



ROOTED IN STRENGTH
ANNUAL MEETING 2026



COUNCIL OF
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL
REGISTRATION BOARDS



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STRENGTH**

ANNUAL MEETING 2026

Designing the Eau Claire District

Crystal Fountains Walking Tour

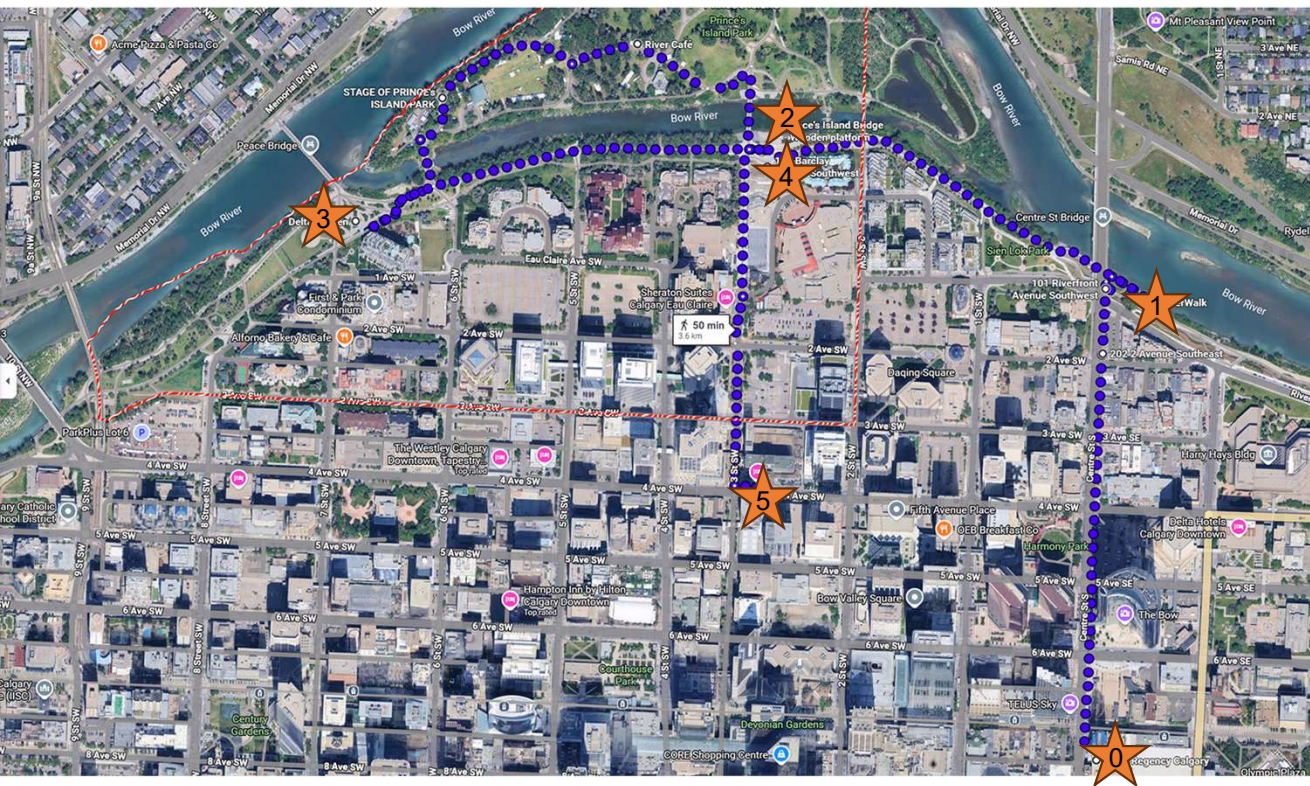
August 27, 2026

Crystal
where ideas flow™

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Designing the Eau Claire District: The Walking Tour



3.3 km (+/-2 miles) route / minimum 50-minute continuous walking route:

