

**Dear Mayor Sohi, Councillors, and Citizens of Edmonton,**

On behalf of the **Edmonton Historical Board**, I am pleased to submit our **2023 Annual Report**, as approved by the Board on February 28, 2024. Included in the report, you'll find a summary of this past year's activities of the Board and our work to deliver on our mandate to promote and advocate for the preservation of Edmonton's heritage.

The Edmonton Historical Board (EHB) was established as a Council Committee under the Edmonton Historical Board Bylaw (Bylaw 13601). The bylaw defines the Board's mandate as "...[to] advise Council on historical issues and heritage policy; and to encourage, promote, and advocate for the preservation and safeguarding of historical properties, resources, communities, and documentary heritage." The EHB has a strong connection to the history of this city. The Board's timeline stretches back to 1947 with the creation of the Archives & Landmarks Committee then renamed the Edmonton Historical Board in 1966. In our 75-year history, we have been at the forefront of preserving the history and memories of our city. From the first register of historic resources in 1984 to the present, the City has now identified over 1000 historic properties, landmarks, and features across the city, and has protected over 184 Municipal Historic Resources. For our part, the Board has been pleased to support this process, recommending unique properties for the **Inventory of Historic Resources**, those then becoming eligible for designation as **Municipal Historic Resources**. While our focus on conservation only grows with the passage of time, the pressures threatening the conservation of heritage resources remain the same.

This was the third year since the re-organization of the Board's committees and their areas of focus. This streamlining of work is realizing success with an enhanced emphasis on Council's mandate for the Board to provide advice on historical issues and the city's-built heritage. In my view one of our main challenges this year has been the fact that the entire Board including myself as Chair are relatively new at their positions. Most of the Board started their appointments in 2021 in the deepest part of the pandemic. We have only met once or twice in person but many times virtually. We now have a better understanding of the issues, the processes that we utilize, the challenges that we face and the opportunities in front of us. The Board is mindful of the vast diversity of stories and heritage that are woven through thousands of years of history in Edmonton. Over the past several years we have taken several positive steps forward, including engagement with the broader

community and experts to provide us with advice and meaningful recommendations on the path forward.

In this past year, our sub-committees have worked diligently to meet our mandate. We continue to build our relationship with Council, Administration and heritage partners including the Edmonton Heritage Council and Edmonton & District Historical Society. I am particularly excited about our Planning and Policy Committee's work on the relationship between preservation of built heritage and climate change action, through a jurisdictional scan of existing literature and the preparation of an information guide.

In July 2023 we held the first Historical Plaques Presentation in several years as a few had been cancelled due to the pandemic. The event was held at the historic Pendennis Building in downtown Edmonton and highlighted the presentation of 12 new plaques to newly designated buildings. There were also presentations that explained the mandate of the Edmonton Historical Board, its rich history and the process of having a heritage building designated as a Municipal Historic Resource. It was truly exciting to see the well attended event go extremely well.

In the coming year, we expect to refine our processes and structure, create new pathways for citizen engagement and collaboration with stakeholders, and launch several initiatives to better support and advise Council on the conservation of Edmonton's heritage. Our heritage is our legacy. **Protecting that legacy is our responsibility to you and the citizens of Edmonton.** I thank my Board colleagues for their dedication to this task, and as always, we look forward to future engagement with you to fulfill that mandate.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Rees', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Rees
Chair, Edmonton Historical Board

Purpose of the Annual Report

This annual report has been developed to meet the requirements of Bylaw 18156 - Council Committees Bylaw, which sets out the annual reporting requirements for Council Committees. Under Bylaw 18156, all Council Committees will:

- Report to Council at least annually.
- Approve a work plan that aligns with Council's strategic objectives and the Council Committee's mandate, including a reporting of what resources were provided in the previous year and the anticipated resource requirements for the upcoming year.
- Report to Council and during its annual report to Council, a Council Committee must present the work plan as well as a summary of the status of the previous year's work plan.

Mandate of Edmonton Historical Board (EHB)

The mandate of the EHB will be to:

- (a) provide advice to Council regarding matters relating to City of Edmonton historical issues and civic heritage policies; and
- (b) encourage and promote the preservation and safeguarding of historical properties, resources, communities, and documentary heritage.

Report on 2023 Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

Goal 1: Review of Inventory Applications

Key Results:

- Make recommendations to City Council on additions to the Inventory of Historic Places to better preserve Edmonton's historic resources.

