Red Deer Arts Council
literary | performing | visual

A dynamic community that celebrates and supports Arts and Creativity!

Red Deer Arts Council and Red Deer Public Library are excited to present

The 38th Awesome Art Show

Featuring Students from Eastview, Central, Gateway and Glendale Middle Schools

running in the Kiwanis Gallery from April 25 – May 22, 2023.

From TV shows to Celebrities to the world around them, Middle School students see the world with unique eyes. What will catch their eye this year? This annual exhibit delights its audience with a variety of works expressing these young students' talents as they experiment with different subject matter and media, including digital art.

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception May 5th from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Come and meet the students and see what they see. **Gallery Hours:** Mon to Thurs 10am–8pm, Fri 12–5pm, Sat & Sun 10am–3pm

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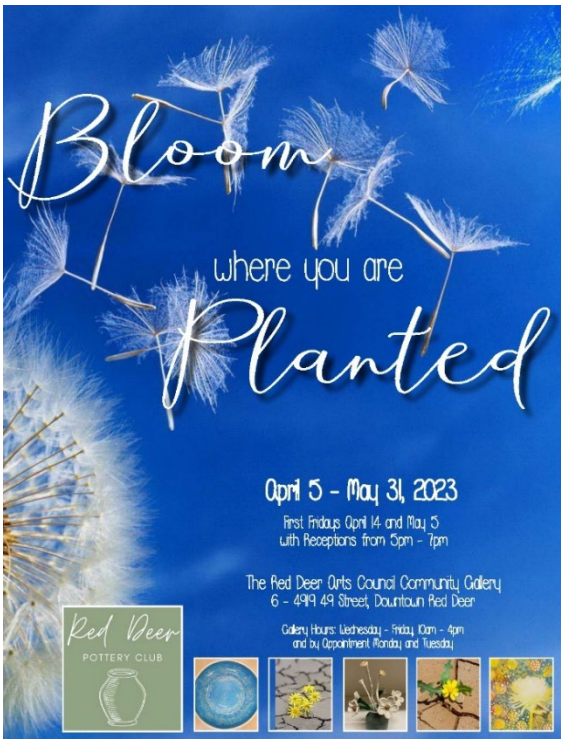
The Red Deer Arts Council is pleased to present:

Bloom Where You Are Planted

Ceramic Works by the Red Deer Pottery Club

in the Red Deer Arts Council's Community Gallery.

#FirstFridaysRedDeer Opening Reception
May 5th from 5pm – 7pm.
6 – 4919 49 Street, Downtown Red Deer
Exhibition continues until May 31st, 2023
Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Friday, 10am – 4pm, and by appointment.



THE CITY OF Red Deer Business/Arts

Alberta Foundation for the Arts

RED DEER & DISTRICT COMMUNITY FOUNDATION all for community.

RDPL RED DEER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Alberta Government

~Creativity understood~

What's Happening in May 2023

The In the Neighbourhood Concert Series is back for 2023!

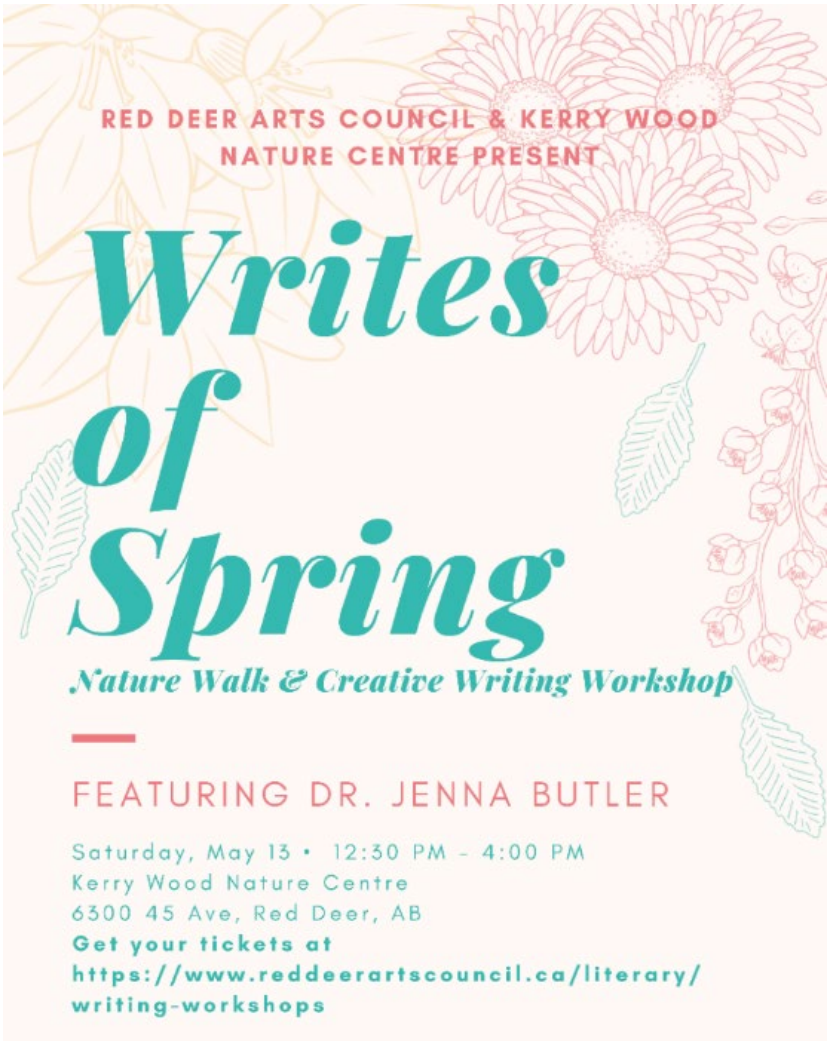
We're so excited to present our 4th year of pop-up concerts in and around Central Alberta this summer! We've got 10 spots available throughout the summer months for shows to take place in outdoor spaces in Red Deer, but we need you to host us! Sign up to host a concert in your neighbourhood using this QR Code!

