

2020 ANNUAL REPORT



EDMONTON HERITAGE COUNCIL: CONNECTING PEOPLE TO THE STORIES OF THEIR CITY

STAFF

David Ridley **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
 Danielle Dolgoy **PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS MANAGER**
 Mary Schuurman **OPERATIONS MANAGER**
 Elyse Abma-Bouma **ADMINISTRATIVE & PROGRAMS ASSISTANT (FROM MAR 2020)**
 Julia Darby **GRANTS COORDINATOR**
 Logan Fetterly **DATA & IT COORDINATOR**
 Christina Hardie **CURATOR, EDMONTON CITY AS MUSEUM PROJECT**
 Joe Hartfeil **COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**
 Rob Houle **INDIGENOUS HERITAGE LIAISON (FROM JAN 2021)**
 Pehbahmegahmegohk **INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES LEAD (FROM JAN 2021)**
 Bob Sadler **FINANCIAL COORDINATOR (FROM APR 2020)**

PAST STAFF

Grace Doll **FINANCIAL OFFICER (-APR 2020)**
 Molly Staley
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR, PROGRAMS (-AUG 2020)

CITY ADVISORS

Roger Jevne
BRANCH MANAGER, COMMUNITY & RECREATION FACILITIES, CITY OF EDMONTON
 Scott Ashe
PRINCIPAL HERITAGE PLANNER, URBAN DESIGN, CITY OF EDMONTON
 Kathryn Ivany
CITY ARCHIVIST, CITY OF EDMONTON

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Christina
 Williamson **(-MAY 2020)**

MEMBERS

The diverse group of engaged citizens and organizations at the heart of EHC. They populate the networks, animate discussions, support programs, provide leadership, and form the Board of Directors.

EDMONTONIANS

EHC's Vision: A city embracing its diverse heritage, inclusive of all people, communities, and cultures on Treaty 6 Territory, consistent with the principles of Truth and Reconciliation.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Through a challenging chapter in this city's history, it has been rewarding to share the stories that bring life to this city and region. The resourcefulness that served EHC well in its early years has grown with age and maturity, and helped us achieve greater impact across the community during 2020. In advancing the aims of Edmonton's 10-Year Arts & Heritage Plan, EHC and the heritage community are helping to create a future where all Edmontonians can thrive.

The pandemic and a heightened awareness of systemic racism revealed greater challenges than can be addressed in a single year or by a single organization. But EHC's programs and people rose to the challenge and made a positive impact. EHC provided direct and rapid supports when most needed, empowering heritage practitioners and organizations to sustain and adapt their work, and connecting Edmontonians to each other in new ways.

As an organization, we aligned our resources with our equity policy, and are pleased to report that more than one-third of successful applicants to our Heritage Community Investment Program (HCIP) self-identified as BIPOC or LGBTQS+. Building on the success of the 2020 Reconciliation & Resurgence symposium, EHC's new Funding Indigenous Resurgence in Edmonton (FIRE) program will support Indigenous communities in their self-determination in the years to come. The creative energy and excellence of EHC's staff resulted in a diversity of virtual programming in 2020.

The Edmonton City as Museum Project (ECAMP) reached its greatest audience to date, with more than 100,000 visits to the website last year, and over 80% of writers being new contributors. Audience growth for our ECAMP platform continues to accelerate in early 2021.

These achievements were possible because of the excellence and innovation of our staff team and the engagement of community members, backed by the guidance of my board colleagues. My thanks to each of them for their collaboration and good spirits during a difficult time. We are fortunate to have a high level of board continuity into 2022, which will stand us in good stead in advancing our work. I hope in reading this report on the past year, you feel as optimistic about our future as I do.

Martin Kennedy
 Chair, Board of Directors

EQUITY POLICY Adopted by the Board of Directors in 2020

EHC supports the right of Edmontonians to fair access to heritage-related resources and outcomes. EHC's work is to create equitable outcomes and address systemic barriers in the heritage sector. To this end:

- EHC will respond to the changing needs of Edmontonians to add to our region's cultural vibrancy. We know that systemic barriers to equity exist.
- Equity is an ongoing process. EHC strives to support and create inclusive and equitable communities. Treating all groups equally will not result in equity.
- We will increase our work to ensure all communities within the area see themselves reflected in the work of the Edmonton Heritage Council.
- EHC will report on our successes and challenges in this work.

Edmonton City as Museum Project (ECAMP) built on and developed its strengths throughout 2020, providing accessible, diverse programming, from popular story collections to online exhibitions to virtual ECAMPing Trips.

