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**MacEwan University Comes Together – And Moves the Arts Downtown**

Edmonton— It’s going to be a banner year as MacEwan University welcomes the students, faculty and staff of its Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications (FFAC) to Allard Hall, their new home on City Centre Campus.

To celebrate, the university has scheduled a year of events designed to showcase the building and the talents of the people who will call it home.

The theme of the year-long celebration? Come together - Moving the Arts Downtown. "We look at ‘moving the arts downtown’ from several perspectives,” says Dr. Allan Gilliland, dean of MacEwan’s Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications. “First, and most obvious, we’re literally moving our arts-related programs downtown, tapping into the excitement that comes from being part of our booming downtown and its vibrant arts scene. And in a more figurative sense, our students and their work—whether it’s a painting, a photograph or a performance—have the power to move an audience emotionally.”

“We’ve scheduled dozens of events to shine the spotlight on this spectacular building and the creativity of our people,” says MacEwan’s president, Dr. Deborah Saucier. "Between September and April, the amount of activity in Allard Hall will be hard to keep track of. The roster of events includes three full-scale theatre productions, music concerts and recitals, speakers’ series, fine art and design shows, and visiting artists and lecturers… the list goes on,” says Saucier. "We can’t wait for everyone to experience everything that’s happening."

“This is truly an exciting time for us. For the first time, all of our students will get to experience the energy and vitality of our performing, visual arts and administrative, programs on an everyday basis,” says Saucier. “It’s hard to imagine the potential when students from across all our faculties have the opportunity to collaborate with this creative community.”

The university also invites the community to experience that energy by getting involved in the various activities coming up. "The events during this year of celebration are open to the public,” says Dr. Allan Gilliland, dean, Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications. "We’re so proud to show off Allard Hall and its amazing spaces. This is truly a spectacular facility.”

The celebration officially kicks off with the grand opening of Allard Hall on Wednesday, September 27. In the meantime, a complete list of the year’s events, photos, stories and profiles of Allard Hall’s learning and performance spaces can be viewed at MacEwan.ca/ComeTogether.

*The opening of Allard Hall in September 2017 marks the beginning of a year of celebration for MacEwan University. With the relocation of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications to City Centre Campus, our university community has come together in downtown Edmonton. Allard Hall features exciting new purpose-built learning spaces for students and dynamic performance and exhibition spaces for the community, including a 419-seat theatre, theatre lab, recital hall, art gallery and recording studio. MacEwan University is moving the arts downtown. MacEwan.ca/ComeTogether.*

*Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.*

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