WHATSGOOD *living*

Art & Culture
Coffee & Cafes
Community
Breweries
Recreation
Pizza
Tyson Ray Borsboom
Mica Sage
BZdrop
Music Venues
Noodles
And More...

PAUL VAN GINKEL

An inside look at the discipline and journey of Calgary's number one Western Painter

PG.12

Calgary's Cafe Scene

Apprentice Cafe

Coffee and Scoops

GOOGLE PROFILE

Apprentice Cafe is a quiet neighbourhood gem where scratch-made breakfast sandwiches, thoughtful coffee, and real conversation take centre stage. Founded by a former engineer turned Michelin-trained chef, the café blends high-level culinary experience with down-to-earth comfort. It's the kind of place where the food is made with intention, the customers are known by name, and community isn't a buzzword – it's built daily, one sandwich at a time. There's no rush here – just quality, consistency, and a genuine sense of care in everything that comes out of the kitchen. Whether you're stopping in for your morning coffee or settling in for a slow start, it's a space that feels both elevated and effortlessly familiar. It's not just a café – it's part of the neighbourhood.

apprenticecafe.ca 825- 488-0887 @ apprenticecafe

Chefs Earth

Good Food, Made Easy

Chefs Earth isn't fast food – it's real food done right. Led by a seasoned chef with decades of global experience, this local café delivers chef-crafted meals made with integrity, fresh ingredients, and zero shortcuts. No pretension, no processed fillers – just comforting, energizing food that actually makes you feel good. Once you eat here, you understand why people keep coming back.

Beyond the café, Chefs Earth makes eating well even easier with convenient online meal prep ordering – bringing the same quality and care straight to your routine. Whether you're grabbing something fresh in-store or stocking up for the week ahead, every meal is designed to save you time without sacrificing taste or nutrition. It's chef-driven food built for real life – simple, reliable, and genuinely good.

chefsearth.ca

587-358-0691

@ chefsearthyyc

GOOGLE PROFILE

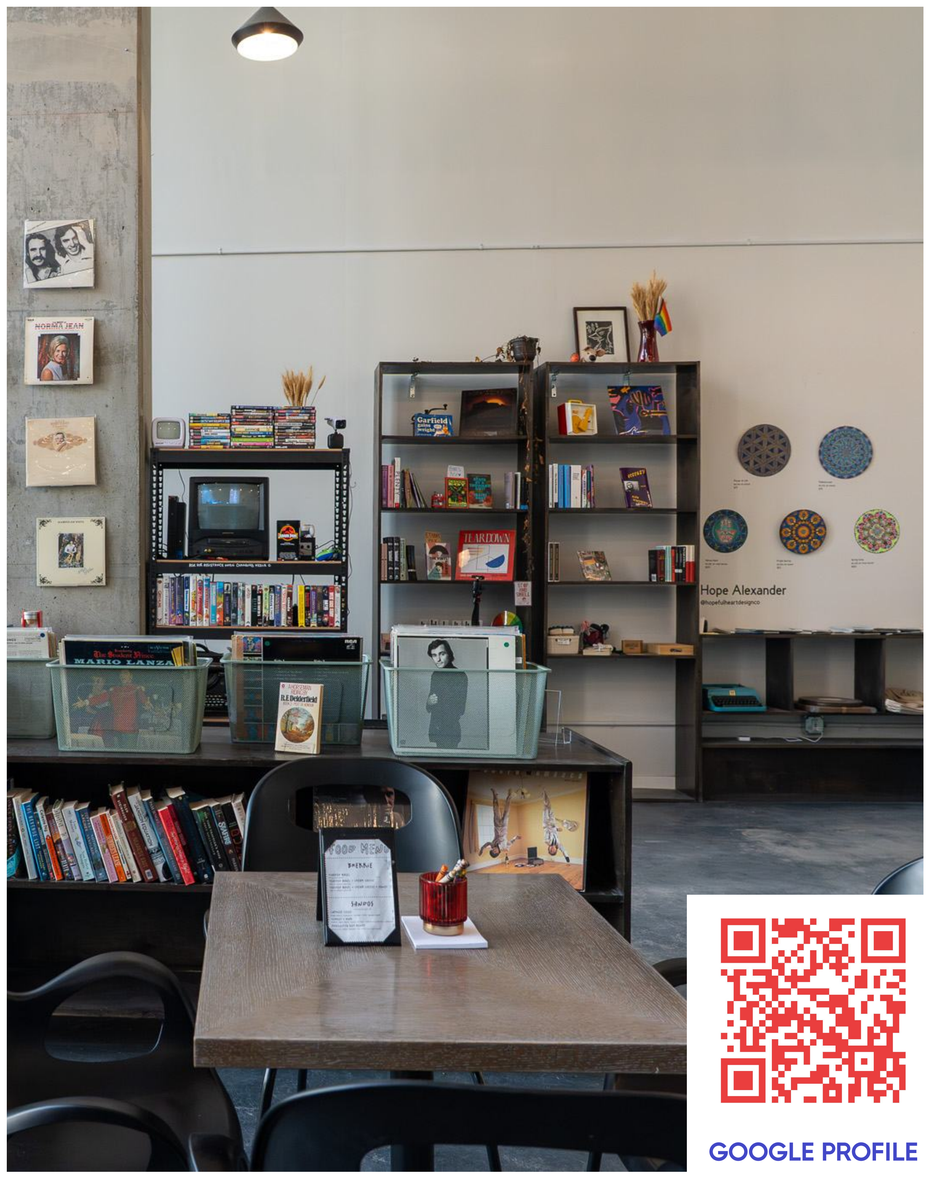
Semantics Cafe

Art & Espresso

Semantics isn't a coffee shop built from trend boards or copy-and-paste inspiration. It grew out of genuine personal interests – coffee, books, analogue media, music, and art – melted together into a space the owners themselves wanted to exist in Calgary. Not something polished for appearances, but something lived-in and intentional. A café modeled after where they'd actually want to spend their time. From the beginning, the vision was clear: coffee and art wouldn't be side notes – they'd be the foundation.

"One of the first things we talked about was that we were absolutely going to have coffee and art," they explained. But Semantics doesn't treat art as passive background décor. The café rotates artists every quarter and celebrates each rotation with a gallery-style event that feels more like a community gathering than a typical café promotion. Those gallery nights have become some of the most meaningful moments behind the business. During one of the first full celebrations, artists who hadn't known each other before began talking, sharing stories, and connecting – alongside friends, family, and regular customers.

semanticscafe.com **587-330-5532** **semanticscafeyyc**



GOOGLE PROFILE

Don't see yourself listed here?
Don't miss our next issue!