-  Destination #1: **Downtown Flood Barrier** (Andrew Forsyth, CoC)
-  Destination #2: **Lagoon Dock** (Sara de Korte, O2)
-  Destination #3: **Delta Garden** (Matt Williams, O2)
-  Destination #4: **Curving Wood Bench @ Eau Claire Plaza** (Rob Mikula, CF)
-  Destination #5: **Brix & Barrel Restaurant** (MAGLIN Social Event)

**1 Downtown Flood
Barrier**



Andrew Forsyth

**Planning Engineer, River
Engineering Group,
P.Eng**

City of Calgary

2 Lagoon Dock



Sara de Korte

**Senior Associate,
Landscape Architect
AALA, CSLA**

O2 Planning & Design Inc

3 Delta Garden



Matt Williams

**Principal, Landscape
Architect AALA, OALA,
CSLA**

O2 Planning & Design Inc

4 Eau Claire Plaza



Robert Mikula

**Director of Creative
Design, Landscape
Architect OALA, CSLA**

Crystal Fountains Inc

Eau Claire District History



Eau Claire District History



Over 140 years of evolving relationships between people and the Bow River:

- **Calgary's Lifeline:** The Bow River shaped Calgary's history and identity, serving as an Indigenous travel corridor, transportation route, power source, and today, one of the city's defining public landscapes.
- **Early Industry:** Founded in 1886, the Eau Claire & Bow River Lumber Company transformed the area into Calgary's early industrial hub and a key driver of the city's growth.
- **An Evolving Urban Waterfront:** Once defined by sawmills, rail yards, and industry, Eau Claire has evolved into a vibrant urban waterfront centered on recreation, culture, and public life.
- **A Resilient Waterfront:** The 2013 flood became a catalyst for change, transforming Eau Claire into a safer, more vibrant waterfront where flood resilience, landscape architecture, and public life are seamlessly integrated.

