

**PLAZA PALOOZA'S BATTLE OF THE BUSKERS**  
**General Info: Rules, Registration, Requirements & Equipment provided**

**Saturdays November 30, December 7 & 14 from 5 – 9 p.m.**

**Finale: Saturday, December 21 from 5 – 8 p.m.**

**Olympic Plaza Circle Stage (228 8 Ave S.E., Calgary, AB T2P 2M5)**

*Info: [busking@calgary.ca](mailto:busking@calgary.ca)*

**General information:**

Calling all Calgary Buskers! The City of Calgary is hosting a friendly 'Battle' on Saturdays, November 30, December 7, 14 & 22, inviting local artists to compete for the ultimate Title Prize – a spot performing at The City's 2025 Canada Day celebrations!

Competitors will be judged by a panel of local professionals within the Calgary's Arts & Culture scene, and the three highest scoring Buskers from each qualifying night will compete for the Title during Finale night, on Saturday, December 22.

This competition is open to any form of street entertainment that complies with general safety regulations\* - all dancers, mimes, clowns, magicians, musicians, puppeteers, jugglers, acrobats, tumblers, storytellers, caricaturists, hoola hoopists (etc...) are welcome to apply!

*\* Performances not eligible to compete: Any act featuring dangerous goods, including the use of flammable, toxic or hazardous substances, or that include the use of swords, knives, or other items that could pose a danger to people, property or the environment (including instruments that have been modified for safety, but that could still be perceived as dangerous).*

**Winner(s) will receive:**

- (1) performance within 2025 City of Calgary's Canada Day celebrations happening Tuesday, July 1 at St. Patrick's Island, The Confluence Historic Site & Parkland & Municipal Plaza. Details (venue, performance time and location, technical support & honorarium) will be determined by the Canada Day project manager and artist by no later than April 1, 2025.
- Free City of Calgary Transit Busking ID(s) for 2025.

**Details:**

- Qualifying & Finale night performances will be evaluated by our judges according to the following criteria: (Artistry /10, Originality /10, Stage presence /10, and Audience engagement /10).
- Qualifying performance set times (occurring November 30, December 7 & 14) will be 20 minutes with 10-minute changeovers; Finale night performance set times (occurring December 22) will be between 20-45 minutes (as determined by the Busker(s)) with 15-minute changeovers.
- The performance schedule will be published on the Plaza Palooza event webpage by the Fridays before Saturday performances, as well as emailed to the main contact identified in the performance registration form.

- Winner(s) of each qualifying night will be contacted by the Monday following their performance. Details and confirmation of their participation in the Finale will be confirmed at this time. **If unable to perform on Finale night, the competitor(s) will be disqualified from the competition and the next highest scoring artist(s) will take their place.** The winner(s) of the competition will be determined and announced at 8 p.m. on Saturday, December 22 (on Finale night).
- Contestants will have access to the following A/V equipment. Any other equipment required must be supplied by the artist(s).

**All equipment required for the performance (supplied by the City and the artist) must be listed in the registration form.**

***Base Rider provided by The City:***

- *1 x 20'x 20' (height: Approx.12.5') canopy tent over stage to fit underneath (performances must fit inside).*
  - *1 x FOH mix tent featuring 1 x stage technician.*
  - *16 channel digital mixer with facility to equalize mains and monitors.*
  - *1 x facility to play back audio from USB sticks provided by artists.*
  - *2 x DI boxes.*
  - *Stereo FOH Main Speakers with subs + 4 channels of stage return mixes on 4 stage monitors.*
  - *Qty 1 x two-channel wireless microphone receiver with interchangeable options for two handheld or two headset microphone mics/transmitters.*
  - *\*Wired microphones or mic stands packages.*
  - *1 drum kit (must be requested in registration form).*
- Any breach in competition guidelines will result in immediate disqualification of the Busker(s).
  - The City of Calgary is not responsible for any lost, damaged or stolen personal items.

**Registration:**

- Complete & submit the online form (found on [calgary.ca/busking](http://calgary.ca/busking)) to [busking@calgary.ca](mailto:busking@calgary.ca) before noon on Monday, November 25. Registration can also be submitted in person at the following locations within operating hours. If submitting in person, please ensure you submit by no later than close of business on Friday, November 22 to allow enough time for processing:
  - Southland Leisure Centre (2000 Southland Dr. S.W.)
  - Village Square Leisure Centre (2623 56<sup>th</sup> St. N.E.)
  - Planning Services Centre, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Municipal Building (800 Macleod Tr. S.E.)
- Demos and links to social media are encouraged but not mandatory.
- Competitors will be selected by Battle organizers according to artistry, originality & audience engagement potential.

**Although all applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application, only competitors selected to compete will be contacted again via the contact person identified in the registration form.**

Competitors will receive their set & performance time info & must confirm participation within 24 hours of this contact attempt.

- **Registration requirements:**

- Contestants must have valid Standard Busking IDs prior to registering.  
*If you don't have an ID but would like to register for Battle of the Buskers, you can obtain an ID by visiting [our Busking webpage](#) and filling out [the application form](#).*  
*NOTE: Processing takes 1-3 business days*
- Performances must comply with general City of Calgary Standard ID busking guidelines ([www.calgary.ca/arts-culture/busking-guidelines.html](http://www.calgary.ca/arts-culture/busking-guidelines.html)), namely:
  - You must be over 18 years old to busk independently.; **OR** Buskers who are 16 or 17 years olds need parental consent to busk unsupervised; **OR** Buskers under the age of 16 must have an adult accompany them while performing.
  - Please ensure all performances are suitable for a general family audience.
  - No high-risk or unsafe performances are permitted. This includes anything that could put the public or the performer at risk, such as using knives or fire.
  - You may sell recordings of your own performance and display them during your set. Sale of other forms of merchandise is not permitted.

Please submit a **model release waiver** for each performer along with your registration.