Summary of Progress:

- Through the Historic Resources Review Panel (HRRP), the Board reviewed and recommended the addition of six new structures to the Inventory:
 - Schuetze Residence

- Montague Residence
- McComb Residence
- Griesbach Barracks Physical Training Building
- Elizabeth Bell Residence
- Burley/Browne Cottage

Goal 2: Plaques Creation

Key Results:

- Through the Historic Plaques Committee (HPC), the Board oversees the work required to complete the EHB's plaque creation and installation that includes text writing, coordination with property owners, coordination with plaque manufacturers, and coordination with plaque installers.

Summary of Progress:

- Plaque recipients continue to be notified of their nomination.
- The board continues its engagement with City Council.
- Eight plaques were written, fabricated, and installed in collaboration with property owners.
- The 46th Annual Historic Plaques Ceremony event was planned by the HPC and hosted in July at the Pendennis Building on Jasper Avenue. It was coupled with a talk titled Demystifying Heritage Preservation and was well attended - including by a sitting MLA representing the Edmonton area. This event was held in conjunction with the Doors Open and Historic Edmonton Festival, coordinated by the Edmonton and District Historical Society.

Goal 3: Edmonton's Architectural Heritage Website

Key Results:

- Maintain the award-winning website detailing Edmonton's architectural history.

Summary of Progress:

- Acquired new domains from GoDaddy.
- Commissioned the Devenio company to design a new website and we are in close communication with them.

- A list of improvement ideas is being generated by the Board of ways to update the website's design, navigation, and content to further enhance visitor experience.
- Initiative is being taken from Board members to research and add additional neighborhood histories.
- Edmonton's Architectural Heritage Website continues to be visited by thousands of people annually from Edmonton and around the world.

Goal 4: Historian Laureate Support

Key Results:

- Continue supporting Edmonton's Historian Laureates program (the first in a Canadian Municipality) in their role as the City's official ambassador on historical matters and promotion of the history of the city and its citizens.

Summary of Progress

- The Historian Laureates engaged with the community through social media platform(s) (supported by the Edmonton Historical Board and the Edmonton Heritage Council).
- The EHB collaborated in the development of a work plan, writing activities and public presentations with the Historian Laureates and the Edmonton Heritage Council.

Goal 5: Advising Council Formally Through Meetings, Briefings, and/or Letters When Necessary

Key Results:

- Continue to collaborate with and advise Council through maintaining a professional rapport with Council members and/or sending briefings or letters.

Summary of Progress:

- Scheduled and attended regular meetings with Councillors.
- Communicated with and met informally with the designated EHB Councilor Liaison - currently Councillor Anne Stevenson.
- Sending advisory letters to Council.

Goal 6: Advancing New Research Topics

Key Results:

- Stay abreast of trends in historical preservation and how they relate to Edmonton.

Summary of Progress:

- Taking initiative to identify and bring attention to the EHB any new research topics. This resulted in the creation of a document titled “Heritage Preservation and Climate Change Information Guide.”
- Monitored rezoning applications.
- Managed the Historic Bridges database.

In addition, the following was also completed by EHB:

- Strategic planning meetings were held with the Edmonton and District Historical Society, and the Edmonton Heritage Council.
- The EHB took part in the Doors Open Historic Edmonton Festival event in July.

2023 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Motions Meeting

Summary

Meeting	Summary - Key Topics and Motions
January	<p><u>Council Liaison meetings</u> Steve and John met with Councillor Rice. Question regarding the Indigenous Ward names and if this was the work of the Naming Committee. Kathryn explained that the Naming Committee was consulted but a special committee composed of Indigenous Elders and Community Leaders selected the names at Council’s request. Steve passed along this information.</p> <p><u>Policy and Planning Committee</u> Motion: That the Chair of the EHB contact David Ridley to request regular meetings be held between the EHB and EHC, with the first in either Q1 or Q2 2023.</p> <p><u>Historic Plaques Committee</u> Motion : That the Edmonton Historic Board work with EDHS to have one evening during doors open to present the plaques which will include a presentation on historic designation.</p>