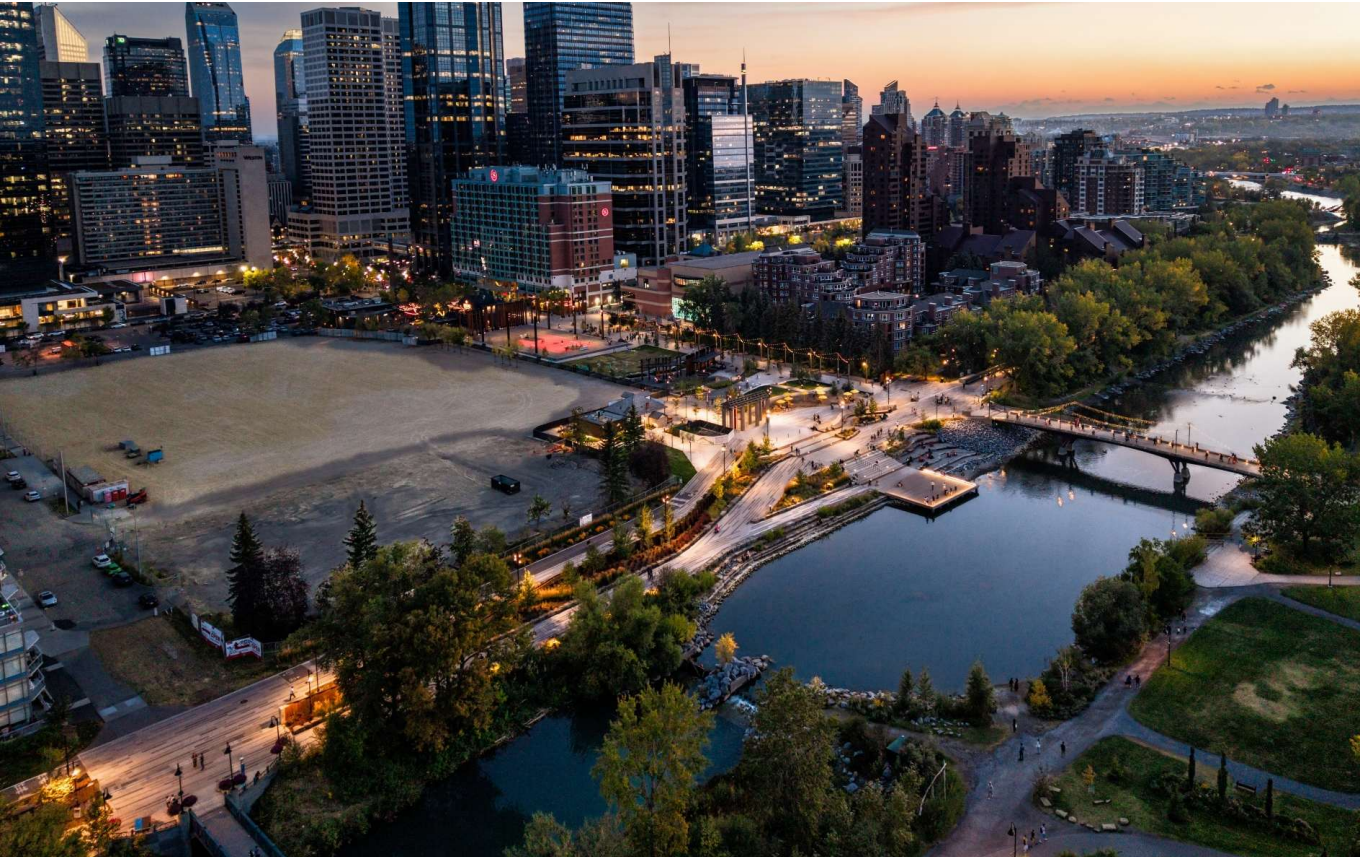
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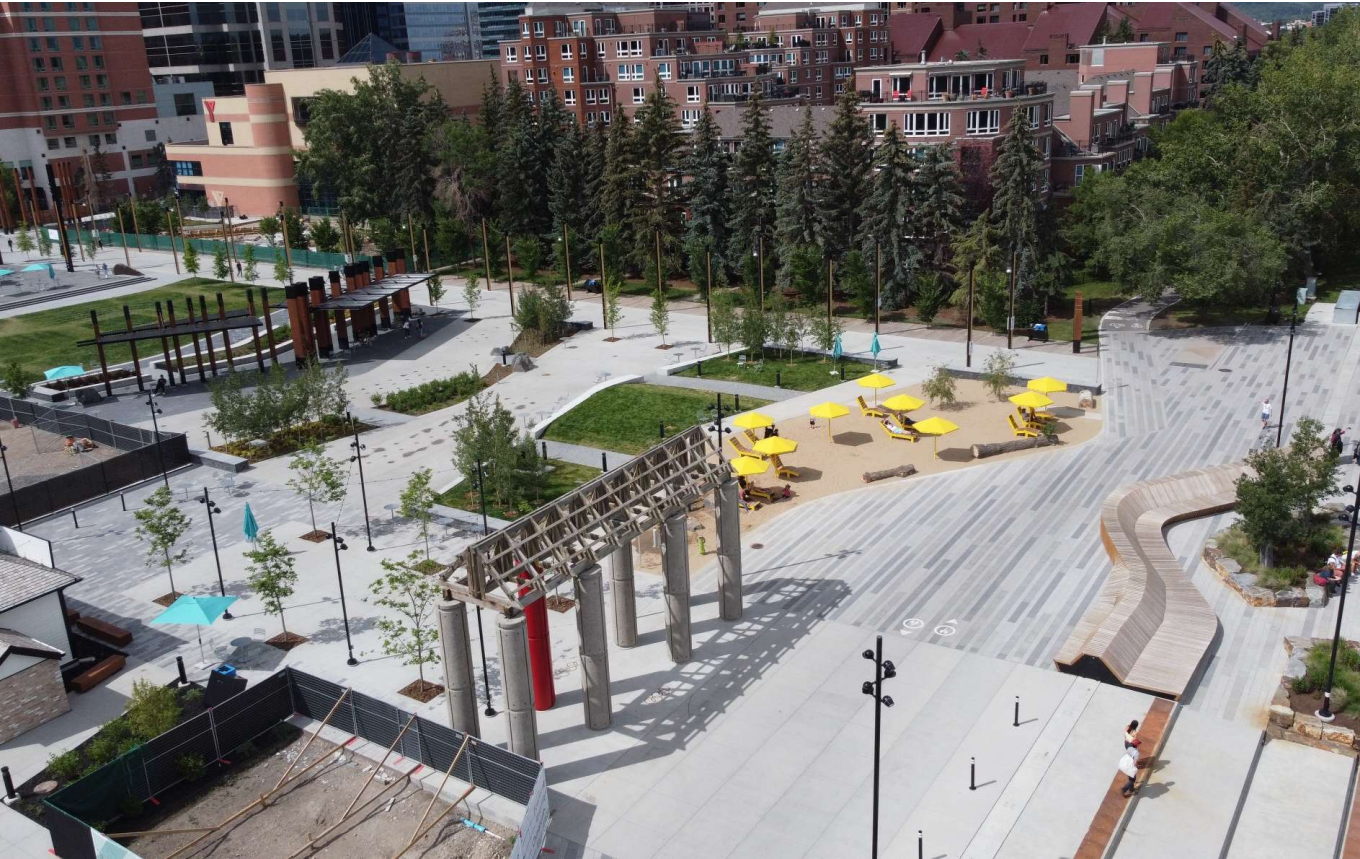
