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Edmonton Heritage Council Spring 2023 Grant Recipients (Updated October 2023)

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HCIP Grant Recipients: Spring 2023

Research & Planning, Project Accelerator, and Operational Grants submitted in Fall 2023 will be assessed no later than December 2023. This report reflects applications received in the first half of 2023.

CHANGE CAPITAL

Sustainability, Strategic and Capital Improvement Business Case Planning

Applicant: Alberta Aviation Museum Association

Amount Awarded: \$20,000.00

Proposal Summary: The Alberta Aviation Museum Association is preparing a business case to take ownership of Hangar 14 and the surrounding museum grounds including capital improvements and operations. Hangar 14 is a designated Municipal and Provincial heritage resource and houses the Alberta Aviation Museum. The City of Edmonton is moving to sell the site and buildings.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Black Arts Development Program

Applicant: Mpoe Mogale

Amount Awarded: \$4,000.00

Proposal Summary: Learning from world class instructors at Woezo Africa's Black Arts Development Program will further the practitioner's knowledge in the histories and cultural contexts behind dance movements. This experience will enrich their practice as an artist, as well as provide students with deeper insights and respect of the cultures behind these dance forms.

Project Name: UCLA Professional Program in Producing (Online)

Applicant: Zach Polis

Amount Awarded: \$4,000.00

Proposal Summary: This career development opportunity will improve the applicant's skill and knowledge of producing films. Their goal is to share heritage stories significant to Edmonton on a global level.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

A Working History of Edmonton Chinese Community: 1890-1960

Applicant: Ground Zero Productions

Amount Awarded: \$5,000.00

Summary: A search through City Directories for Edmonton shows that many of the Chinese were affiliated with Chinese restaurants, grocery stores and laundries, but they also reveal that the Chinese were employed in non-Chinese establishments or owned businesses that were not a restaurant, grocery store or laundry. Evidence of these claims are supported by Edmonton Bulletin and Edmonton Journal and mentioned in books on Edmonton’s history. Few Edmontonians would have heard of the Chinese men in the pool hall business; shoe repair, tailor and barber shop businesses; working in major hotels, city hospitals, or a cigar factory; operating rooming houses or mining coal, to name just some of them. As for the Chinese women, there is a story begging to be told, of a restaurant owner’s wife who learned to fly and co-owned an airplane for flying lessons. Other Chinese women worked as nurses, secretaries, sewers or seamstresses, and market gardeners.

This project has dual purposes:

- 1. to research and document the labour history of Edmonton Chinese people from 1890 to 1960
- 2. to highlight the businesses and work of the Chinese population in Edmonton beyond the well-covered traditional trio of laundry, restaurant, and grocery store, during this period; stories that have not been told or are under-told

Our Spirit Survived

Applicant: Cheryl Croucher

Amount Awarded: \$4,980.00

Summary: The purpose of this project is to prepare for archives a collection of oral history interviews related to the history of the Edmonton Indian Residential School.

The interviews were recorded in 2013 as part of a project initiated by The Nechi Institute. The applicant was first contracted in 2012 to conduct research on the history of the EIRS which involved reviewing newspaper files and documents at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. In 2013 Nechi reached out again to find and interview former EIRS students and other people related to the residential school with the intent of producing a manuscript about the history of EIRS. Funding ended in 2013 but the researcher continued working on the project unfunded until 2016. In late 2021 The Nechi Institute granted permission to archive the oral histories according to the wishes of the interviewees and assigned copyright to the researcher so they could publish the manuscript on the history of the EIRS as told by the people who were interviewed and the historical documents which were reviewed. The interview materials include the signed consents of the participants.

This grant will allow for the final preparation of the written transcripts according to the requests of the participants and editing of the audio recordings to match the final transcripts. Then the materials will be finalized for delivery to the Provincial Archives.

Following completion of this project the researcher anticipates seeking funding to publish the manuscript.

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“As the steward of these stories for the past decade, it will be an honour to finally release them according to the wishes of the courageous people who entrusted them to me.” Cheryl Croucher (applicant)

Prayers in Peril

Applicant: Saint Jackson

Amount Awarded: \$4,750.00

Summary: In partnership with the Edmonton Queer History Project (EQHP) this research project will compile and document Edmonton’s history of queer Muslims, and Black queer Muslims in particular. Interviews with individuals and research archival data to develop source material for a theatre work ‘Prayers in Peril’.

