

Stratford Festival Forum Series Kicks off with Special Cultural Spaces Event featuring Mayor Dan Mathieson and Cultural Planner Gord Hume

Speaker Gord Hume and Mayor Dan Mathieson Discuss Art, Community and City Planning

Stratford, ON – May 29, 2019 – Stratford Mayor Dan Mathieson and Cultural Planner and Speaker Gord Hume will appear in a special Festival Forum event entitled “Cultural Spaces and Communities” on Friday, May 31, 2019 at 11am in the Stratford Festival Theatre lobby. The Special Forum talk will kick off a special “Spotlight Tom Patterson Theatre” Series focused on cultural spaces, urban planning and the arts with special guests and experts. The kick-off event will focus on the role of art in creating vibrant cities and the opportunities that the new Tom Patterson Theatre Centre presents to Stratford.

The Spotlight Tom Patterson Theatre Series is sponsored by investStratford and focuses on various aspects of urban planning and the arts. The Tom Patterson Theatre Centre, currently under construction, motivates the discussion in this first of three installments in the Series. The second Spotlight Series talk, “*Designing Cultural Spaces,*” will feature **design architect** of the new Tom Patterson Theatre **Siamak Hariri** and **University of Waterloo professor of architecture studies Rick Haldenby** on *Thursday, July 18*. Discussion will focus on how to create inspiring and functional arts spaces. The third and final installment of the Series, “*The Changing Face of Arts Engagement,*” will feature the **Banff Centre’s Cultural Leadership program teacher Diane Ragsdale** on *Friday, August 16* discussing the economy, changing cultural context and what that means for organizations and culture.

Complimentary tickets can be reserved online at

<https://www.stratfordfestival.ca/WhatsOn/PlaysAndEvents/TheForum/Spotlight-TPT> or by calling the Box Office at 1-800-567-1600

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