



Thank you for this opportunity to present this proposal.

My name is Lan Chan-Marples and I serve on the board of directors of the Edmonton Heritage Council and also as the chair of the Heritage Council's grants development committee.

I'm also joined today in the gallery by fellow Heritage Council directors and committee members [this may also include those we consulted with who aren't EHC directors]. EHC Executive Director David Ridley sends his regrets for being unavailable to co-present today.

Connecting to Edmonton's stories



The Council was founded in 2009, a key recommendation in the Art of Living. EHC was created to unify and support Edmonton's heritage organizations in preserving and interpreting Edmonton's history and heritage. In spirit and practice, EHC's mandate is to meaningfully connect all Edmontonians with Edmonton's story. So our role goes far beyond connecting heritage organizations into a collective niche.

To date, EHC has worked on several initiatives to make these connections between Edmonton's story and citizens, such as the Living Local Neighbourhood Arts & Heritage program as well as cultural community salons and an online Edmonton heritage map.

We're looking forward to working on the next stage of the Edmonton Museums Strategy. This proposal is a further and distinct step that includes the city's museum sector but extends beyond it to improve the quality and quantity of heritage research, interpretation and programs about Edmonton. This will help raise the profile of Edmonton beyond its boundaries and compel people to come and live here.

Heritage grant investment: 2 streams



\$150,000: To stabilize & sustain

- Professional development, staffing, public hours
- Reasonable expenses for operations

\$125,000: To create knowledge & innovative programs

- Projects with significant connections to Edmonton's story
- Research & publication
- Interpretive & educational programs
- Commemorate significant anniversaries

In proposing a heritage grants investment project, we believe we can greatly enhance and energize current efforts to connect people with Edmonton's story.

There are two funding streams: the first is for operating resources for Edmonton's heritage organizations and the second, project-based grants.

The operating support is intended to provide assistance to stabilize the operations of not-for-profit heritage organizations— not only museums, but also archives and historical societies, as well as cultural community organizations that have programs that connect their cultural heritage to the Edmonton story.

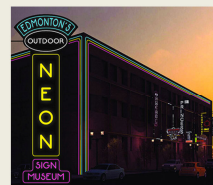
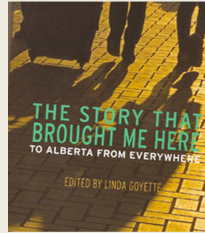
Like the result of arts organization operating grants administered through Edmonton Arts Council, we know that heritage organizations are excellent in leveraging support to create benefit for Edmontonians. For example, if support was even 10% of a heritage organization's total operating budget, our partners have indicated this can have a significant effect in stabilizing and sustaining their organizations.

The project-based stream is to support projects specifically about Edmonton's heritage and history that result in public programs and publicly interpretation. Heritage organizations could apply for this investment, but importantly this would reach beyond traditional heritage organizations to community organizations and individuals who want to make a significant contribution to knowledge and interpretation related to Edmonton.

We also see this project stream supporting the creation of cultural community collections at the City of Edmonton Archives. This addresses another Art of Living

Consultation & research

- Lack of Edmonton specific projects
- Minimal or no access to operations support
- Diminishing returns for small organizations



Art of Living recommendation #11 establishes a museum operating grant program, but we propose, from the onset, support for a wider range of “heritage” organizations and activities which includes museums, but also archives, historical societies and cultural heritage organizations. These all contribute significantly to interpreting Edmonton and providing public service. Organizations that do not have a heritage mandate but wish to pursue projects that contribute publically to telling Edmonton’s story would be eligible for the project stream.

Leading to this proposal, we looked at all levels and types of funding available to see where Edmonton’s heritage organizations can apply for funding and whether it was sufficient.

Some key findings of this research was:

- Edmonton’s museums and heritage organizations have almost no access to operational funding (outside of the EAC’s Arts and Museum Facility Grant).
- There is a disparity between Edmonton’s larger and smaller heritage institutions. Lack of professional staff and consistent access to funding prevents smaller institutions from having the greatest impact for Edmontonians.
- Project resources are more accessible, but few heritage organizations are focusing on creating and presenting knowledge specifically related to Edmonton.

With the City of Edmonton’s commitment to sports, arts and multicultural organizations through Community Investment Programs, we’re delighted to present this proposal to pilot the potential of including Edmonton’s diverse history and heritage in this commitment.

Benefit to Edmontonians

- Improved citizen experience of Edmonton's heritage and history:
 - Improved interpretation
 - Greater range of research on Edmonton's heritage, particularly with those whose stories are not documented and presented
 - Access to these stories through technology

As indicated, we believe this proposal will encourage a wide range of organizations to look at how they can contribute to Edmonton's story.

In consulting with the heritage sector on this proposal, organizations indicated that this support will increase their capacity to serve citizens, particularly in improving professional standards of presentation, research and documentation on Edmonton's story.

Through this proposal, we can also improve accountability and innovation through both operating and project streams. As well, organizations will need to show a direct connection between Edmonton's heritage and community engagement in their work, as well as indicate how their work reflects Edmonton's diversity.

Connect to initiatives

- Support citizen & organization heritage initiatives- publications, research, significant anniversaries
- Related City of Edmonton initiatives
- Edmonton Museums Strategy- support for collaboration and partnerships



This proposal is an important means of enhancing the Edmonton museums strategy, as well as other initiatives that curate the Edmonton story. For museums and other heritage organizations, this investment will increase their capacity to collaborate and contribute to the Edmonton museums strategy.

But it also ensures that creative work on Edmonton's story won't be limited to museum organizations. This is part of the wider invitation to Edmontonians to do their part in joining their story, their heritage, their history to Edmonton's.

Thank you.