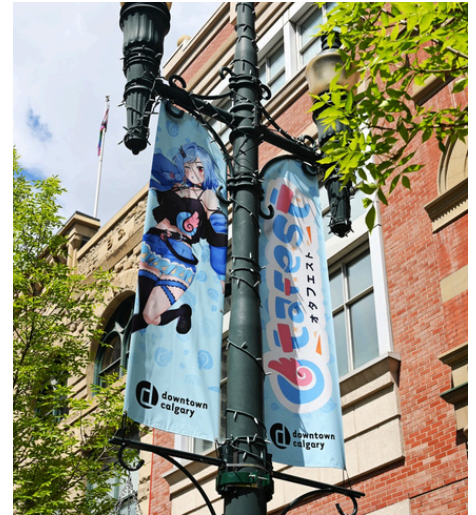


Otafest

Press Kit



Who We Are

Otafest is a non-profit arts organization, powered by the passion and service of volunteers to create meaningful and vibrant fan experiences.

The festival is held over 3 days in downtown Calgary and is open to all ages. Tickets & dates for this year can be found at otafest.com.

Otafest was born in 1999 when the University of Calgary's Dedicated Otaku Anime Club decided to hold a one-day film festival showcasing Japanese Animation (anime), which was scarce in North America at the time.

Otafest eventually grew into the inclusive festival our community knows and appreciates today. While anime remains integral to our program, attendees now also have opportunities to engage in a diverse array of events and enriching experiences.

Our Mission

Otafest creates festivals and events that reflect the vibrancy and diversity of an ever-evolving fan driven Japanese creative arts industry.

Our Vision

That fans of all types have a welcoming place to belong while celebrating their passion in accessible and joyful ways.

400+

VOLUNTEERS

\$ 267K

RAISED FOR CHARITY

12K+

IN ATTENDANCE

28

YEARS RUNNING

So... What is Otafest?

Otafest is an all-ages community festival in Calgary that brings Japanese animation, art, and culture to life. Over the weekend, the Calgary Telus Convention Centre, Marriott Hotel Downtown, and Stephen Avenue transform into a vibrant hub filled with fans in elaborate costumes, energetic dance mobs, and families enjoying a wide array of entertainment, and it's all planned and executed by a multicultural and gender-diverse volunteer team from a wide range of ethnic, philosophical, and religious backgrounds

Otafest offers an extensive lineup of activities, including workshops, community panels, gaming tournaments, contests, anime screenings, and competitions in cosplay, singing, and performance. This festival is a celebration of creativity and fun, attracting thousands of attendees each year who share a passion for Japanese pop culture.

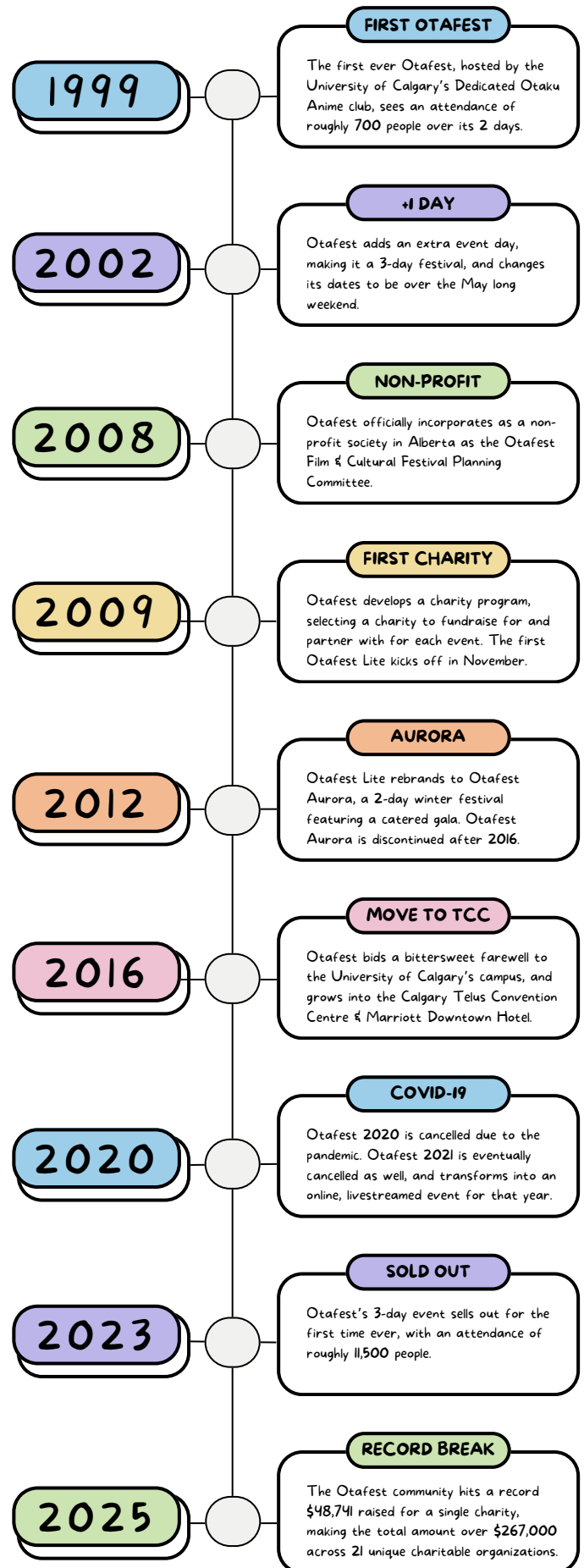
Throughout the weekend, fans have the chance to meet and interact with local and international celebrities, including voice actors, musicians, artists, cosplayers, drag artists, and just as important, other fans. These interactions, along with the festival's other activities, create an open-minded and welcoming space for fans to connect and express themselves. Otafest's attendees often leave with many new friendships.

