

Edmonton Heritage Council Annual Update

Recommendation

That the September 18, 2019, Edmonton Heritage Council report CR_7341, be received for information.

Executive Summary

- This report provides an update on the Edmonton Heritage Council's (EHC) key programs and initiatives for 2018/2019.
- This report is to be received for information, as per annual reporting requirements of the Edmonton Heritage Council to the Community and Public Services Committee of City Council.
- Edmonton Heritage Council's mission is *to connect people to the stories of their city* through EHC's support and leadership in **preserving, researching, interpreting, and documenting** Edmonton's history.
- The work of the EHC aligns with the City Vision and Strategic Plan, and the goals and principles.
- The Heritage Council receives annual operating and Community Investment funding from the City of Edmonton, detailed in a Service Agreement extended to the end of 2019. EHC and City Administration have drafted a new Service Agreement effective 2020, aligned with City Council's approval and allocation related to *Connections and Exchanges: A 10 Year Plan for Transforming Arts and Heritage in Edmonton*.
- EHC is working to implement the heritage-related recommendations in *Connection and Exchanges*, working with Edmonton Arts Council and ArtsHab Edmonton
- The work of the EHC directly aligns to the corporate outcome that Edmontonians are connected to the city in which they live, work, and play.

Report

The Edmonton Heritage Council was established in 2009, addressing the first of 11 heritage recommendations in *The Art of Living: A Plan for Securing the Future of Arts & Heritage in the City of Edmonton: 2008-2018*.

At the June 25, 2013, Community Services Committee meeting, the Committee directed the Edmonton Heritage Council to provide an annual report on a city museum strategy, the Heritage Community Investment program, and other key issues.

Edmonton Heritage Council's mission is *to connect people to the stories of their city* through EHC's support and leadership in **preserving, researching, interpreting, and**

documenting Edmonton's history.

We envision an Edmonton that embraces its diverse heritage, inclusive of all people, communities and cultures, on Treaty 6 territory, consistent with the principles of truth and reconciliation

Edmonton Heritage Council's strategic aims are to:

- Build strong relationships between citizens and their city, through Edmonton's history and heritage;
- Engage and activate citizens with Edmonton's story, history and collective memory;
- Make Edmonton's heritage a key element of citizen quality of life.
- Support and enhance the work of the organizations and individuals in the heritage sector.

The Edmonton Heritage Council's board and staff are committed to applying principles of reconciliation in our work and responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action, specifically those on culture and heritage.

The Heritage Council receives annual operating funding from the City of Edmonton, based on a 2014-2018 Service Agreement, extended through 2019. In late 2018, City Council approved a phased 2019-2022 increase to Edmonton Heritage Council's core and investment program funding, based on the aims of *Connections and Exchanges: A 10 Year Plan for Transforming Arts and Heritage in Edmonton*.

A renewed Service Agreement, effective 2020-2022 has been with City Administration, reflecting EHC's leadership in the heritage aims of *Connections and Exchanges*, as well as its advisory role to City Council and its program administration role.

Heritage Community Investment Program (HCIP)

The Heritage Community Investment Program was established in 2013, following City Council approval of funding, and City of Edmonton policy C211H.

In 2018, the Edmonton Heritage Council invested over \$500,000 in Edmonton's heritage sector, supporting 47 unique projects, organizations, and individuals.

This investment provides for organizational stability, increased professionalism and innovative heritage practice. A key objective for EHC is to increase new and successful applicants to the program, particularly from the diverse Indigenous and cultural communities in Edmonton. Since the program's inception in 2013, nearly \$2.4 million has been invested in Edmonton's heritage through the Heritage Community Investment Program.

The HCIP Operational Grants invest in the organizations such as: the Alberta Aviation

Museum, Alberta Pioneer Railway Museum, Alberta Labour History Institute, Alberta Genealogical Society (Edmonton Chapter), Edmonton Chinatown Library Foundation, Edmonton Radial Railway Society (High Level Street Car), Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museum, Edmonton Telephone Historical Centre, Société généalogique du Nord-Ouest., and La Société historique francophone de l'Alberta. The number of organizations receiving operational funding continues to grow, stretching the limits of available Operational Grant funds awarded to each institution. The Operational grant stream accounts for approximately 50% of HCIP investment.