Building Community, Changing Lives

Calgary Prostate Centre

Changing the Way Care Happens

The Prostate Cancer Centre is redefining prostate cancer care in Southern Alberta through compassion, access, and innovation. As a one-of-a-kind facility in Canada, PCC offers complete wrap-around care – from diagnosis to treatment and support – all under one roof. Through programs like the MAN VAN®, PCC brings free, life-saving PSA testing directly into communities, removing barriers and saving lives.

At its core, the Prostate Cancer Centre exists to inspire hope, start conversations, and ensure no man faces prostate cancer alone. By meeting men where they are – both physically and emotionally – PCC is helping shift the conversation around men's health in a meaningful way. Their approach focuses not just on treatment, but on education, prevention, and long-term wellbeing.

GOOGLE PROFILE

prostatecancercentre.ca **403-943-8888** **@ prostatecancercentre**

Goodwill

More Than a Thrift Store

What started as a thrift store has quietly become one of Alberta's most impactful engines for employment, sustainability, and second chances. For decades, Goodwill Industries of Alberta has been known as the place where people donate old clothes, browse for vintage finds, or hunt for hidden gems on a budget. But behind the racks of denim jackets and retro Stampede shirts is something far bigger – an organization helping Albertans with disabilities and barriers to employment find meaningful work, confidence, and independence.

Doug Roxburgh has spent the last seven and a half years helping tell that story. Before joining Goodwill, he worked in television, radio, and sports marketing. He never expected to land in the non-profit world. But somewhere along the way, the mission stopped feeling like a job and started feeling personal.
"I'm not the hero," he says. "I'm just here to share the story."

WEBSITE

goodwill.ab.ca **780-944-1414** **@ goodwill_ab**

GOOGLE PROFILE

Good Neighbour

Community, No Conditions

Good Neighbour is redefining what community support looks like in Calgary. Born during the pandemic, this volunteer-run nonprofit offers a free store, daily meals, and a safe place to belong – no barriers, no judgment. More than a charity, Good Neighbour is a community hub where dignity comes first and everyone is treated like exactly what they are: a neighbour. If you want to see what real mutual aid looks like, this is it.

Everything here is built on trust, care, and the belief that support should feel human – not transactional. Whether someone is stopping in for a meal, essentials, or simply connection, they're met with respect and warmth. It's a space that proves community isn't just a concept – it's something you can feel the moment you walk in.

goodneighbourcalgary.com **@ goodneighbouryyc**

GOOGLE PROFILE

Shriners of Southern Alberta

Calgary's Shriners Are Changing Children's Lives

The Shriners are often recognized for their red fez hats, parade appearances, and community events, but behind the tradition is a mission centred on helping children access life-changing medical care. Through Shriners Hospitals for Children, the organization supports treatment for complex conditions such as orthopedic issues, burns, rare diseases, and brittle bone disease. In Canada, much of that care is connected to the Shriners hospital in Montreal, while Calgary members help local families access support through fundraising, patient coordination, and awareness.

Around 50 Calgary-area children are currently receiving care through the Shriners network, with some travelling for specialized treatment outside the province. Local members also support youth programs, scholarships, and community partnerships, all while building a strong sense of fellowship. Their work goes far beyond fundraising, offering families hope, guidance, and access to resources they may not have known were available.

abshriners.com **403-239-0030** **@ alazharshriners**

Breweries In Calgary

From small-batch craft spots to buzzing taprooms, there's no shortage of places to discover your new favourite brew.

GOOGLE PROFILE

Bottlescrew Bill's Pub

A Passport to Global Pints

Bottlescrew Bill's has been shaping Calgary's beer culture since 1985 long before craft beer became cool. Family-run and fiercely local, it's home to one of Western Canada's most curated beer selections, including rare vintage brews and legendary beer passports. From prairie oyster festivals to glitter beer and cellar-aged pours, Bottlescrew Bill's is where tradition meets playful experimentation. It's not just a bar it's a cornerstone of the city's beer story.

At the heart of it all is their iconic "Around the World in 80 Beers" challenge, where guests sip their way through brews from over 80 countries, tracking each one in a personal beer passport. Complete the journey within a year, and you'll earn your place on the wall – and serious bragging rights. It's part global tasting experience, part Calgary rite of passage, and entirely one-of-a-kind.

bottlescrewbill.com **403-263-7900** **@ bottlescrewbills**

Eau Claire Distillery

Crafted in the Foothills

Just 45 minutes from Calgary, Eau Claire Distillery blends Alberta's wild prohibition-era history with world-class whisky craftsmanship. Housed in restored 1920s buildings in Turner Valley, this award-winning distillery uses Alberta-grown barley and glacial mountain water to create spirits that rival Scotch and Bourbon. With whisky tastings, a speakeasy diner, Caesar flights, and a massive summer patio, it's more than a distillery – it's an experience worth the drive. Canada's most awarded distillery might just be closer than you think.

But what makes Eau Claire truly unique is the story behind it. Set in what was once the heart of Canada's oil boom, Turner Valley quickly transformed during Prohibition into a hotspot for bootlegging, backroom deals, and outlaw whisky trade. Names like Al Capone and the Sundance Kid are woven into its past, giving the distillery a sense of character you won't find anywhere else.

eauclairedistillery.ca

403-933-5408

@ eauclairedistillery

GOOGLE PROFILE

Cold Garden

Perfectly Imperfect Vibes

Cold Garden is Calgary's "third place" in brewery form – a psychedelic, couch-filled living room where strangers become friends and dogs get greeted before their owners. Built by hand and shaped by community donations, it's unapologetically unpolished (on purpose) and overflowing with character. Even in winter, the patio stays alive with heaters, fire, and snow-globe vibes. Come for the beer, stay for the feeling that you actually belong here.

Located in Inglewood, Calgary's historic neighbourhood, Cold Garden is a microbrewery crafting great beer – and even better vibes. With a lineup that ranges from classic brews to wildly creative flavours, plus options for non-alcoholic, vegan, gluten-free, and keto-friendly guests, it's a space designed for everyone. More than just a brewery, Cold Garden is built on inclusivity and community. It's a place where individuality is celebrated, conversations come easy, and the atmosphere feels effortlessly welcoming.

coldgarden.ca

403-764-2653

@ cold_garden

GOOGLE PROFILE

Find your next adventure,
right here in Calgary !

