stories of the bison.

Upper Fort Garry, 130 Main Street.

- **RUN FOR YOUR LITE by Wood Anchor & Cloverdale Forge (Winnipeg, MB)**

A human sized hamster wheel that powers a forge? This crazy idea was born out of a conversation between the owners of two custom design build shops; Cloverdale Forge, who utilizes traditional blacksmithing techniques to hand forge iron and steel and Wood Anchor, a company dedicated to giving new life to locally harvested trees and reclaimed wood. When makers connect, the wildest ideas become brilliant realities. Come run the distance and 'Run for Your Lite.' Your human power will be pumping up the bellows of the blacksmith forges so they can make the anvil ring.

Riel Esplanade Bridge Landing, The Forks

- **The St. Boniface Bicycle Drive-In Movie Theatre by Neil McArthur and Alanna Thain (Winnipeg, MB and Montreal, QC)**

The St Boniface Drive-In Movie Theatre is an old-time drive-in theatre for bikes. Participants ride up and watch movies by the river, in Parc Joseph Royal across the street from the St Boniface Library, during Nuit Blanche. The projector runs from a bicycle-powered generator, which viewers take turns pedaling. The films are short films by local and Quebec filmmakers, exploring the theme of energy and illumination. Like the drive-ins of the past, the *St. Boniface Drive-In* is a place for people to gather and socialize while they watch movies in the dark.

Parc Joseph Royal, Taché Avenue.

- **third beach by Melany Nugent-Noble and Trent Noble (Kelowna, BC)**

third beach includes a virtual fire and large hearth that is intended to act as a warm, comforting gathering space. This bonfire, "burning" in the middle of the installation, rises up towards the canopy from a hearth of large, shiny black stone, creating an escalating choreography of dancing flames. The refracted and surreal fire is accompanied by the ambient sounds of digitally manipulated "crackle" and "pop", something we associate with real fires. Stumps of various sizes are assembled around the fire for onlookers to sit on and take comfort. The fire continues to slowly grow before it dies down to embers and then begins to build in ferocity again.

Under The Canopy, The Forks

Along with these installations, there are over 90+ additional events happening over the Nuit Blanche evening that are hosted by independent organizations, artists and collaborators. This year, The Winnipeg Design Festival, Wall-to-Wall Mural and Culture Festival and NBW will be hosting a slew of collaborative events at The Forks.

Nuit Blanche Winnipeg (NBW) is produced by Culture Days Manitoba with the support from producing partner, Winnipeg Arts Council. Culture Days Manitoba and Nuit Blanche Winnipeg organizers are expecting 50,000 attendees over the three days of Culture Days weekend, with more than half of attendees taking part in Nuit Blanche specifically.

For a complete list of Culture Days Manitoba and Nuit Blanche Winnipeg events and to create your personalized activity schedule, visit mb.culturedays.ca and nuitblanchewinnipeg.ca.

For photos from 2017, please visit:

[Culture Days Manitoba 2017 Flickr](#)

[Nuit Blanche Winnipeg Flickr](#)

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 eighth annual Culture Days weekend (Sept. 28 - 30) 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 (NBW), meaning “a sleepless night,” is a free evening exploration and celebration of contemporary art that takes place every Saturday of the Culture Days weekend from 6:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. Held annually since 2010, all Nuit Blanche Winnipeg events and exhibits are spread across four main zones of activity - St. Boniface, Downtown, The Forks and the Exchange District, plus its newest zone, the West End for 2018. Nuit Blanche Winnipeg is produced by Culture Days Manitoba and the Winnipeg Arts Council. nuitblanchewinnipeg.ca.

Winnipeg Arts Council funds, supports and champions development of the arts on behalf of the people of Winnipeg. As a city-building organization, the Winnipeg Arts Council focuses on the quality of life in the city, as viewed through and influenced by the arts. winnipegarts.ca

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For more information or to prearrange interviews, please contact:

Karen Ilchena
Publicist
Culture Days Manitoba / Nuit Blanche Winnipeg
ilchena@shaw.ca
204.781.5944

Joy Balmana
Communications and Events Coordinator
Culture Days Manitoba / Nuit Blanche Winnipeg
mb@culturedays.ca
204.942.8221 / 204.962-0313

Available for interviews:

- Tamara Rae Bebrich, Winnipeg Arts Council
- Solmund MacPherson (Winnipeg, MB), [Hand of the Machine](#)
- Ray Chan / Wood Anchor (Winnipeg MB), [RUN FOR YOUR LITE](#)
- Kate Tupper (Nakusp, BC), [Heavenly Bodies; Illuminated Rocket](#)
- Melany Nugent-Noble (Kelowna, BC) [Moon \(Picnic\) II & *third beach*](#)