In addition to entertainment, the festival's Artist Alley features unique merchandise and fan works from indie creators, the Exhibitor Hall hosts booths from local and international fanciers, and Sketch Drive (an Otafest original) features artists drawing caricatures for charity.

The community is Otafest's heart and soul. The excitement of spotting a favorite character among the crowd or participating in activities fosters connections among strangers. Otafest is one of Calgary's most dynamic festivals and a celebration of something truly special: community, passion, love, and creative expression.

"WE'RE NOT SOME CORPORATION PUTTING ON AN EVENT TO MAKE PROFIT, WE'RE JUST A GROUP OF PASSIONATE NERDS VOLUNTEERING OUR TIME TO PUT ON A BIG PARTY FOR EVERYBODY."

- BEHFAR LOTFIZADEH, OTAFEST CHAIR



Charitable Efforts

One of Otafest's proudest pillars is our support for local charitable organizations. Each year, the festival partners with a local charity, and our attendees contribute funds during the event.

Previous partners include: Calgary Food Bank, Mamas for Mamas Calgary, Skipping Stone, MEOW Foundation, Tom Baker Cancer Centre, and the Alex Youth Centre (more: stats.otafest.com). By working with diverse organizations, Otafest contributes to a positive impact on Calgarians across all demographics.

"IT FELT VERY ACCEPTING AND COMFORTING, I'D LOVE TO COME BACK AGAIN SIMPLY FOR HOW KIND EVERYONE WAS!"

- FEEDBACK SURVEY RESPONDENT

OTAFEST IS "...A TREASURE TROVE OF OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE."

- HEATHER MCRAE
CALGARY DOWNTOWN ASSOCIATION

Programming

The following is a non-exhaustive list of programming presented each year:

- Anime screenings,
- AMV productions,
- The Arcade (video game hall & tournaments),
- Artist Alley & Exhibition Hall,
- Card & board gaming rooms,
- Cosplay activities & competitions,
- Concerts,
- An evening car show
- LGBTQ+ content (All-Ages Drag Show),
- Maid & Butler Café,
- Manga Library & quiet space,
- Model kit co-working space,
- Panels facilitated by community members,
- Sketch Drive (caricatures for charity),
- Singing competitions,
- Taiko drumming,
- Voice actors (local & international)



Japanese celebrity singer TRUE performing at Otafest 2024

Contact



otafest.com
May 15 - 17, 2026



[instagram.com/otafest](https://www.instagram.com/otafest)



[fb.com/otafest](https://www.facebook.com/otafest)



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First-Time Attendee Tips

Every year, Otafest attracts a large number of first time attendees.

To help them get the most out of the event and provide valuable guidance regarding the expected conduct at the festival, Otafest has a webpage with relevant information to newcomers to help maximize their experience:

otafest.com/tips

Our Logo

Our logo features a fun and friendly font containing our primary brand colors and a few small decorations. The preferred approach is to use the wordmark. In situations where space is limited, however, please use the icon form of the logo instead.

Download

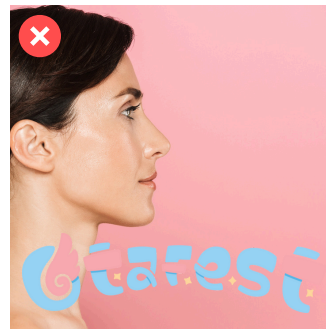
Logos:
otafe.st/logos



Logo Usage

You may adjust the logo as follows:

- ✓ Resize logo if needed (maintaining its aspect ratio).
- ✓ Change the logo from the colored version to the black or white versions for maximum contrast & readability.
- ✓ Add a white outline to the logo to increase its contrast with clashing background colors.



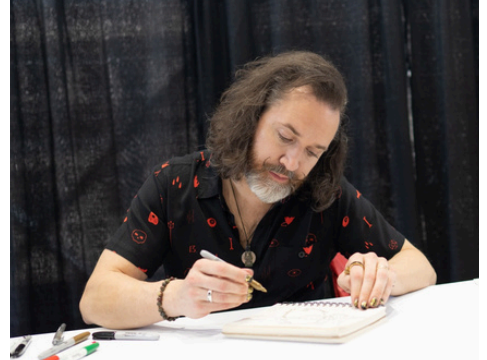
You should NOT adjust the logo in these ways:

- ✗ Do not rotate the logo.
- ✗ Do not distort the logo.
- ✗ Do not change the logo color.
- ✗ Do not reproduce the logo with a different font.
- ✗ Do not add a gradient to the logo.
- ✗ Do not mask images inside of the logo.
- ✗ Do not use the logo where it would have low contrast with the background and be difficult to read.



Photos

You are welcome to use the following photos and/or photos found on the otafest.com website in your publications, however please provide attribution to Otafest.



Download

More available at:
otafe.st/photos