The research will explore the following vital questions:

- What is the history of queer Muslims in Edmonton?
- How are queer Muslims recognized and supported (or not) in Edmonton/Alberta?
- What is the extent of queer Muslim presence & representation in Edmonton?

The resulting research will be made publicly available as a historical archive through the upcoming theatre project Prayers in Peril supported by Common Ground Arts Society.

Stories of Black Women Leaders

Applicant: Sara Awatta

Amount Awarded: \$4,880.00

Summary: Funding to support pre-project activities to define the scope and objectives and build strong partnerships with community organizations through which the organizers can recruit skilled documentarians to support the project. Included in this is delivery of training, development of materials (consent forms, interview questions, guidelines), development of a project plan and timeline establishing key activities, milestones, and deliverables and to establish the technical infrastructure to support the online archive, including developing a website, database, storage system, and develop a strategy for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the archive.

PROJECT ACCELERATOR

Edmonton Black Heritage

Applicants: Anna Ouedraogo

Amount Awarded: \$10,000.00

Summary: Edmonton Black Heritage (EBH) project presents Edmonton’s rich and diverse heritage from the memories and records of the older Black generation through the computer keyboards, cameras, and paint brushes of the younger generation. Young artists will be paired with someone from the older generation and invited to produce works to share their experiences and stories. The stories, visual arts, and short videos will be shared in public spaces, online, through Africarnival and Diversity Magazine platforms, and other media in Edmonton to educate the public about Edmonton’s Black heritage.

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Journey of the Horse: History of the Mah Society of Edmonton

Applicant: The Mah Society of Edmonton

Amount Awarded: \$10,000.00

Summary: To create an exhibit of the history of the Mah’s in Edmonton through the past 100 plus years on the main floor of the Mah Building. Presented by the Mah Society of Edmonton the exhibit will feature the history of the surname “Mah”, the areas of Toishan, China from where the Mahs came from, and the timeline of the history of the Society itself spanning 100 years. The Journey of the Horse Project is not just important archival preservation for the Mah Society of Edmonton, but for the whole Chinese community at large.

At one time Edmonton was the city with the biggest population of people with the surname “Mah”. The Chinese meaning of Mah is “horse” and therefore, Edmonton was nicknamed the “corral” within the Chinese community. The original society was established to help provide support for the boys and young men that immigrated to Canada and eventually Edmonton from various Mah villages of Toishan, China.

The Mah Society of Edmonton is within Chinatown limits, has a dedicated board of volunteers and relationships with the Chinese benevolent Association, Chinatown Transformation Committee, the Chinatown Business Association and the greater Mah Societies of Canada and US. By bringing the “Journey of the Horse” project to life they hope generate traffic to Edmonton’s Chinatown and bring awareness to the establishment of Chinese Societies in Edmonton. As one of the bigger Chinese Societies in Edmonton they wish to participate in the regrowth of Edmonton’s Chinatown and bring awareness to the positivity that a “society” can bring to a community.

Making Kayfabe

Applicant: Omar Mouallem

Amount Awarded: \$10,000.00

Summary: MAKING KAYFABE is a broadcast-length (44-minute) documentary of Edmonton’s thriving indie wrestling scene, revealing the surprising identities of Albertans moonlighting as larger-than-life characters and the transformation of the documentarian from respected journalist into the villain “Fake Nooz”.

Produced by Edmonton studio Back Road Productions, this documentary is currently being filmed with funding provided by CBC’s Absolutely Canadian program and is slated to stream on CBC Gem and simultaneously air on CBC TV in late fall. The grant would fund post-production and licensing Cadence Weapon’s viral song “Connor McDavid” which pays tribute to local landmarks and sports history.

“MAKING KAYFABE will connect people across Edmonton and Canada with Edmonton’s wrestling legacy; educate those who are unaware of its rich, diverse, and thriving sports culture that goes beyond hockey and football; increase the dignity and weight of tradition for the individuals and organizations who’ve been integral to professional wrestling for decades; debunk classist myths about the maligned artform; and show the rest of the country a little-known but endlessly fascinating side of our city.”