Explore Recreation

Step Up, Throw Down

Live Edge Axe Throwing

It started with a birthday party. No business plan. No investor pitch. No grand opening strategy. Just one throw – and someone saying, "You're really good at this, you should join league."

Ten years later, that one throw has turned into Live Edge Axe Throwing – one of Calgary's most community-driven, heart-forward spaces where competition meets connection, and where an 85-year-old can hit a bullseye right alongside a first-timer who swore they'd never even touch an axe.

Nick & Kendra Kolomyja didn't set out to become a business owners. At the time, he was a welder working 12-hour days, 21 days straight. Burnt out. Not a "people person." But after joining his first axe league, everything changed. "These are my people," he realized. That's the thing about axe throwing – the axes might be the hook, but the people are what keep you coming back.

liveedgeaxe.com

403-300-3343

@ liveedgeaxe

GOOGLE PROFILE

GET TICKETS

More Than a Game Night

Roughnecks

The Calgary Roughnecks are more than a lacrosse team – they're a full-blown experience. With nonstop music, themed party nights, and one of the most passionate fan bases in the league, every game feels like a festival inside the Saddledome. But behind the lights and chants are teachers, firefighters, and community leaders giving back across Alberta. Win or lose, this is where Calgary comes to stay for the party. It's the kind of atmosphere you don't have to understand lacrosse to enjoy – you just have to show up ready to be part of it. From first whistle to final buzzer, the energy is contagious, loud, and unmistakably Calgary.

calgaryroughnecks.com **403 777-4646** **@ nllroughnecks**

GOOGLE PROFILE

From Puzzles to Parties

Escape60

Escape 60 is a Calgary-owned escape room experience built like a premium night out – from cinematic themes to seriously high-end set design. Their team constantly upgrades puzzles and storylines so repeat visits never feel recycled. First-timers are welcome (and supported) with unlimited clues, a helpful pre-brief, and low-impact gameplay – no athleticism required. Bonus: they've hosted dozens of in-room proposals, proving this place isn't just fun... it's memory-making. With multiple themed rooms – from prehistoric dinosaur adventures to magical wizard worlds – every experience feels like stepping into a different reality.

escape60.ca **587-430-0880** **@ escape60yyc**

Restaurants & Pizza YYC

Nikos Pizza

Cheese Lovers Only

In a city where food trends come and go faster than you can finish a slice, Nikos Pizza has built its reputation by doing something surprisingly rare: staying exactly the same. No gimmicks. No trend-chasing. No constant reinvention. Just heavy, topping-loaded, unapologetically cheesy pizza – the kind that locals swear by and recommend without hesitation.

For the owner of Nikos Pizza, pizza was never tied to childhood traditions or family celebrations. It was simply always his favourite food. The kind of meal he gravitated toward growing up, something he loved to eat without overthinking it. That love followed him into adulthood and, eventually, into the business – though not with a grand plan.

When the opportunity came up to take over a struggling pizza shop, the idea wasn't to build a lifelong career. It was more of a trial. Try it for a couple of years, see how it goes, and move on to something else. 15 years later, Nikos Pizza is still here, stronger than ever, with two locations and a loyal customer base that continues to grow.

GOOGLE PROFILE

Greek-style pizza isn't everywhere in Calgary, but for the owner, it was familiar. Growing up in the '80s and '90s, Greek pizza and steakhouse spots were common across Western Canada. Thick crusts, generous toppings, and plenty of cheese were the standard – and that's the style he wanted to keep alive when Nikos Pizza opened its doors.

Ask how to describe Nikos Pizza without using the words "pizza" or "Greek," and the answer is simple: heavy, topping-loaded, super cheesy. It's honest, straightforward, and perfectly captures what people can expect when they open the box.

nikospizza.ca **403-453-0553** **nikosyyc**

Actually Pretty Good Pizza

Actually Worth the Hype

Actually Pretty Good Pizza is one of those places that quietly earns a loyal following. With its laid-back atmosphere, friendly neighbourhood feel, and focus on doing the basics exceptionally well, it's the kind of Calgary pizza spot that feels instantly familiar. Whether you're grabbing a quick slice, meeting friends for a casual meal, or satisfying a late-night craving, the pizzas strike that perfect balance between comfort food and quality craftsmanship.

actuallyprettygood.ca **403-475-9384** **actuallyprettygood**

GOOGLE PROFILE

Pizza Culture Napoletana

The Art of the Pie

Pizza in Calgary is more than just a meal—it's part of the city's character. From family-run neighbourhood favourites to modern spots obsessed with perfecting every detail, Calgary's pizza scene reflects the city itself: welcoming, hardworking, and full of personality. Here, classic comfort-food slices share the spotlight with thoughtfully crafted pies built on house-made dough, local ingredients, and plenty of creativity. No matter your style, there's a pizza place in Calgary that feels like it was made just for you.

pizzacultureyyc.ca **403-277-4900** **pizzacultureyyc**

GOOGLE PROFILE

Paul Van Ginkel

In 1990, he made the leap—leaving a stable job to pursue painting full-time. It wasn't a reckless decision, but it also wasn't perfectly safe. It was driven by something harder to quantify: belief. That belief, however, wasn't blind. Paul operates at the intersection of artist and entrepreneur—a balance many creatives struggle to find. He's clear about one thing: talent alone is not enough.

"You've got to have something good," he explains.

But beyond that, you have to market it, sell it, and relentlessly put it in front of the right people. In fact, only about 40% of his time is spent painting. The rest goes into business development, marketing, relationships, and strategy. That's the part most people don't see.
While the romantic idea of an artist involves long, uninterrupted days at the easel, Paul's reality looks more like structured workdays, disciplined routines, and constant outreach.

"I work as hard as the next guy that works hard, however, I too often don't feel like going to work, but I go, It's my job. Fortunately there are usually butterflies in my stomach anticipating the day ahead."

"I always intended to be a painter"

That mindset—treating creativity like a profession, not just a passion —is what separates hobbyists from full-time artists. And then there's rejection. Every artist faces it. Shows where nothing sells. Opportunities that fall through. Ideas that don't land. Paul doesn't sugarcoat it. Instead, he reframes it.