2021 will see the release of the ECAMP Podcast's long awaited second season, with a team of storytellers animating themes of LGBTQ2S+, immigration, and neighbourhood histories.

4 ECAMPing Trips (offered virtually due to the pandemic)

"I learned a lot and I appreciate the sharing of your lived experiences, stories, and insights!"
– ECAMPing Trip attendee

In 2020, there were over 110,000 visits to the ECAMP website, representing an increase of nearly **100%** compared to the previous high in 2016.



Matt Hiltermann and Amber Paquette (Edmonton's Historian Laureate) joined ECAMP in June 2020 for a presentation on Reading Métis History Into the Landscape of Edmonton

21 story contributors (including **17** new ECAMP writers) had stories published on our platform through the second half of 2020.



Guest speakers Grace Law, Soni Dasmohapatra, Shreela Chakrabartty, and Lan Chan-Marples joined the team for the first in a series of virtual ECAMPing Trips in June 2020

"Thank you all so much for your knowledge and wisdom on all of this. I feel much more connected to the land I live on now, and that's just so meaningful."
– ECAMPing Trip attendee



Flying Canoe Volant's Métis site in early 2020. Photo credit: Allen Jacobson

THE EVOLUTION OF HCIP

In 2020, HCIP responded to the changing needs of Edmonton's heritage sector through three new streams alongside existing funding avenues. As the COVID-19 pandemic transformed the way many of us live and work, EHC consulted with community members to responsively direct programming supports. Meanwhile, HCIP continued to develop and maintain relationships with new and returning grant applicants.

As we look to 2021 and beyond, we plan to develop and refine the program to gain deeper insights into community needs.

45% of re-applications were successful in receiving funding (9 of 20), compared to **38%** overall success rate (50 of 131)

3 funded projects were for later phases of work previously funded through HCIP

PROJECT GRANTS AWARDED

Supporting non-profit organizations to undertake projects that preserve, research, document, interpret, celebrate, and raise awareness of the history and heritage of Edmonton.

Alberta Council of Ukrainian Arts – <i>Threads That Connect</i>	\$9,750)
Alberta Labour History Institute – <i>Oral Histories with Recent Immigrants from Muslim–Minority Countries</i>	\$25,000)
Black Canadian Women in Action Society – BCW: <i>Black Girls Empowerment by Art & Culture</i>	\$20,870)
Bannerman Community League – <i>Edmonton Eats Documentation Project</i>	\$25,000)
Centre Communautaire Edmonton – Indigenous Cultural Program	\$21,000
Commonwealth Association of Museums – Edmonton- Caribbean Heritage Exchange	\$25,000)

HCIP RECIPIENT: CENTRE COMMUNAUTAIRE EDMONTON

“The funding allowed us to provide an expanded Indigenous cultural component to the Flying Canoe Volant Festival that included sharing/connecting, interpretive, and educational (awareness) experiences in the spirit and context of Edmonton’s vibrant and fascinating past, and its inclusive present.”



Edmonton Chinatown Multi-Cultural Centre, home to the Edmonton Chinatown Chinese Library, as painted by Jan Tereszczenko

HCIP RECIPIENT: EDMONTON CHINATOWN CHINESE LIBRARY

“Thanks to the Edmonton Heritage Council Operational Grant, we have facilitated the project of switching library catalogue systems. The new system enabled us to be compatible with the local public library and significantly upgraded our service level, especially the online services. The enhancement of online access to collections increased the public use of our library.”

36% of successful applicants self-identified as BIPOC or LGBTQ2S

OPERATIONAL GRANTS AWARDED

Supporting museums, archives, and other heritage organizations to research, preserve, interpret, and advocate for Edmonton’s heritage.

Alberta Aviation Museum	\$158,478
Alberta Genealogical Society	\$22,276
Alberta Labour History Institute	\$9,050
Alberta Pioneer Railway Association	\$16,457
Edmonton Chinatown Chinese Library	\$16,991
Edmonton Radial Railway Society	\$14,603
Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museum	\$7,810
Société historique francophone de l’Alberta -	\$30,990



Housing for Women book committee and Edmonton Women Sheltering Women/WIN House founders Ardis Beaudry, Phyllis Ellis, Rose-Marie McCarthy, Lynn Hannley (L-R). Photo credit: Pam Iriye

PROJECT ACCELERATOR GRANTS AWARDED

Supporting individuals and organizations to undertake small-scale heritage projects.

