

## Edmonton Historical Board - 2024 Annual Report

### Message from the Chair

Dear Mayor Sohi, Councillors, and Citizens of Edmonton,

On behalf of the Edmonton Historical Board, I am pleased to submit our 2024 Annual Report. 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) is established as a Council Committee under the Edmonton Historical Board Bylaw (Bylaw 20674). The mandate of the EHB is to:

- provide advice to Council regarding matters relating to City of Edmonton historical issues and civic heritage policies; and
- encourage and promote 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 1,000 historic properties, landmarks, and features across the city, and has protected over 160 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 preservation of heritage resources remain the same.

This was the fourth 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. Most of the Board started their appointments in 2021 in the deepest part of the pandemic and we have four new members that started their two-year term this past year. I feel that the Board now has 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

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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. We are currently working with the Edmonton Heritage Council and the City of Edmonton in looking at ways we can work together more effectively.

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 a number of new ideas and our Historical Plaques Committee's work on our website rebuild.

We also have a new Historian Laureate, Donna Coombs-Montrose who is involved in a number of projects and we look forward to working with in the future.

In July 2024, we held the Historical Plaques Presentation in unison with the Edmonton and District Historical Society's Historic Festival and Doors Open Event. The celebration was held at the newly designated St. Luke's Anglican Church and highlighted the presentation of eight 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 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, increase the collaboration with the Edmonton Heritage Council and other 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'S. Lee' or similar, written in a cursive style.

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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.
- During its annual report to Council, present the work plan as well as a summary of the status of the previous year's work plan.

### Report on 2024 Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

Goals and Results	
<b>Goal 1</b>	Advising Council on historic resources that should be added to the Inventory as well as building greater awareness of City of Edmonton historical issues and civic heritage policies while communicating about emergent issues and priorities with Council.
<b>Key Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased awareness among the Board's members on good governance and the Board's role in supporting Council to achieve its key priorities.</li><li>• HRRP evaluated and then added six historic buildings and one landscape to the Inventory.</li><li>• The Board also advised Council on five other heritage preservation issues through letters to Council members and discussions with our Council Advisor(s)</li></ul>
<b>Summary of Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Board held two meetings to discuss alignment of heritage interests with the Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) with City and EHC Council representatives on how to best meet the needs of the</li></ul>

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	<p>community and provide significant insights to Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Board submitted six letters to Council advising on the preservation of different properties.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting the preservation and promotion of built heritage in Edmonton.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distributed at the recognition ceremony eight historic plaques for owners of designated properties.</li> <li>• Completed the nomination process for the next year's plaques.</li> <li>• Held an information session on the preservation of historic buildings and the designation process as part of the Open Doors festival.</li> </ul>
<b>Summary of Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Researched, wrote in collaboration with the owners, produced, and coordinated the installation of eight historic plaques around Edmonton.</li> <li>• Planned for and facilitated the annual Historic Plaque Presentation Ceremony (47 ceremonies to date) with City Councillors and Alberta MLAs in attendance.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 3</b>	Promoting Edmonton's history.
<b>Key Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Added content to the Board's website detailing structures, neighbourhood, and architectural styles found in Edmonton's Historic Resources.</li> <li>• Policy and Planning Committee has been working on two new projects: one to map Edmonton's hidden histories and another to build a network of heritage organizations to meet and share experiences.</li> </ul>
<b>Summary of Progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four additional structures were added to the website (two structures and two neighbourhoods) and the Board has planned for future additions.</li> <li>• Policy and Planning Committee has identified stakeholders to be included in the network meeting to be undertaken in 2025.</li> <li>• Research on IT resources and consultants has been undertaken for the mapping project.</li> </ul>
<b>Goal 4</b>	Support for the Historian Laureate
<b>Key Results</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Successfully ran a nomination process and held interviews with three candidates before selecting Donna Coombs-Montrose as the 2024-2026 Historian Laureate.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Completed an orientation and work plan for the first year term.</li><li>• Received two quarterly reports from Donna on her activities.</li></ul>
<b>Summary of progress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Held two public events as well as the Council protocol item (August 20, 2024).</li><li>• Smaller events with presentations on local history held for various community and social clubs and business learning activities including the Alberta Labour History Institute, Edmonton Public Library, local schools, and teaching at City Hall School.</li><li>• Participation and then leading public trivia events sponsored by the Edmonton Heritage Council's ECAMP: Edmonton: City as Museum Project - the second focusing on black history as a precursor to Black History month activities she will be leading and participating in.</li><li>• Made presentations to the Board and Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC).</li><li>• Attending conferences and political meetings and summits like the Building Inclusive Communities a Common Vision (in Edmonton).</li><li>• Planning for Black History Month activities at Royal Alberta Museum (RAM) and served as Adjudicator for Black History Month oversight committee.</li></ul>