"If I got the whole pie, I'd lose my appetite... just get your piece."

It's a philosophy rooted in persistence. You don't need everything—you just need momentum. Small wins compound. Effort creates opportunity. And over time, consistency builds a career. But perhaps the most powerful part of Paul's story is his approach to risk. When asked about taking the leap into full-time art, his answer isn't about perfect timing or guaranteed success.

"There is never a perfect time... the only perfect time is if you know it is."

That "knowing" isn't logical—it's internal. It's the repeated pull back to something you can't ignore. The kind of drive that makes you look in the mirror and ask yourself, over and over: Am I going to do this or not? For Paul, the answer was always yes.

That didn't mean it was easy. It meant he was willing to adjust his lifestyle, stay disciplined, and keep going—regardless of the outcome. And that's where his story connects beyond the art world.

The Relentless Artist: How Paul Van Ginkel Built a Life on Passion, Discipline, and Showing Up

In a world where "get a real job" is still thrown at creatives like a warning, Calgary-based painter Paul Van Ginkel has spent decades quietly—and relentlessly—proving otherwise. But his story isn't just about talent. It's about discipline, business instinct, rejection, and a mindset that most people aren't willing to adopt.

Paul's journey started at the Alberta College of Art in 1979, where he originally aimed for a career in advertising. Like many creatives, the path wasn't linear—he struggled academically at first, took extra time to find his footing, and eventually landed a job as an editorial illustrator at the Calgary Herald. It was fast-paced, high-pressure, and creatively fulfilling. Every day, he translated stories into visuals, collaborating with editors and bringing ideas to life.

But even then, he knew: this wasn't the final destination.
"I always intended to be a painter," Paul says.

“It’s fun... if you can do that—find something you love, sink your teeth into it—that’s everything”

Whether you’re building a business, starting a creative project, or chasing something unconventional, the same principles apply:

- Do the work (even when you don’t feel like it)
- Build something worth sharing
- Put it in front of people—again and again
- Stay resilient when it doesn’t land
- And most importantly, enjoy the process

Because at the end of it all, Paul is still having fun.
“It’s fun... if you can do that—find something you love, sink your teeth into it—that’s everything.”

In a city like Calgary—where creativity and entrepreneurship are constantly intersecting—Paul Van Ginkel isn’t just a painter.

He’s a blueprint.

Playing in the Highwood

Light Up

No Escape

Smithbilt for Troy (Dorchester)

VAN GINKEL

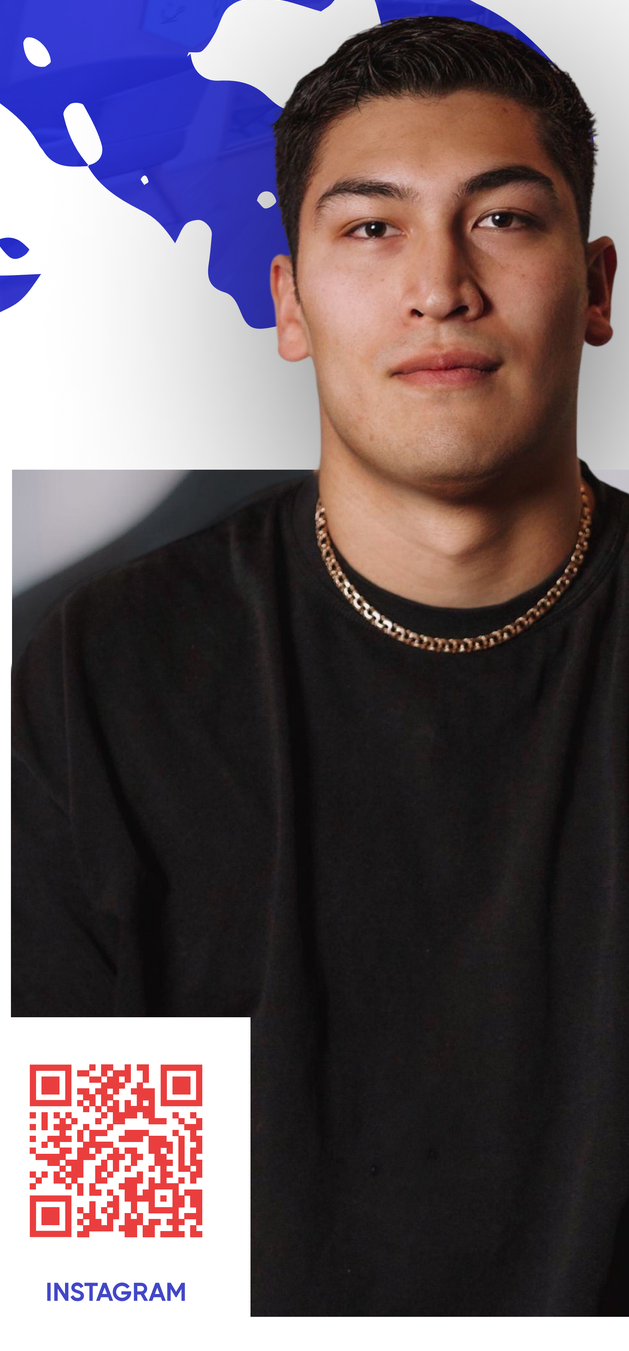
WEBSITE

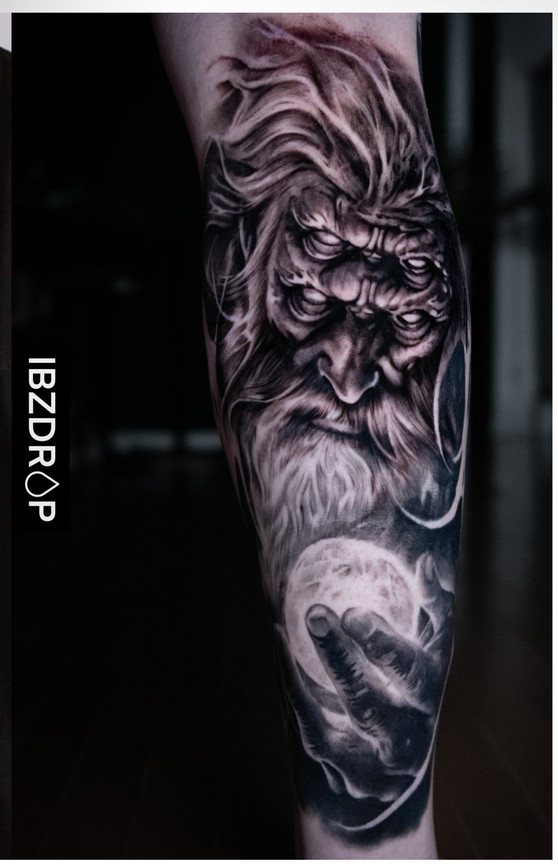
@ paulvanginkel

paulvanginkel.com

“A city shaped by creativity and connection “

ART & CULTURE





INSTAGRAM

IBZ

Not Your Average Ink

Ibz is a realism tattoo artist who turns skin into living art – with smooth shading, bold contrast, and detail so precise it looks like a photograph. With a background in graphic design and branding, he brings a rare eye for composition and originality to every piece. He’s known for designing tattoos that don’t look like everyone else’s, creating custom work that stands out for the right reasons.

