

**AMERICAS MASTERS GAMES OPENING CEREMONIES ANNOUNCEMENT**  
*CELEBRATION ON JACK POOLE PLAZA SET TO WELCOME ATHLETES FOR 9 DAYS OF  
CELEBRATION*

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA – Be a part of history as Vancouver welcomes thousands of Masters-aged athletes to the first-ever Americas Masters Games, taking place August 26<sup>th</sup> to September 4<sup>th</sup>. Games’ organizers are thrilled with the progress of this inaugural sporting event, and look forward to hosting athletes competing in over 20 sports at some of Vancouver’s most iconic venues and locations.

A celebration on Jack Poole Plaza (Celebration Site) will kick off the Games with the Opening Ceremonies on August 27<sup>th</sup>. It is free to the public and will begin at 6 pm with a march of thousands of Masters Athletes representing 52 different countries, and will include music, entertainment and speeches from local politicians, representatives from the International Masters Games Association (IMGA), athletes, dignitaries and welcoming remarks from local First Nations elders. The Games will be officially declared open with a ceremonial lighting of the Cauldron.

“We love to host the world and we do it well here in Vancouver,” said Mayor Gregor Robertson. “We’re proud to be a world class sport tourism destination that puts on first-rate events, and know that every athlete, coach and fan will have an experience second to none. Best of luck to all this year’s Master’s Games athletes!”

First Nations performers Eagle Song Dancers, DJ Crystal A’dare and Vancouver-based singer Marie Hui, will lead the crowd in the singing of our national anthem. One of Canada’s top bands, Famous Players Band, will close the evening, performing their entertaining and explosive live set of favourite hits.

During the week live evening entertainment will include The Gay Nineties, Willa, The Boom Booms, CocoJafro, Locked and Loaded, Scott Shea, Taylor James, Quickness, The Bad Beats, The Undercovers and more! DJs include DJ Leanne, DJ O, DJ Pri, and DJ Miss M.

Jack Poole Plaza will be the meeting point for everyone with many opportunities for athletes to have fun and get together during the day and, of course, to relax post-competition.

The Celebration Site will be open from August 28<sup>th</sup> until September 4<sup>th</sup>. The public is free to enjoy complimentary yoga sessions daily at noon with the beautiful North Shore Mountains as a backdrop, beer gardens starting at 1 pm, as well as DJs spinning at 4 pm and local bands performing on stage at 7:30 pm. In addition, an Expo will take place at the Vancouver Convention Centre from August 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>. The Games’ Closing Ceremonies will take place from 3 pm to 5 pm on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

“It will be fantastic to see our Masters athletes join the celebration on the plaza,” said Rob Newman, CEO of Sport BC. “Our team has been working very hard over the past two years preparing for this unique event and we are looking forward to hosting again.”

Local venues featuring American Masters Games 2016 sporting events include Stanley Park, Kits Beach, Trillium Field, UBC, Empire Field and the Vancouver Convention Centre.

Go to [www.americasmastersgames2016.com](http://www.americasmastersgames2016.com) for more information.

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## **ABOUT THE AMERICAS MASTERS GAMES VANCOUVER**

The Americas Masters Games promote an active and healthy lifestyle, encouraging participants aged 30 to 100+ to strive towards sporting success while having fun in the process. This inaugural version of the Americas Masters Games will take place from August 26 – September 4, 2016 in Vancouver, BC, Canada. For more information please visit [www.americasmastersgames2016.com](http://www.americasmastersgames2016.com)

### **Schedule of Events**

<b>Expo</b>	August 25 August 26 August 27	noon – 8 pm noon – 8 pm 9 am – 4 pm
<b>Opening Ceremonies</b>	August 27	6 pm – 9:30 pm
<b>Celebration Site</b>	August 28 – September 4	noon – 10 pm
<b>Closing Ceremonies</b>	September 4	3 pm – 5 pm

### **List of Sports**

Archery	Karate
Athletics (Track & Field, Road Races)	Lacrosse
Badminton	Rugby
Baseball	Soccer
Basketball (Indoor and Outdoor)	Softball
Curling	Squash
Cycling (Time Trial /Road Race/Hill Climb)	Swimming
Field Hockey	Table Tennis
Golf	Tennis
Ice Hockey	Triathlon
Judo	Volleyball (Indoor and Beach)

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