

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STRATFORD FESTIVAL'S TOM PATTERSON THEATRE WILL BE AGLOW DURING LIGHTS ON STRATFORD

*Stratford's award-winning architectural gem will once again bring colourful delight to the City this winter*

**Stratford, Ontario, September 19, 2022** – The fourth major display announcement from Lights On Stratford for this winter will resurrect and reimagine one of the main displays from 2020 that was cut short due to the pandemic.



Good news for all those that were unable to take in the Tom Patterson Theatre display from the inaugural 2020 Lights On Stratford, when the pandemic caused it to be closed early due to the Provincial stay-at-home travel restrictions.

“We’re absolutely thrilled to partner again with the Stratford Festival to reimagine and remount a stunningly beautiful experience that celebrates this architectural treasure using light from within,” said Zac Gribble, Festival Director and Executive Director of Destination Stratford. “The



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Tom Patterson Theatre is one of the main light displays along the Light Trail that connects Market Square to Tom Patterson Island, and we're excited to welcome everyone to experience this amazing theatre building dramatically lit on a midwinter's night."

"The Stratford Festival is excited to support year-round tourism for Stratford. Our beautiful new Tom Patterson Theatre sits like a jewel on the waterfront, and leveraging it to bring light and joy to the visitors of Lights on Stratford as well as our local neighbours is an opportunity we treasure," said Anita Gaffney, Executive Director of the Stratford Festival.

"We had such fun designing the first Tom Patterson Theatre Lights On Stratford installation, and look forward to this next challenge," adds Michael Walton, Head of Design for the Stratford Festival. "Unlike in 2020, we will be lighting up a very active well-used building, so this presents opportunities to reimagine and build upon our first effort. I look forward to realizing an exhibit that delights those both inside and outside the building."

Kaileigh Krysztofiak, General Manager of Lights On Stratford, is also excited about the growth of the festival. "We are enthusiastically planning and preparing for the winter season ahead of us. I am incredibly excited that not only will we be bringing in exhibits from around the world, we are building something of our own, and also sharing a light display that was so beautiful but missed by so many."

As a cultural destination, Stratford continues to punch above its weight, including in the depths of winter. Even during pandemic restrictions, the most recent festival of light saw over 80,000 visitors across the main displays. "We can't wait to welcome the community and visitors to an even bigger experience this winter."

In addition to hosting international light exhibits, Lights On Stratford is also focusing on creating new experiences with the long-term goal of Made-in-Stratford light displays that can be launched locally and then exported to other festivals internationally.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Lights On Stratford – with this year's theme of REKINDLE – is set to launch on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and runs through to January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Visit [lightsonstratford.ca](http://lightsonstratford.ca) for more details.

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For more information, please email [hello@visitstratford.ca](mailto:hello@visitstratford.ca).