If you want something personal, high-skill, and impossible to ignore, Ibz is the artist to book. Every piece starts with intention, built around your story but elevated through his signature style. When you sit in Ibz’s chair, you’re not just getting inked – you’re investing in art that speaks for itself.

@ ibzdrop

GOOGLE PROFILE

Alberta Theatre Projects

Calgary’s Stage

Alberta Theatre Projects is where live storytelling becomes a shared human experience. Known for bold, contemporary productions, ATP creates theatre that makes you feel – whether that means laughing, crying, or sitting with something unexpected. With deep roots in Calgary’s arts community and a mission to reflect real life on stage, ATP proves that theatre isn’t just something you watch – it’s something you live together.

albertatheatreprojects.com

403-294-7475

@ abtheatreprjcts

National Music Centre

THE HISTORY OF MUSIC

Studio Bell, home of the National Music Centre (NMC), is one of Calgary's greatest cultural gems – a breathtaking five-floor experience where Canada's music history comes alive. Built around the rescued and legendary King Eddy music venue, which NMC considers its largest artifact, Studio Bell is more than a museum: it's a living hub of performances, creativity, and community connection.

From its living collection of instruments to its exhibits and events honouring Canada's music legends and Hall of Fame icons, NMC brings people together through sound, story, and celebration. Step inside and discover why this place feels like the heartbeat of Canada's soundtrack

"Music is powerful. As people listen to it, they can be affected. They respond."

studiobell.ca

403-543-5115

@ nmc_canada

GOOGLE PROFILE

Klein & Harris

Cozy, Local, Elevated

Klein Harris is one of downtown Calgary's best hidden gems – a warm, cozy spot where Canadian cuisine is treated with real care and creativity. Opened in 2016 by lifelong industry locals, the restaurant is built on scratch cooking, thoughtful cocktails, and supporting Canadian producers whenever possible.

What makes it truly special is the community it's created: regulars who return week after week, families who've grown up here, and guests who turn a simple meal into a lasting "taste memory." If you're looking for a place that feels intimate, elevated, and genuinely local, Klein Harris is it. It's the kind of restaurant where nothing feels rushed – where each dish is considered, seasonal, and quietly impressive. Whether it's a date night or a midweek dinner, it's a place that feels personal every time you walk through the door.

kleinharris.com

403-262-8100

@ klnharris

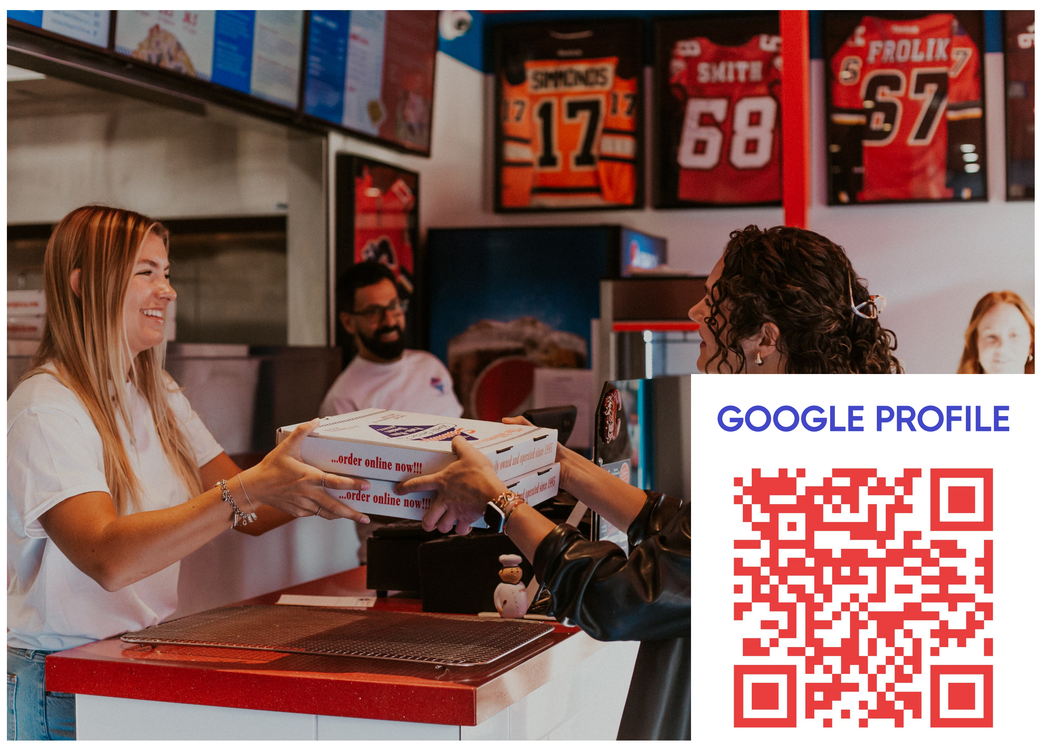
GOOGLE PROFILE

Sammy's Pizza

Solid Pizza, Every Time

Since 1993, Sammy's Pizza has been serving Calgary more than just incredible pizza – they've been serving community. Still family-owned and locally operated, they make their dough fresh daily, shred locally sourced Alberta cheese in-house, and prepare everything with the same care they'd give their own family dinner. Known for remembering names and building lifelong relationships, Sammy's isn't just a local favourite – it's part of the neighbourhood's story. As they like to say: the sauce is boss.

sammysworldsgreatestpizza.com **403-254-2999** **@ sammyscalgary**



GOOGLE PROFILE

GOOGLE PROFILE

Aloha Modern Kitchen

Family Style, Island Soul

Aloha Modern Kitchen isn't Hawaiian-inspired – it's Hawaiian lived. After three transformative years cooking in Maui under Top Chef winner Sheldon Simeon, Chef brings authentic, family-style Hawaiian cuisine to Calgary – the kind you eat at grandma's table, not at a resort. Designed to transport you completely, the space invites guests to slow down, share plates, and "talk story." This isn't tropical fusion – it's culture. memory, and intention served with aloha.