The Writes of Spring Creative Writing Workshop – only 4 spots left!

The Red Deer Arts Council are excited to support the literary arts through workshop and training opportunities for writers of all varieties. Our next event features Dr. Jenna Butler offering The Writes of Spring Nature Walk & Creative Writing Workshop.

Saturday, May 13 from 12:30 PM - 4:00 PM at Kerry Wood Nature Centre. 6300 45 Avenue.

Register using this QR code:



RDAC 50/50 Raffle Fundraiser extended to June 30

Order 50/50 Raffle tickets on our homepage at RedDeerArtsCouncil.ca! Tickets are just $5 each! You can also purchase via Board Members, Volunteers, Staff, or send an E-Transfer to info@reddeerartscouncil.ca with your contact details so we can email you your tickets!

Brave New Words – A Literary Open Stage

Our next event is Friday, May 12 at 7pm, with a chance to share your written creations in front of a supportive and encouraging audience. All ages are welcome. FREE to attend.

Canada Summer Jobs Interns – New Faces in the Office!

We are excited to welcome some new faces into the Red Deer Arts Council office this summer! Thanks to Government of Canada funding, we'll have 3 new faces joining us over the course of the summer for shorter terms. We are still accepting applications from the community until May 15. If you have a young human (aged 15 – 30) looking for a summertime position, check out the details on our website! https://www.reddeerartscouncil.ca/about-us/summer-job-opportunities

Red Deer Painter Makes Sense of the World Through Her Art

Wendy Meeres creating lampwork beads in her studio.

No matter what else Wendy Meeres has done in life, art has always been her mainstay.

"It is who I am. It is part of everything. The way I see things," said Meeres. "It's about how I look at the world, being observant, putting what I see down onto paper and canvas."

The Red Deer artist has held jobs in many fields over the years, including graphic design, recreational programming, and arts management. But throughout her career — even after becoming a single parent of two children — she's always found time to express her creativity, through paintings, pottery, and lampwork beadwork, which have been seen in shows and exhibits around Alberta.

Most recently Meeres' watercolours of historic buildings were showing at the Red Deer Museum and Art Gallery.

Those paintings sprang from her road trips to small centres around central Alberta during the pandemic. Meeres said she took photographs of old theatres, hotels and train stations and created her own paintings of these local landmarks.

Meeres is planning more trips this summer but is switching gears and planning to focus on flowers and birds for her next show, Flight and Flora, scheduled in 2024 at the Marjorie Wood Gallery in Kerry Wood Nature Centre. She admits she's already enjoying the change of pace.

"No more painting with a ruler," explained Meeres, who relishes the freedom that comes with tackling organic, rather than architectural subject matter.

The born-and-raised Red Deerian has been creating ever since she can remember. She recalled her father, a high school English teacher, began drawing pictures for her when she was little.

"I've always painted and then I took pottery classes at the Rec. Centre."

Meeres was in the commercial art program when it was offered at Lindsay Thurber Comprehensive High School. After graduation, she enrolled in the visual arts program at Red Deer College, but soon decided it would be more practical, career-wise, to learn graphic design in Edmonton.

"I had a few jobs working for printers and I found out pretty quickly it wasn't what I wanted," she recalled. Meeres went back to get a recreational administration degree but kept her hand in art by making pottery for sale when she lived in Slave Lake, and later Calgary.

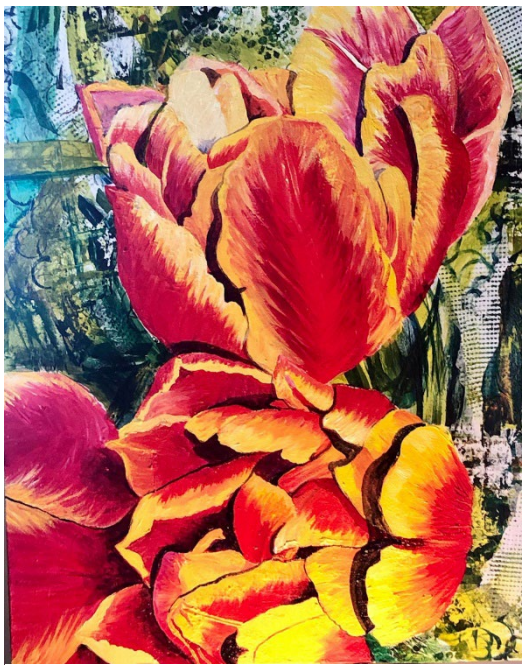
She continued her own art education through taking classes in painting, beadmaking, and raku (a ceramic firing process). And Meeres began teaching art as well — something she's continued since moving back to her hometown of Red Deer 21 years ago.

She now runs art programs at Northside Community Centre YMCA, as well as classes for the City of Red Deer, the Red Deer Arts Council, and for the summer Series program at Red Deer Polytechnic.

Meeres said she loves being part of Red Deer's creative community and connecting with other artists.

She is never short of inspiration, gathering ideas from her travels and various other experiences.

"I like examining different cultures, as well as the natural world that surrounds us, and all the things that make our world such a wonderful place to be."



Spring Tulips, a mixed media work by Wendy Meeres.