Connections and Exchanges Implementation

EHC has achieved early success in some of the key foundational actions of the Connections and Exchanges plan in, including:

- Jumpstart Edmonton's City as Museum initiative to establish its role as a program and a place of dialogue, exchange, and collaborative city building through heritage
- Contribute actively to placemaking that includes cultural landscape, natural history, built history, object, language, and story
- Work with City Administration to champion heritage experiences in public spaces
- Provide change capital to cultural organizations to retool and reorganize to meet the needs of a rapidly changing city
- Create opportunities for heritage practitioners to explore ideas around emerging local and global practice.
- Expand and target learning opportunities to build sector capacity and awareness in order to remove barriers
- Connect individuals, groups, and organizations with the people, skills, networks, and resources they need to do high-quality, creative, and innovative heritage work.

Initiatives – 2018-2019

Tracing Connections in River Crossing

EHC administered this initiative and three pilot projects as early activation of the River Crossing district and development, with partners Edmonton Arts Council, City of Edmonton, and the Rosedale Community League. EHC also served on the Community Advisory Committee for the River Crossing Business Plan, recently presented to City Council.

Reconciliation and Resurgence Symposium, Planning

Planning began in 2018 for a symposium in March 2020, to connect Edmonton's heritage organizations and practitioners into a deeper understanding of establishing relationships with the Indigenous community and help reflect Indigenous perspectives in their organizations, work, development. The initiative is partially supported through a Government of Alberta Anti-Racism initiative grant.

Armistice 100

EHC served on the Armistice 100 Commemorative Committee, with City, Provincial, Corporate, Private and Federal contributions to marking the centennial of the armistice of World War I, November 11th, 2018. Similar to the Vimy 100 project, EHC served as the fiscal agent for the project, as well as contributing staffing. The successful event was held on the Capital Plaza, Alberta Legislature grounds.

Research: Edmonton's Historic Urban Landscape

In 2017, Edmonton Heritage Council initiated a research project partnership with the City Region Studies Centre, University of Alberta to explore Historic Urban Landscape principles and their application in Edmonton. This partnership through the Faculty of Extension, University of Alberta and faculty Dr. Kevin Jones is pursuing further project funding in 2019 through external sources. The project builds on the Agreement on Strategic Cooperation to implement UNESCO's Recommendations on Historic Urban Landscape, signed by Edmonton City Council, Old Strathcona Foundation, and the World Heritage Institute for Training and Research in early 2015.

Historian Laureate Partnership, Edmonton Historical Board

EHC worked with the Edmonton Historical Board in the selection, program promotion, and support of current Historian Laureate Marlena Wyman. EHC and EHB are reviewing the partnership towards strengthening the program in its cultural inclusion. Recruitment for the next Historian Laureate will commence in early 2020.

Issues

- *Review of the City of Edmonton's Historic Resources Management Program-* Although the program has evolved and is well-regarded through its 10-year history, we believe that a review of the program through public engagement is timely and overdue. In that time, there have been important evolutions in heritage resource work connecting Indigenous and diverse community perspectives into the work. EHC is willing and able to support this review.
- *Removing barriers to fuller participation in heritage for all Edmontonians-* With its challenges, we continue to work to remove barriers for all Edmontonians to contribute to and participate Edmonton's shared and complex heritage. *Connections and Exchanges* specified the importance of Indigenous cultural autonomy. More work is needed in the area of internal and public education on Indigenous history, experience, and culture. Special focus will be paid to helping individuals and organizations we interact with through the Investment Program as we support Indigenous resurgence and specific Calls to Action relating to heritage organizations.
- *Connections and Exchanges* identified the need for a comprehensive City of Edmonton Heritage Policy, which would support an important city-wide basis for

heritage throughout the City corporation, as well as providing a clear collaborative focus for City of Edmonton planners, the Edmonton Historical Board and EHC. This is connected to specific work such as developing a Cultural Infrastructure Plan.

Corporate Outcomes and Performance Management

This report contributes to the corporate outcomes (connected to 10-year Strategic Goals on Urban Form, Livability, Environment & Sustainability):

- Edmonton is attractive and compact (role of heritage in urban form, places)
- Edmontonians are connected to the city in which they live, work, and play
- Edmontonians use facilities and services that promote healthy living
- Edmonton is an environmentally sustainable and resilient city
- Edmonton has a globally competitive and entrepreneurial business climate

Specific Outcome/Measurements are in development through the implementation of *Connections and Exchanges: A 10 Year Plan for Transforming Arts & Heritage in Edmonton*.

Attachment

1. EHC@10: 2018 Annual Report (Edmonton Heritage Council)