403-333-3675 **@ alohamodernkitchenyyc**

@thegoodniteshow

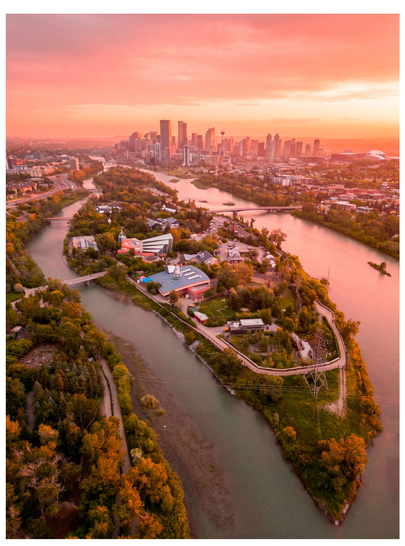
Brewery Corners to Stages

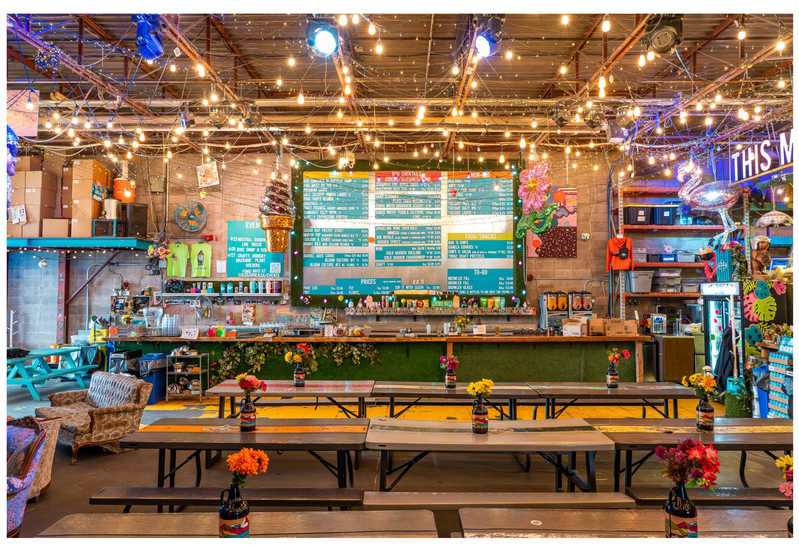
Raised in small-town Southern Alberta, Tyson Ray Borsboom is the kind of artist built for the long haul — equal parts road-worn and restless, with no signs of slowing down. Since 2024, he's quietly been stacking miles and momentum, touring Western Canada four times over and playing more than 150 shows a year. From brewery corners to festival stages to sold-out rooms across Germany, his path has been anything but traditional — and that's exactly the point.

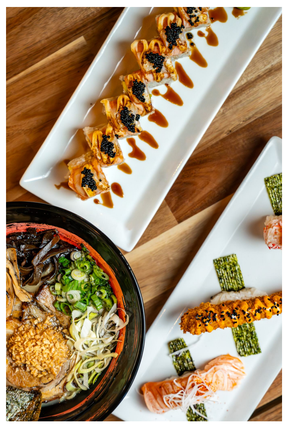
Blending folk, country, and Americana, TRB's music leans into the grit of everyday life — songs about doubt, direction, and the slow process of figuring it out. Along the way, he's shared stages with Canadian mainstays like Jon Bryant and Michael Bernard Fitzgerald, carving out a space that feels both grounded and growing. Now based in Vancouver, his story is still being written — one show, one song, one long stretch of highway at a time.

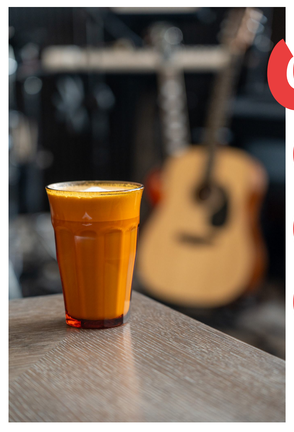
TYSON RAY BORSBOOM

WATCH THE FULL EPISODE HERE









whats good

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SCAN ME

Our Services

- Carousel Collaborations
- Creator Reels
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- Influencer Event and PR Packages
- Monthly Post Packages
- Social Media and Ad Creative Management
- Photo and Video Services
- Photo Galleries
- Web Design and Development

www.whatsgood.buzz/marketing

Cas Jade

WATCH THE FULL EPISODE HERE

@thegoodniteshow

Where Emotion Becomes Music

Cas Jade is an up and coming Calgary born artist whose music is ethereal, cinematic, and designed to transport listeners to a space where their soul feels fully alive. Through haunting melodies, intimate acoustic moments, and original songs that are both raw and mystical, Cas creates experiences that linger long after the performance ends.

Whether performing on stage or sharing insights on a podcast, Cas invites audiences into a world where vulnerability, imagination, and human emotion intersect. Every note, lyric, and story is crafted to awaken feelings that are deeply personal yet universally resonant. She reminds listeners of the beauty, complexity, and freedom of being human. With a commitment to authenticity over expectation, Cas Jade is building a space where music, storytelling, and cinematic soundscapes collide and offering a journey that is immersive, transformative, and unforgettable.

@thegoodniteshow

Glitter, Grit, and Calgary Pop

Micah Sage is an alternative-pop artist, born and raised in Calgary, known for her signature blend of dreamy, soulful, and cinematic sounds. Drawing inspiration from artists like Billie Eilish, Lizzy McAlpine, Dua Lipa and Chappell Roan, Sage is a self-taught writer, multi-instrumentalist, and producer whose music has quickly captured national and regional attention. She has earned SiriusXM radio rotation, features on MuchMusic and iHeartRadio, chart placements on local stations, and over 210,000 streams across platforms, alongside more than 1.7 million TikTok views and 340,000 likes.