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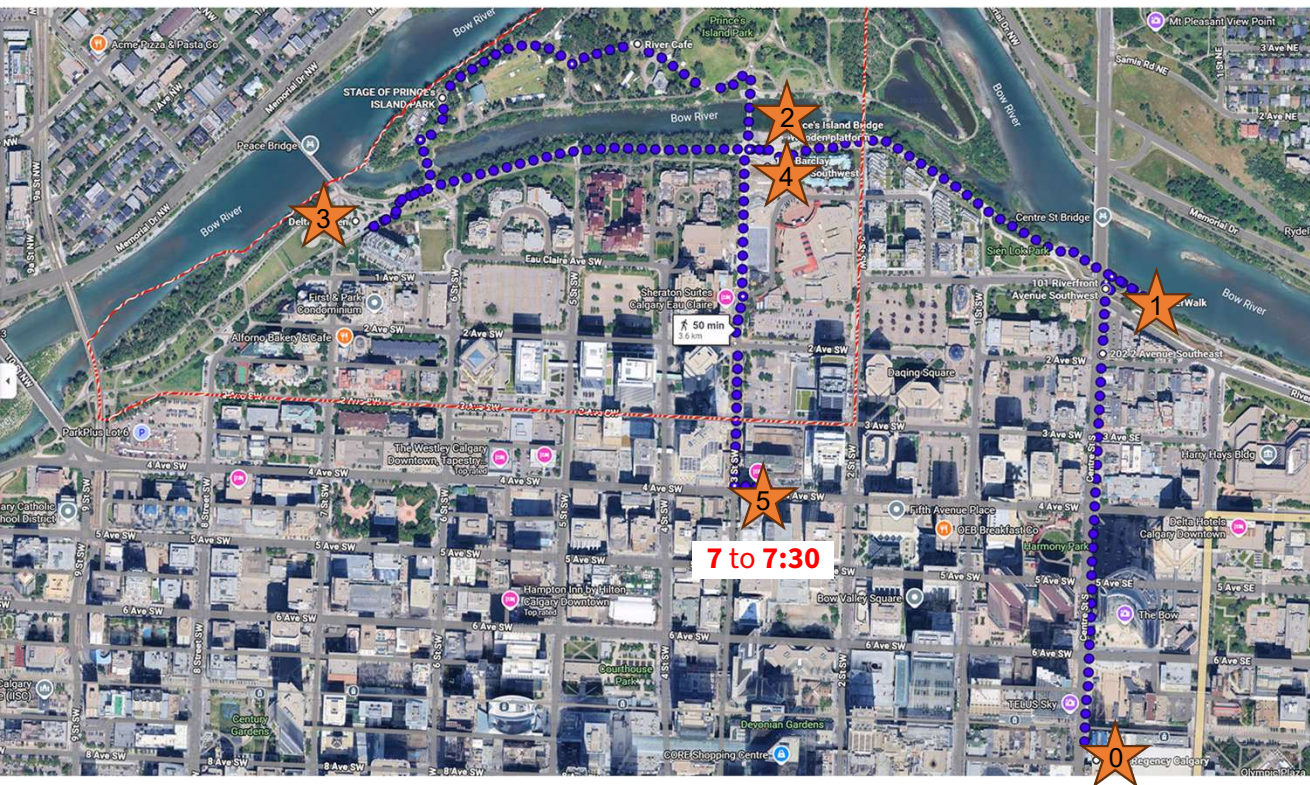
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The Field Session Map