	<p><u>Historic Resources Review Panel</u></p> <p>Motion: That the Edmonton Historical Board recommend that the McComb Residence, located at 9848-88 Avenue NW, be added to the Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton.</p>
February	<p><u>Chair Update and Report</u></p> <p>Motion: That the Edmonton Historical Board approve Harrison as the EHB's representative to the Naming Committee for the 2023-22 Term.</p> <p>Motion: That the EHB approve the attached EHB 2022-2023 Annual Report attachments: Activities, Work Plan, and Budget for City Council</p> <p>Motion: That the EHB approve the addition of the Historians Laureate Annual Report as attachment 4 to EHB's Annual Report.</p> <p>Motion: That the EHB approve the proposed quote of \$6250.00 from Berlin Communications for facilitating the EHB's upcoming Strategic Planning session.</p> <p><u>Historic Plaques Committee</u></p> <p>Motion: That the Edmonton Historical Board approved the 2022 plaque texts Elizabeth and photos as presented.</p>
March	<p><u>Policy & Planning Committee</u></p> <p>Motion: That the EHB hire Curio Studio based on their quote to carry out the work for graphic design of the "Heritage Preservation and Climate Change Information Guide" at the March EHB meeting for the amount of \$1,549.80.</p> <p><u>Administrative Support</u></p> <p>Analytics for the Edmonton's Architectural Heritage website -is provided so EHB members can get a sense of what the website's use has been like. Also to note that people accessing the site are not just from Edmonton or Alberta, but from around the world.</p>
April	<p><u>Chair Report & Update</u></p> <p>2023-24 Roster approval This is Carrie's last meeting, and two new members joining the Board- Rose Herman and Darren Wagner. Roster to be approved now with an amendment made when the new members select the Committee(s) they would like to join.</p> <p>Motion: That the EHB approve the roster as presented.</p> <p>Motion: That the Board approve the meeting dates for the 2023-24 Term</p> <p><u>Historic Resources Review Panel</u></p> <p>Motion: That the Edmonton Historical Board recommend the Griesbach Barracks Physical Training Building, located at 2775 Sir Arthur Currie Way NW (formerly 14310 - 109 Street NW) for inclusion in the Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton.</p> <p><u>Policy & Planning Committee</u></p> <p>Motion: That the Edmonton Historical Board approve the final version of the</p>

	<p>'Heritage Preservation and Climate Change Information Guide' information guide and approve the guide to be shared with City Council starting May 2023 and the wider public later in 2023.</p> <p><u>Historic Plaques Committee</u></p> <p>Motion: That the Edmonton Historical Board approve the budget for the Doors Open event of up to \$15,000, as well as approve the final location for the Doors Open Event to be at the Pendennis Building.</p> <p><u>Naming Committee</u></p> <p>New naming policy approved in 2022; development of new policies and policies to be more inclusive and diverse. No new names were reviewed last night. Motion was approved and the Committee will no longer use the approved reserved names list. Going forward it will be used for reference only as it does not support the new policy.</p> <p><u>City Archivist's Report</u></p> <p>Working to have a 90 day staff support until the EHB Administrator position can be posted.</p> <p><u>Administrative Support</u></p> <p>Sonia submitted her resignation with her last day being April 27, 2023.</p>
May	<p><u>Chair Report and Update</u></p> <p>Welcome and introductions of new Board Members - Rose Herman and Darren Wagner.</p> <p><u>City Archivist</u></p> <p>Update on replacing the Coordinator position - the position description update has been submitted for approval - which will then form the basis for the request to fill the position which needs to be approved at the Deputy City Manager level - it's a process which takes some time. I will also be asking for a temporary staff support person to help with the Board work.</p> <p><u>Historic Plaques Committee</u></p> <p>Contract signed for the event space at the Pendennis for July 5 at 7PM. Draft of Presentation is started - will be completed before the event. There will be catering. Invitations to go out soon.</p> <p>Architectural Heritage Website - Kathryn Ivany will contact three contractors to add more content to the website - will launch initiatives to get other neighborhood histories added.</p>
June	<p><u>Heritage Unit</u></p> <p>Designation bylaw for the McGrath mansion approved June 13, 2023.</p> <p>Formal notice of intention to designate given to City Council regarding The Boardwalk and Revlon buildings downtown. Gives estimated timeline of mid-October for the final designation bylaws to be given to city council.</p> <p>Provided an update regarding the current refurbishment project of Revlon</p>