Known for music that's intimate, raw, and emotionally honest, Sage pairs it with glittering, glamorous stage presence and branding. She loves connecting people through music, building a homey, authentic fanbase that makes every show feel like a shared experience. She has sold out headlining shows across Canada, performed on the Coca-Cola Stage at the Calgary Stampede, and won Pop Recording of the Year at the 2025 YYCMAs. For Calgarians, Micah Sage represents the next wave of homegrown talent, proving that Calgary's music scene can nurture artists who resonate nationally and beyond. Her newest EP GIRLFRIEND is out now.

WATCH THE FULL EPISODE HERE

Micah Sage

MUSIC VENUES

Cornerstone Music Cafe

Cornerstone Music Cafe isn't just a coffee shop – it's a living room for the community. Blending scratch-made hospitality inspired by family legacy with live local music, it's a space where students, artists, and neighbours gather under one roof. From jazz nights to goosebump-inducing singalongs, Cornerstone creates moments that feel less like performances and more like belonging. If you've ever wanted a place where everyone knows your name – this might be it.It's the kind of place where you come for a coffee and end up staying for the music, the people, and the feeling you've found your spot. Whether you're performing, listening, or just passing through, it welcomes you in like you've been part of it all along.

cornerstonemusic.ca

403-278-3070

@ cornerstonemsc

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Ranchmans

Some places are more than venues. More than bars. More than dance floors lit up on a Friday night. Some places become chapters in a city's story. For Calgary, that place is Ranchmans. For more than 50 years, Ranchmans has been more than a honky tonk – it's been a living landmark where generations collide, cowboy culture thrives, and unforgettable nights unfold under the glow of that iconic red sign.

Ask almost anyone in Calgary, and they'll have a Ranchmans memory. For one staff member, it started with an unforgettable rite of passage: an 18th birthday, the mechanical bull, and the thrill of stepping into the legendary bar for the first time. "It was my first bar experience," they shared. "Just that classic Ranchmans moment." That's the magic of the place – Ranchmans doesn't just host nights out. It hosts moments people remember for years.

Since opening its doors in 1972, Ranchman's Cookhouse & Dancehall has been a cornerstone of Calgary's country music, country dance, and rodeo community a Stampede hotspot and a launchpad for Canadian country artists. And while the venue is preparing for its next chapter, that spirit remains unchanged. Ranchman's will celebrate a milestone final year at its historic Macleod Trail S.E. location through the end of 2026, before relocating nearby in early 2027 as part of a planned redevelopment of the property.

ranchmans.ca
403-978-8787
@ ranchmans.ca

Prairie Dog Brewing

Prairie Dog Brewing has become a standout destination for live music in Calgary, offering one of the city's few family-friendly stages where guests can enjoy local performances alongside Southern-style barbecue. After investing in acoustic improvements and a purpose-built stage in 2023, the venue expanded its music programming to feature live bands every weekend and regular performances from local artists and music students. Designed with musicians in mind, the stage provides professional sound support and equipment, making it easier for emerging talent to perform. The result is a welcoming atmosphere where families, diners, and music lovers can discover Calgary's vibrant local music scene together.

prairiedog.bbq.beer

825-773-1382

@ prairiedogstage

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The Attic Bar & Stage

Tucked above Vegan Street on Calgary's Music Mile, The Attic Bar & Stage is one of Calgary's hidden gems. Inspired by the charm of a classic speakeasy, the intimate venue has become a favourite spot for date nights and music lovers looking for a more personal experience. With no seat far from the stage, guests can enjoy weekly jazz nights, soul performances, and local talent in a cozy listening-room atmosphere.

The Attic also serves a full vegan menu, making dinner and a show effortless. More than a venue, it's a welcoming space that celebrates local artists while helping introduce new audiences to Calgary's growing jazz scene. Friendly service, handcrafted cocktails, and memorable live performances keep guests coming back.

theatticyyc.ca

403-475-4741

@ theatticyyc

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King Eddy

kingeddy.ca

403-829-6016

@ kingeddyyyc

Modern Love

modern-love.ca

368-993-5683

@ modernloveyyc

Palace Theatre

thepalacetheatre.ca

587-393-6993

@ palacetheatreyyc

Palomino

thepalomino.ca

403-532-1911

@ palominosmokehouse

Hayden Block

haydenblockyyc.com

403-283-3021

@ haydenblockyyc

The Blues Can

thebluescan.com

403-262-2666

@ thebluescancalgary

“THE BEST NOODLES”

Calgary’s noodle culture takes 2026 by storm... Here is who to try!

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Calan Beef Noodle

Hand Pulled Noodles

Calan Beef Noodle is Calgary’s first truly traditional hand-pulled noodle house, where every bowl is crafted fresh by hand using authentic Chinese techniques and spices. Founded by a family driven by their love for home-style noodles, Calan blends cultural artistry with fast, comforting meals that feel deeply personal. From customizable noodle textures to rich, carefully balanced beef broth, this is food made with intention – not shortcuts.

calanbeefnoodle.ca **587-350-0050** **@ calanbeefnoodle**

GOOGLE PROFILE

Wakado

Rich Broth, Perfect Slurp

Wakado isn’t just serving ramen – it’s redefining it. Founded in 2018 after studying the craft in Japan, this Calgary staple makes everything from scratch and boldly focuses on one thing: exceptional ramen. With a transparent kitchen and rich, unforgettable broths, Wakado has become a comfort-meal destination the community proudly supported through COVID and beyond. One bowl in, and you’ll understand why they’ve been here for nearly a decade.

wakadoramen.com **403-457-8828** **@ wakadoramen**

GOOGLE PROFILE

Fuji Ramen & Sushi

The Art of Ramen

Fuji Ramen & Sushi has become a favourite destination for Calgary diners craving authentic Japanese flavours. Known for its rich ramen broths, fresh sushi, and beautifully presented dishes. The restaurant has earned multiple local awards and built a reputation for quality, consistency, and exceptional service. Whether you're stopping in for a comforting bowl of ramen or expertly crafted sushi, Fuji delivers an experience that has made it a standout in Calgary's dining scene.