5:15 & 5:35 Departures

3.3 km (+/-2 miles) route / minimum
50-minute continuous walking route:

-  Destination #1: **Downtown Flood Barrier** (Andrew Forsyth, CoC)
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★ Destination #1: Downtown Flood Barrier



- **The Need:** Developed in response to Calgary's devastating 2013 flood, the Downtown Flood Barrier is a key part of the City's long-term flood resilience strategy.
- **The Solution:** A 2 km (1.2 miles) continuous barrier along the Bow River protects the downtown core from a 1-in-200-year flood while preserving riverfront access and views.
- **The Project:** Detailed design began in 2019, construction started in 2021, and the barrier and Eau Claire Promenade improvements were completed in 2023.



Andrew Forsyth
Planning Engineer, River
Engineering Group, P.Eng
City of Calgary

★ Destination #2: Lagoon Dock



- **Design Intent:** Integrate functional flood protection with welcoming public spaces that support year-round recreation and community use. Stronger connections to the water's edge in summer. Public skating activates in the same space during the winter months.
- **Project Context:** Delivered as part of Phase 3 of the broader Eau Claire Park and Downtown Flood Barrier Project, completed in September 2023.
- **Community Engagement:** Informed by detailed site analysis and extensive public consultation to reflect community needs while respecting the park's natural and cultural heritage.
- **Key Features:** Lagoon platform deck, cliffstone terraces, scenic outlooks, and seamlessly integrated flood-mitigation infrastructure.



Sara de Korte
Senior Associate, Landscape
Architect AALA, CSLA
O2 Planning & Design Inc

★ Destination #3: Delta Garden



- **Inspiration:** The form and flow of a river delta.
- **Community Engagement & Artistic Collaboration:** Extensive public engagement and artistic collaboration shaped the masterplan, ensuring community needs and creative input informed key design strategies, public spaces and features such as Delta Garden, creating a distinctive riverfront that reflects local identity and a strong sense of place.
- **Design and Construction Collaboration:** Included multiple consultants, including landscape architects, structural, civil, hydrotechnical, and public art specialists.
- **Flood Mitigation Integration:** A flood barrier was woven into the park without disrupting its character, featuring earthwork terracing, a flood wall, and sculptural benches.



Matt Williams
Principal, Landscape Architect AALA,
OALA, CSLA
O2 Planning & Design Inc