Alberta Pioneer Railway Association – <i>Northern Alberta Railway Business Car “DUNVEGAN” Restoration Proposal</i>	\$8,248	Ground Zero Productions – <i>Jasper Place Community History Project</i>	\$10,000
Richard Awid – <i>Walk with Me My Son... You and I have some stories to tell.</i>	\$7,000	John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights – <i>Paint the Rails Augmented Reality Mural Project</i>	\$10,000
Lan Chan-Marples – <i>Live from Edmonton Chinatown: Chinese City Market Stories</i>	\$7,000	Northern Light Theatre – <i>Northern Light Theatre 45th Anniversary Archival and Digital Legacy Project</i>	\$6,821
Patricia Darbasie – <i>A new play – yet to be named</i>	\$7,000	Strathearn Community League – <i>Park Adventures</i>	\$10,000
Edmonton Indigenous Seniors Centre – <i>Edmonton Indigenous Seniors Centre Archive Project</i>	\$10,000	Ukrainian Shumka Dancers – <i>60th Anniversary Photo/Video Display</i>	\$7,000
Edmonton Women Sheltering Women – Edmonton Women Sheltering Women Book Launch	\$8,595	Where Edmonton Community Artists Network Society (WECAN) – <i>Black Friday: Metamorphosis</i>	\$7,000
		Brandon Wint – <i>My Body Is a Poem/The World Makes with Me</i>	\$7,450

HCIP RECIPIENT: EDMONTON WOMEN SHELTERING WOMEN

“The grants provided the book committee the opportunity to undertake the work to research, write, print, and distribute *WINning: The Trials, Tribulations, and Triumphs of Opening a Women’s Shelter* by Marsha Mildon, an important book about the 50-year history and development of the women’s shelter movement in Edmonton.”

PROJECT ACCELERATOR – DIGITAL HERITAGE EXPERIENCE GRANTS AWARDED

Supporting individuals and organizations in new initiatives that share Edmonton's stories through digital or virtual media.

- Helen Belay – *The Edmonton Capsule The Renaissance Conspiracy: Decolonizing History miniseries*)..... \$10,000
- Adam Bentley – Jewish Edmonton Stories Online \$10,000**
- Boyle Street Community Services – *inVisible Persons: Projections from the Drop-In* \$8,796
- Dave Clarke – *Beneath Our Feet: Edmonton on the Map* \$10,000
- Frederick Kroetsch – *Wop May: The Untold Story* \$10,000
- Michelle Lavoie – *Edmonton Queer History Interactive Map and Website* \$10,000
- Elizabeth Letendre – *Digital Memoir of Elder Elizabeth Letendre* \$10,000
- Celia Taylor – *Hardboiled* \$4,500
- Megan Tsang – *REN Project*..... \$7,000
- Elaine Yip – *Headstone Addresses*..... \$10,000



Jewish community member Francie Nobleman (L) and Bentley's collaborator Paula Kirman (below) conduct a virtual interview

HCIP RECIPIENT: ADAM BENTLEY

"This grant permitted Paula Kirman and me to begin work on Jewish Edmonton Stories Online, a cultural mapping project that collects and will share the experiences and memories of primarily elderly Jewish people in Edmonton. It is important in this time of isolation to remain connected to your community and able to share your stories with each other and every person in Edmonton."



Chinese-Canadian artist Yong Fei Guan collecting wild goji berries plants for propagation at the edge of the river valley, Downtown Edmonton, June 2020. Photo credit: Dustin Bajaj.

HCIP RECIPIENT: YONG FEI GUAN

"The HCIP enabled us to continue researching the history of goji berries in Edmonton and we completed the first propagation attempt in 2020. We also connected with locals who are interested in sharing stories about their goji shrubs."

First-time recipients were awarded **63%** of grants

PROJECT ACCELERATOR – INDIVIDUAL SEED GRANTS AWARDED

Supporting individual heritage practitioners in preliminary planning or research towards a larger heritage project.

- Tara Beck – *YEG Forest Site School Pilot*..... \$4,500
- Yong Fei Guan – *Goji Paradise* \$5,000**
- Crystal Fraser – *Residential School Legacies: A Photo Essay of Forgotten Spaces in Alberta*..... \$5,000
- Rebecca Lippiatt – *Edmonton in the Time of COVID* \$5,000
- Kristine Nutting – *Kookum Stories* \$5,000
- Sharlene Thomas – *Movements: Retracing the Steps* \$5,000

TRAVEL GRANTS AWARDED

Supporting heritage practitioners to travel outside of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region for professional development or research that will support the telling of Edmonton-based stories.