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COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECTS

Chinatown Maps

Applicant: Emily Chu

Amount Awarded: \$18,000.00

Summary: Emily Chu will create three maps of Chinatown, centered around storytelling, which can be used as self-guided tours to learn about arts, culture, and heritage featuring 10-12 sites of interest on each map. The three maps include:

1. a current day map for the ""beginner Chinatown tourist""
2. a heritage map about how Chinatown came to be, over 100 years,
3. An arts/culture map, which focuses on public art and artist collectives in the area.

The project will include storytelling of Chinatown's identity, sayings, micro-stories, and symbolism. Lan Chan-Marples, a researcher, community member, and Chinatown knowledge keeper, we will interview shop owners, residents, organizations, and artists to develop the maps.

The project has support from multiple Chinatown organizations including the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative (CTC), the Edmonton Chinatown Multi- Cultural Centre, and staff at the Bissell Centre. I have also received volunteer offers of support and working space for me to pursue on this project.

Exploring wâhkôhtowin

Applicant: Rabia Naseer

Amount Awarded: \$20,000.00

Summary: Exploring wâhkôhtowin is a multi-player interactive board game that can be played in a variety of learning environments, including schools, libraries, and community organizations. Exploring Wahkohtowin has the potential to teach new audiences in a novel way, as no other educational game of this type currently exists in Canada. The game conveys this through the incorporation of game-play events that simulate land loss, resource access, and attempted cultural genocide. It also emphasizes the significance of ceremony, medicine, and diet in Treaty 6 Indigenous culture, both before and after contact. In collaboration with the Indigenous Knowledge and Wisdom Centre, who provided Indigenous knowledge and teachings.

Supporting Indigenous Archives

Applicant: Rene Georgopalis

Amount Awarded: \$20,000.00

Summary: The proposed project will build capacity amongst Indigenous communities and organizations to build their archives and record-keeping throughout Treaty 6, 7 and 8 and Métis lands. To support the development of Indigenous archives, the ASA will hire an Indigenous Archives Advisor who would do three main things over the life of the project:

1. Create a Needs Assessment report to gain a better understanding of needs regarding archives in Indigenous communities/organizations to inform the creation of a training course.

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2. Assist in advising archives in Indigenous communities and organizations.
3. Develop and deliver a pilot course on Indigenous Archives (Blue Quill College and in Edmonton).

Trail Worship

Applicant: Josh Languedoc

Amount Awarded: \$20,000.00

Summary: “This was an idea pitched to me by my friend Adam Erasmus. Adam has been on a journey of sobriety and healing. He has found running and walking to have become a great source of inner strength in letting go of his trauma. He started hosting community runs under the name “Trail Worship.” Adam would gather at various running spots and invite members of the community to join him. He would discuss his healing journey and encourage his participants to find their own healing as they walk/run together. With every step and every breath on the land, people are encouraged to leave what is no longer serving them in their lives.”

The ceremony will be hosted during the busy weekends of the Silver Skate and Street Performers festivals, involve a knowledge-keeper who will discuss teachings of the treaty and traditional ceremonial knowledge, and build a giant willow archway to act as the start of the trail. The project provides an educational opportunity for festival-goers to learn about Indigenous teachings and ceremonies.

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FIRE Grant Recipients: Spring 2023

For project grants received and processed in the first half of 2023. Our Fall 2023 intake is currently being processed and will have summaries available in the next reporting session.

Programming in kamâmak nihtâwikihcikan

Applicant: Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective

Awarded: \$10,000.00

Ociciwan Contemporary Art Centre is applying for funding to support our programming initiatives from May to October 2023 in kamâmak nihtâwikihcikan. Kamâmak nihtâwikihcikan intends to build a new garden in the downtown core of amiskwacîwâskahikan. This space is an invitation to co-exist, centering reflection, interaction, and care with medicine plants. Ociciwan is responsible for the space's maintenance, annual care, planting, and programs. Ociciwan aims to maintain a space that the community can access, help nurture the growing plants and help create a space for pollinators to find their way to Edmonton's urban centre. They also view this garden as a programmable space for art-related events that is free and accessible to anyone who wishes to join, including Elder talks, moosehide tanning, ghost stories, and more.