★ Destination #4: Eau Claire Plaza

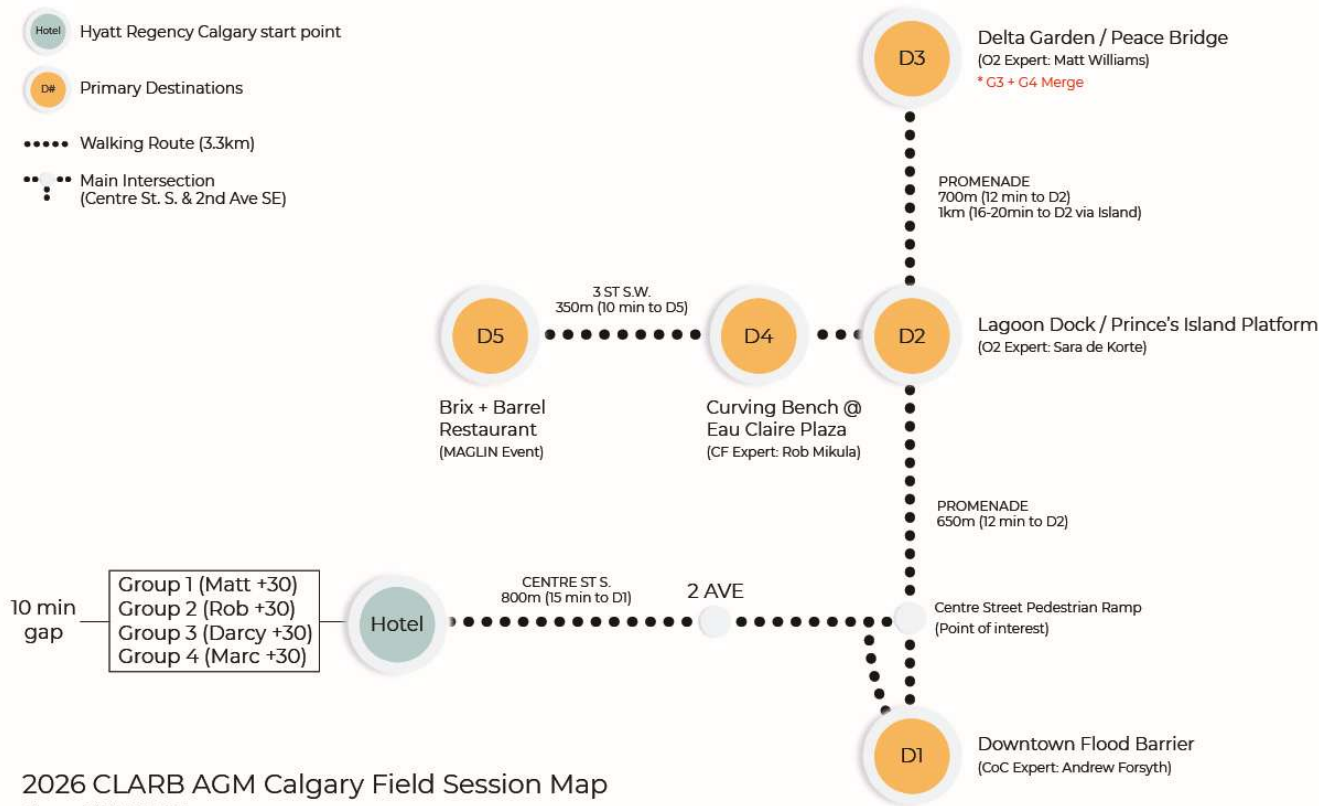


- **Design Story:** A civic landmark where nature and culture intersect, connecting downtown Calgary to the Bow River through a flexible elevated plaza.
- **Outdoor Rooms:** The public realm space organized into a series of flexible spaces including, Urban Podium (4000 people), Play Plaza, Central Green, Misting Plaza and Urban Beach.
- **The Spine:** An accessible 160m (525ft) Promenade organizes movement and connects downtown, RiverWalk, and the park network.
- **Heritage Gateway:** A timber gateway and preserved historic elements celebrate Eau Claire's lumber-mill legacy and civic heritage.
- **A Four-Season Public Space:** Intentionally designed for year-round use.



Robert Mikula
Director of Creative Design,
Landscape Architect OALA, CSLA
Crystal Fountains Inc

Field Session Organization & Notes



2026 CLARB AGM Calgary Field Session Map
Aug 27, 2026

DIVIDE INTO FOUR GROUPS:

- **Group #1 Yellow** led by Matt Williams (O2) with Sara de Korte (O2), Andrew Forsyth (CoC) & Danielle Hall (Eagle Lake Nursery) departs at 5:15 p.m.
- **Group #2 Blue** led by Rob Mikula (CF) with Albert Harris (mmcite) departs at 5:15 p.m.
- **Group #3 Orange** led by Darcy L'Heureux (CF) with Candace Dillingham (CLARB) departs at 5:35 p.m.
- **Group #4 Green** led by Marc Cote (CF) with Veronica Meadows (CLARB) departs at 5:35 p.m.

NOTES:

- Each destination will include a 10-minute talk including Q&A
- Exercise caution along the walking route
- Arrive at Brix & Barrel Restaurant between 7 – 7:30 p.m. for the MAGLIN Event



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THANK YOU

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5:15 p.m.