- Juliette Champagne \$2,330
A trip through Paris, Meudon, Nantes, Ste Pazanne, Renne, and Le Mans allowing Juliette to complete her research in the preparation of two manuscripts.
- Crystal Willie.....\$3,670**
A one-week residency at L'AiR Arts in Paris, France revisiting the spirit and creative influences of Les Années Folles – The Roaring 20s and the interwar period when Paris was a safe haven for international artists in a world upended.

HCIP RECIPIENT: CRYSTAL WILLIE

"The residency was a chance to share and learn from cultural professionals and artists from all over the world while considering the historical and cultural context of 1920s Paris and what we can learn and apply in the 2020s. It really was the professional experience of a lifetime – so much more profound when you consider what began a few short weeks after we returned."

In addition to the **50** funded individuals and organizations, another **49** parties worked as partners and collaborators

ONLINE LEARNING GRANTS AWARDED

Supporting heritage practitioners to participate in online courses, workshops, or virtual conferences to gain new skills to contribute to the development of heritage in Edmonton.

- Stephanie Huolt – Leadership Communications and Managing Organizational Change (University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension) \$1,406**
- Jean Middleton – *Project Management Series (University of Alberta, Faculty of Extension)* \$1,635
- Marlee Yule – *Environmental Studies (Athabasca University)*..... \$784.25



L'AiR Arts Cultural Professional Residents and Hosts participate in a 1920s literary and historical tour of Paris. Pictured at the once home of Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas; the location of their storied writer and artist salons.

Photo credit: L'AiR Arts

Stephanie Huolt of Canadian Energy Museum

Photo credit: Qi Wang



HCIP RECIPIENT: STEPHANIE HUOLT

"As a small non-profit museum, budgets for things like extra training and courses can be limiting, and grants are greatly appreciated to assist with these opportunities. These courses helped me build further confidence in my role as a team and community leader and insight into managing organizational and board changes."

2020 FINANCIALS



WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

- 61% City of Edmonton Grants – Program Fund
- 34% City of Edmonton Grants – General Fund
- 5% Other (AGLC Casino Fund, Edmonton Community Foundation Rapid Response Funding, etc.)



WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

- 44% Grants to Other Organizations and Individuals
- 36% Staff and Contracts
- 8% Advertising and Promotion
- 3% Office
- 9% Other (Board of Directors, Professional Fees, Honoraria, Rent, Events, Etc.)



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The events of the past year made even more clear the importance of heritage work in bringing people together, as well as reflecting truthfully on the difficult parts of our shared heritage. EHC is committed to wider participation in the cultural life of Edmonton through heritage.

Last year, the Heritage Community Investment Program (HCIP) and Edmonton City as Museum Project (ECAMP) extended their connections to more Edmontonians. EHC's priorities, outlined in *Connections & Exchanges*, were addressed through much HCIP-funded activity, and through virtual programming such as online ECAMPing Trips, the ECAMP stories collection and the interactive webinar series *Wide Angle Lens: Empowering Community Heritage Practices* (supported by Edmonton Community Foundation).

All this shows how the community, supported by EHC's staff team, responded to new challenges and found new opportunities to provide essential connections to citizens through story. One of the steps taken in late 2020 was towards the launch of the new FIRE program. Significant thinking (and action) went into laying the groundwork for this new Indigenous funding initiative last year, with associated staffing making a welcome and necessary addition to the team as of 2021.

We were also pleased to help focus on some significant wins for Edmonton's built heritage and historic places, such as the future of Hangar 11. As always, EHC's work is about supporting heritage work in the community. As Edmonton continues to evolve, we'll be here to grow alongside it those who make it happen. My thanks to the committed and creative staff, the Board of Directors, and most importantly, Edmontonians whose extraordinary talents and insights connect us to each other through the stories of this city.

David Ridley
Executive Director

FURTHER READING & VIEWING

[Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan to Transform Arts and Heritage in Edmonton](#)

Video: [Reconciliation & Resurgence](#)

Partners: [Reconciliation & Resurgence Symposium](#)

[Edmonton City as Museum Project \(ECAMP\)](#)

[Funding Indigenous Resurgence in Edmonton \(FIRE\)](#)

[Heritage Community Investment Program \(HCIP\) 2020 Recipients](#)

[HCIP Grants](#)

[Edmonton Heritage Council Reports](#)

[City of Edmonton: Indigenous Framework](#)

[United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

[Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#)

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Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre
218A-10440 108 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB T5H 3Z9
P: 780-429-0166

E: info@edmontonheritage.ca
edmontonheritage.ca

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