Healing Through Regalia Project

Applicant: Creating Hope Society

Awarded: \$10,000.00

This project is to facilitate, through a trauma-informed lens, a safe learning environment to participate in regalia making. Making Regalia, wearing Regalia, and dancing in Regalia have been a powerful and Integral part of Indigenous peoples' healing journey. Many Indigenous people who were part of the Indian Residential School and 60's Scoop were alienated from practicing their traditions and culture. Knowledge Keepers for this project will pass on Traditional Cultural Knowledge, such as beliefs, values, customs, rituals, history, practices, healthy relationships, and ways of life through storytelling as the participants create their regalia. The Knowledge Keepers' expertise and experience will be shared with all participants who want to gain that knowledge, so they can create their regalia and practice Pow-Wow dancing in the future and want to pass that knowledge on to others. This project's main goal will be to provide participants with the knowledge and understanding of Cultural protocols associated with the Powwow. They will learn about the several styles of Pow-wow dancing styles and create their own unique regalia needed to begin their journey on the Pow-wow trail.

Miyo pimâtisiwin (leading a good path in life)

Applicant: Charis Auger

Awarded: \$10,000.00

This project is to bring approximately 13 young people to kihcihkaw askî (Sacred Land) which "is the first urban Indigenous ceremonial and cultural grounds in Canada" in order to receive rites-of-passage teachings from Elder Marjorie Wright. This will be a one-day event that will take place on kihcihkaw askî for a Lodge/tipi set-up as well as a ceremonial fire. Lunch, snacks, water, bus tickets, blanket, kokum scarves, medicine bags and honorariums will be provided for the participants

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Indigenous Cultural Programming for Indigenous Camp - Flying Canoe Volant Festival 2024

Applicant: Native Counselling Services of Alberta

Awarded: \$10,000.00

This project is to continue an Indigenous present at the Flying Canoe festival. The Indigenous Camp at the Flying Canoe has become a venue to change the colonial narrative of our stories and imagine a more respectful and equitable future together. This will be to continue at the Indigenous Camp such as animating Reconcili-Action activities and art installations, engaging people in Friendship Dances, story telling, performance of traditional songs and dances as well as contemporary music by Indigenous artists.

Kokums Helper Round Dance

Applicant: Kokum's Helper Society

Awarded: \$10,000.00

Kokum's Helper Society was opened with the goal of building and running an Indigenous Palliative Care Centre that is culturally aware, trauma-informed and Indigenous-led. This project is to launch the Kokum's Helper Society with a round dance to honour the people who have passed without culturally relevant care. It will be held centrally to ensure access to urban Indigenous people. Hosting a Round Dance will show the inner city a sign of care and compassion; indicating my desire to work with and for them, and honoring and remembering relatives who have passed. This shows reciprocity and reflects my desire to be part of the community by providing songs, feast, and giveaway to those who may not have access to ceremonies.

Rippling Winds

Applicant: Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre

Awarded: \$10,000.00

Rippling Winds is a project to host art, storytelling, and cultural teaching Circles for Indigenous seniors with connectivity, healing, and growth as objectives while being sensitive to Indigenous seniors who have experienced adversities. Through Circles, participants will engage traditional knowledge and skills in land-based workshops, participate in intergenerational events, sharing circles, and the potential creation of resources to contribute to toolkits, videos, and/or audio recordings. Circles will provide a safe and supportive space for participants to express themselves creatively and incorporate trauma-informed approaches to ensure that the art-making process is empowering and healing. It will help promote cultural continuity, build intergenerational relationships, and foster community resilience. Additionally, the project contributes to addressing social isolation, promoting health and well-being among Indigenous seniors, and honouring the Medicine Wheel teachings.

From Our Elders

Applicant: Chad Whitford

Awarded: \$10,000.00

"From Our Elders" is a project aimed at capturing and preserving the cultural knowledge and heritage of nêhiyawak elders and speakers in the amiskowaciwâskahikan area through short video interviews in nêhiyawêwin, the plains cree language. They'll be featuring prominent elders

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such as Reuben Quinn, nôhkom Florence Kazony, and Wayne Jackson. The videos, ranging from 1 to 12 minutes will be available on platforms like Instagram, YouTube, and TikTok. They will be using modern techniques for a more appealing language experience for younger generations with the goal of bridging the gap between the elder and younger generations by preserving their stories and experiences.