In addition, the following was also completed by EHB:

- The EHB took part in the Doors Open Historic Edmonton Festival event in July sponsored by the Edmonton and District Historical Society with over 50 heritage and community partners.

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### 2024 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Motions Meeting Summary

Meeting	Summary - Key Topics and Motions
<b>January</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Heritage Conservation Unit Report was presented.</li> <li>- The eight 2023 Designations were presented and discussed.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Magrath Mansion (6240 Ada Boulevard)</li> <li>- The Boardwalk (10310 - 102 Avenue)</li> <li>- Revillon Building (10310 - 102 Avenue)</li> <li>- Hawrelak Park Pavilions (9330 Groat Road):                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Main Pavillion</li> <li>- Boat House</li> <li>- Picnic Shelter 1</li> <li>- Picnic Shelter 2</li> <li>- Picnic Shelter 3</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>- Mitchell Norenberg hired and introduced as the new EHB Coordinator.</li> <li>- <b>Motion passed:</b> that the Gilpin Residence (10525 - 129 Street) be added to the inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton.</li> <li>- Motion passed: The EHB to work with EDHS to have one evening during the Doors Open Event to present the plaques which will include a presentation on historic designation.</li> </ul>
<b>February</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The City decided to terminate the current Strathcona Public Market building (10325 - 83 Avenue) tenant's lease due to conditions with the structural components of the building. EHB unanimously agreed that it will draft and send a letter to City Council identifying concerns and advising the preservation of the building.</li> <li>- 2023 Annual Report submitted to City Council.</li> </ul>
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Harrison Sheremeta reported on the two City Council meetings he attended on March 5 and 6. Council inquired about the Board's thoughts on the potential EHB/Edmonton Heritage Council alignment - Harrison answered that it was nothing the Board fully supported right now as more investigation is required.</li> <li>- Discussed Council decision not to defund the EHC due to community support.</li> <li>- Recruitment efforts for Historian Laureate.</li> </ul>
<b>April</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hangar 11 April 22, 2024 fire - historic plaque manufacture placed on hold.</li> <li>- Historian laureate Interviews were conducted on April 2, 2024 - Donna Coombs-Montrose successful candidate.</li> </ul>
<b>May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome was made for new members: Michael Aytenfis, Mark Minenko,</li> </ul>