5:35 p.m.

Thomsons Social Hub
Hyatt Lobby Level



**Take a pic
of this slide**



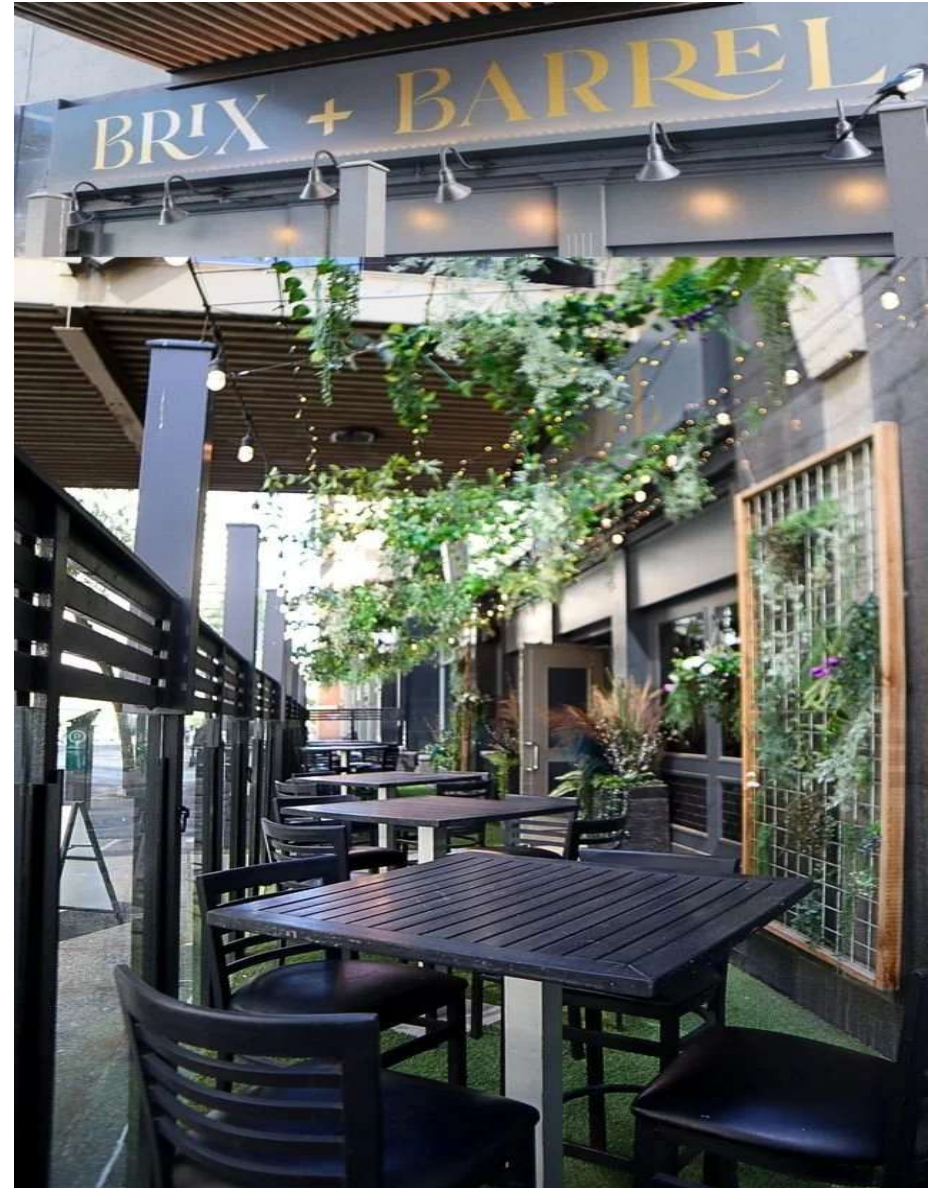
MAGLINTM
Site Furniture

Cocktails & Connection with Maglin

7:30–10:00 p.m.

Brix and Barrel

351 4 Ave SW, Calgary, AB T2P 0H9





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