fujiramenandsushi.com **587-352-5595** **@ fujiramenandsushi**

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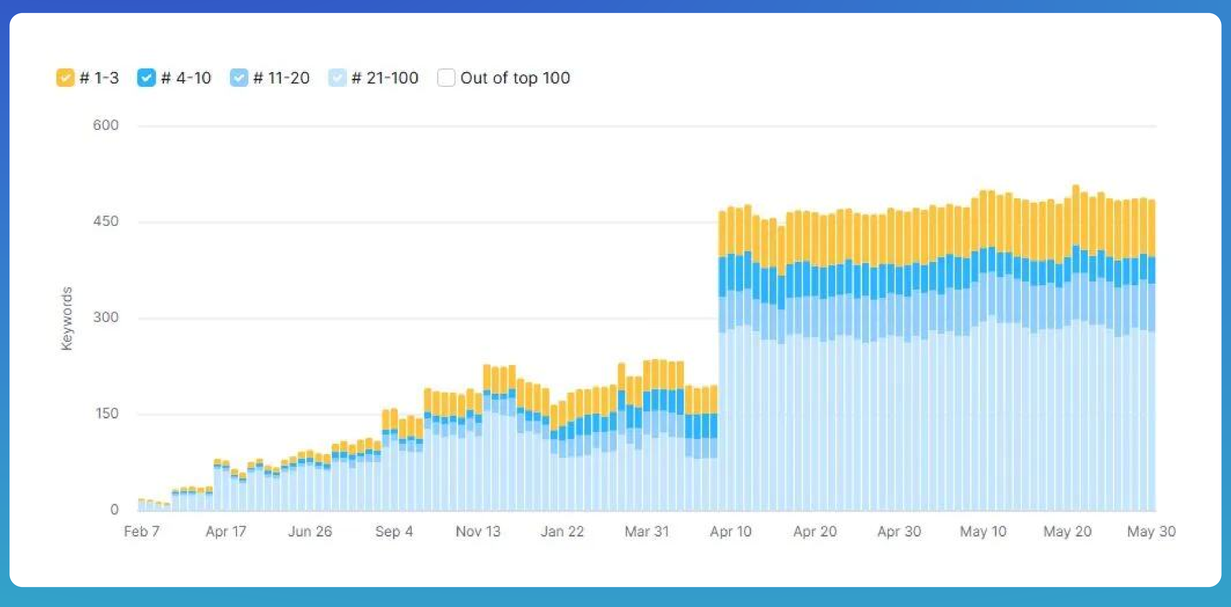

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Calgary Zoo

The Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo is one of those rare places that feels woven into the fabric of the city. Generations of Calgarians have spent afternoons wandering its pathways, meeting animals from around the world, and creating family memories that often become local traditions.

Just minutes from downtown, the zoo blends discovery, education, and conservation in a way that feels both meaningful and approachable. Whether you're visiting for the first time or the fiftieth, there's always something new to see—and something familiar that keeps drawing you back.

calgaryzoo.com 403-232-9300 @ thecalgaryzoo

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Telus Spark

TELUS Spark is where Calgary goes to stay curious. Equal parts science centre, playground, and creative hub, it's a place that invites visitors of all ages to push buttons, ask questions, and see the world a little differently.

From interactive exhibits and immersive experiences to moments that spark genuine wonder, every visit feels hands-on and engaging. Whether you're bringing the kids for an afternoon of discovery or exploring on your own, TELUS Spark has a way of making learning feel exciting, approachable, and surprisingly fun.

sparkscience.ca 403-817-6800 @ telus_spark

The Calgary Experience

Heritage Park

There's something timeless about Heritage Park. Maybe it's the sound of the steam train rolling through the grounds, the historic storefronts lining the streets, or the feeling that for a few hours, life moves at a gentler pace.

A favourite for generations of Calgarians, the park blends history, nostalgia, and simple family fun into an experience that feels uniquely local. Whether you're exploring the village, enjoying the vintage attractions, or just soaking in the prairie charm, Heritage Park has a way of turning an ordinary day into a memorable one.

heritagepark.ca
403-268-8500
@ heritageparkyyc

GOOGLE PROFILE

Hikes Near Calgary

Adventure Starts Here!

Explore Some of
Alberta's Top Trails

Mount Yamnuska

Mount Yamnuska is one of Kananaskis' most iconic and challenging scrambles, combining steep hiking with exposed ridge travel and technical sections. The route includes loose scree, a chain-assisted traverse, and scrambling over rocky terrain where falls can have serious consequences. Hikers should carry proper gear, bear spray, and strong route-finding skills. With its demanding terrain and history of rescues, Yamnuska is best suited for experienced adventurers prepared for a full-day.

8.5 Km 672 m

Spencer Creek Trail

Spencer Creek Trail is a scenic hike that winds between Sparrowhawk Mountain and Mount Lougheed, beginning in a lush forest alongside a beautiful creek before climbing through meadows to a stunning alpine cirque. The trail features creek crossings, diverse terrain, impressive mountain views, and picturesque streams throughout. Adventurous hikers can continue beyond the waterfall for a challenging scramble.

8.2 Km 692 m

Mount Burke Trail

Mount Burke is a great year-round hike with a steady, moderate climb beneath a forest canopy. The trail rewards hikers with stunning panoramic views, dry conditions, and frequent wildlife sightings. Challenges include some steep sections, occasional snow, and strong winds near the summit. At the summit you'll find an old fire lookout. For the best experience, start early, stay hydrated, and bring hiking poles for added stability.

10.8 Km 895 m

What's Good

Three years ago, What's Good began with two founders and a simple goal:

to create meaningful local content and support the people shaping our city.

Since then, we have grown into an ambitious team of videographers, photographers, developers, creators, designers, and more.

Our mission is to support local artists, businesses, and Calgary's growing creator economy. We have worked toward that goal by investing hundreds of thousands of dollars into local media across radio, print, social platforms, digital content, and live events.

The support we have received as a startup has been tremendous, and we are only getting started.

To everyone who has been with us from the beginning, thank you for your continued trust and support. To those who are just discovering What's Good, we will continue working to entertain, inform, and create content that helps you better understand and engage with the culture of your city.

There is much more to come as our team expands, our network grows, and our ambitions continue to rise.

From our upcoming podcast, filmed in our new studio, to future print and digital editions of this magazine, we are always looking for new and engaging ways to share information.

Our goal is to help create a city where local news, stories, ideas, and entertainment can be shared openly and authentically.

You can support What's Good by following us on Instagram at @whatsgoodcalgary, sharing our content, visiting www.whatsgood.buzz, and subscribing to What's Good Calgary on YouTube.

Thank you for being part of what we are building.

JORDAN GESKE
CEO & Founder