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	<p>Kyle Schole, and Vanessa Zembal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Motion passed:</b> recommend Alexander Circle (13301 - 103 Avenue) be added to the Inventory of Historic Resources in Edmonton and that consideration be given to including the trees bordering the park space in the road right of way in the property description prior to designation.</li> </ul>
<b>June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Field Log House (11305 - 68 Street): designated as a Municipal Historic Resource by Council on June 11.</li> <li>- <b>Motion passed:</b> to recommend having the Nonnecke Residence (9402 - 95 Street) be added to the Inventory of Historic Resources.</li> </ul>
<b>August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Former Royal Alberta Museum Demolition Letter asking Council to again contact the Alberta infrastructure minister and request them to rethink the demolition discussed.</li> <li>- <b>Motion passed:</b> recommendation letter to designate the Archbishop's Palace (10044 - 113 Street NW) as a Municipal Historical Resource under Part 3, Section 26 of the <i>Alberta Historical Resources Act</i> as the financial compensation required under Part 3, Section 28(1) may be limited given the permitted uses in the existing Urban Facilities Zone.</li> <li>- <b>Motion passed:</b> the Policy and Planning Committee make a recommendation to the Board's next meeting to send a letter of support for the River Valley Planning Modernization Initiative.</li> <li><u>Motion passed:</u> that the Policy and Planning Committee recommend that the Edmonton Historical Board establish a working group with City Administration to explore the option of realigning its work into that of the Edmonton Heritage Council.</li> <li>- Two ghost plaque nominations received and approved: Edmonton International Speedway (between 14416 - 130 Street and 14420 - 130 Street) and Campbell's Furniture Exchange (10135 - 100A Street).</li> <li>- Updating the EHB's land acknowledgment.</li> </ul>
<b>September</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Request for acknowledgement of receipt of the Former Royal Alberta Museum Building Letter (August 30, 2024) submitted to the Mayor and City Council.</li> <li>- Behrends manufactured historic plaques received and installation being coordinated.</li> </ul>
<b>October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Councillor Sarah Hamilton appointed as the new Councillor Liaison to the EHB - replacing Councillor Anne Stevenson.</li> <li>Motion passed: that the Tusor Residence (10965 - 125 Street NW) be added to the Inventory of Historic Resources.</li> <li>- <b>Motion passed:</b> that Harcourt House (10215 - 112 Street NW) be added to the Inventory of Historic Resources.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Motion passed:</b> Approval of \$12,500 USD for David Panzarella, President of Devenio, to work on and complete his Discovery and Backend Migration recommendations for the EHB website by the end of 2024.</li> <li>- Donna Coombs-Montrose, Historian Laureate, provided a report on her recent Halifax conference as well as an update on other projects she is working on.</li> </ul>
<b>November</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The updated 2024 EHB budget report was presented and discussed.</li> <li>- <b>Motion passed:</b> motion: that the Board Chair and Chair of the Policy and Planning Committee initiate discussions with the MacLab Development Group to determine the group's future plans for the site and potentially sponsor and fund the development of a permanent location to house Edmonton's historical groups on the current Gold Mark Bar site farm house and surrounding area.</li> <li>- <b>Motion passed:</b> that the administration donate the EHB records to the City of Edmonton Archives as per the record retention schedule, of administrative minutes, reports, and other material dated between 2005-2022 ready for archiving.</li> </ul>

### Membership and Appointment Information

Edmonton Historical Board (EHB) 2024-25 Membership List			
Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Max Term
Michael Aytenfisu	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032
John Beamish	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Joshua Budinski	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2026	2030
Elizabeth Cytko	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2026	2029
James McTague	May 1, 2019	Apr 30, 2024	2027
Mark Minenko	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032
Stephen Rees - Chair	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2024	2029
Kyle Schole	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032
Harrison Sheremeta - Vice Chair	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2024	2029
Darren Wagner	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2025	2031
Vanessa Zembal	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2026	2032



### Reports and Communications

#### Reports by EHB to Council:

1. Not applicable.

#### Correspondence submitted to Council:

1. OP12 Heritage Grant Program Cancellation Option Letter - February 2, 2024.
2. 1909 Strathcona Public Market Building Letter - March 11, 2024.
3. Joint District Planning Letter - June 22, 2024.
4. Former Royal Alberta Museum Building Letter - August 30, 2024.
5. Archbishop's Palace Designation Recommendation Letter - August 30, 2024.
6. River Valley Planning Modernization (RVMP) - September 1, 2024.
7. Former Royal Alberta Museum Building Letter (August 30, 2024) request for acknowledgment of receipt - September 26, 2024.

#### EHB requests to speak to a Standing Committee of Council:

1. Attendance with Edmonton Heritage Council at City Council (EHC) meeting around the alignment of the mandates and functions of the Board and EHC. - March 5, 6, 2024.
2. Elizabeth Cytco represented the EHB at the Council protocol item recognizing the appointment of the new Historian laureate. - August 20, 2024.