	<p>buildings. Owners' investment to this project exceeds \$40 million. The historic rehabilitation work exceeds \$1 million, so the heritage unit is providing a maximum grant of \$500,000 for each of these two buildings. Revlon and Boardwalk project will be the first project to be applicable for a new tax program for non-residential heritage buildings. Will mean property tax will not be increased for a 10 year period, and owners' eligible for tax rebates of any increases during this 10 year period.</p> <p><u>Naming Committee</u> Some recent approval items include 1st time naming of roadways, parkspaces, etc by development companies. Recent application from the Laurel Neighborhood to rename a parkspace to Harrison Kopihue Park to celebrate the Chilean heritage of community members in the area, as Kopihue is the National flower of Chile.</p> <p><u>Historic Resources Review Panel</u> Motion: For the board to include the Scheutze residence (9852 76 avenue NW) in the Inventory for Historic Resources. Motion: For the board to include the Burley/Brown Cottage (9653 84th avenue NW) in the Inventory for Historic Resources.</p> <p><u>Administrative Support</u> Introduction of Kirsten Clarkson, current admin support, taking over for Sonia. Discussed Dyde House Documentary. The EHB has been listed as a producer for this documentary, as EHB funded part of the documentary costs.</p>
August	<p><u>Policy & Planning Committee</u> Motion: That the request for funding up to \$1,600.00 for Elyse's expenses detailed in the budget request to attend the National Trust Conference in Ottawa this fall.</p> <p><u>Historic Plaques Committee</u> Report on the Plaque event - successful - and people have expressed interest in having their houses designated. Had MLA and Councilor Stevenson attend. This would be fun to run again - based on the budget and capacity of the Committee. The Committee welcomed two new members (Rose and Darren) and they have had a mini-meeting with Elizabeth to cover the terms of reference and expectations of new members.</p> <p><u>Administrative Support</u> Posting has gone up for the EHB Coordinator position (internal search) - should be a faster process.</p>
September	<p><u>Chair Report & Update</u> Stephen announced the resignation of Rose Herman from the Board.</p>

	<p><u>Naming Committee</u> Oliver renaming suggested Wihkwêntôwin ᐃᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ or circle of friends - still needs to go to Council.</p> <p>Dealing with Michener Park redevelopment and some Blatchford renamings. Sea Plane lane. Michael Roston Park Natural Area - natural waste water area (Epcor). Report going to Council on their processes.</p> <p><u>Administrative Support</u> Internal posting on the position of coordinator - going ahead - possibly 4-6 weeks before replacement is hired.</p>
October	<p><u>Heritage Unit</u> Addition to designation list - Field log house - Peter Caron is being consulted.</p> <p>Demolition list increased by Kirkness Residence with association with Metis family - Admin work with the new owner was not fruitful.</p> <p>Question about province getting involved in the Kirkness house - original River Lot construction - province generally won't designate against owner wishes. David to follow up.</p> <p>Motion: That the Edmonton Historical Board recommend to the Urban Form and Economy department that the Elizabeth Bell Residence at 11219 - 70th Street NW be added to the City of Edmonton Inventory of Historical Resources.</p> <p><u>Administrative Support</u> Posting for the coordinator position was not successful in finding an internal candidate - will be reposting.</p>
November	<p><u>Heritage Unit</u> Request from Councillor about Kirkness Residence (former metis family residence) in Highlands slated for demolition - David met with Councillor - demolition permit issued.</p> <p><u>Historic Resources Review Panel</u> Motion: That the Board recommend to administration that the Inventory of Historical Resources be amended to add the Montague Residence at 9934 - 84th Avenue (Strathcona).</p> <p><u>Administrative Support</u> HR still has not reposted the coordinator position.</p>
December	No meeting was held.

Membership and Appointment Information

Edmonton Historical Board (EHB) 2023-24 Membership List			
Name of Appointee	1st Appointed	Term Ends	Max Term
Elyse Abma-Bouma	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2024	2029
John Beamish	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2024	2030
Joshua Budinski	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2024	2030
Elizabeth Cytko	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2024	2029
Rose Herman - Resigned Sep. 2023	May 1, 2023		
James McTague	May 1, 2019	Apr 30, 2024	2027
Stephen Rees - Chair	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2024	2029
Harrison Sheremeta	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2024	2029
Darren Wagner	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2026	2031
Shalene Williams - Vice-Chair	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2024	2029
Cindy Yan	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2024	2030

Reports and Communications

Reports by EHB to Council:

Not applicable.

Correspondence submitted to Council:

1. Motion for Inventory addition letter (McComb Residence - 9848 - 88 Avenue NW) - January 26, 2023.
2. Motion for Inventory addition letter (Griesbach Barracks Physical Training Building - 2775 Sir Aurther Currie Way NW (formerly 14310 - 109 Street NW)) - April 27, 2023.

3. Heritage and Climate Change: Achieving Climate Goals in Edmonton information guide - May 2023.
4. EHB OP12 Heritage Grant Program Cancellation Option Letter - February 2, 2024.

EHB requests to speak to a Standing Committee of Council:

1. Not applicable.

Concluding Remarks

Not applicable.