

# City seniors get creative

By Michelle Thompson, The Edmonton Sun

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City seniors aren't just aging gracefully -- they're aging artistically too.

Hundreds of them crowded into city hall Tuesday to help celebrate Edmonton's Creative Age Festival.

"I think (it's about) encouraging and creating opportunities for any of us -- whether you're five, 50, 70 or 80 -- to participate in the arts," said Mayor Stephen Mandel.

"The enjoyment from it is really vital to the success and vitality of a community."

The third annual festival kicked off with music, poetry, and laughter from the crowd.

David Barnett, who emceed the launch, said he's never seen the festival draw such a large turnout.

"When seniors are involved in the arts, they have a lot of fun," Barnett said.

"They make new friends and learn new skills. And they experience the personal satisfaction that comes from creativity."

The festival, which runs until June 17, will showcase everything from art exhibits to dancing and interactive workshops.

Seniors still have a chance to get involved, said Sen. Tommy Banks, who kicked the fest off with a piano solo.

"It's never too late," Banks said.

"We don't stop playing because we get old. We get old because we stop playing."

For more information, visit [cafestival.ca](http://cafestival.ca)

michelle.thompson@sunmedia.ca