

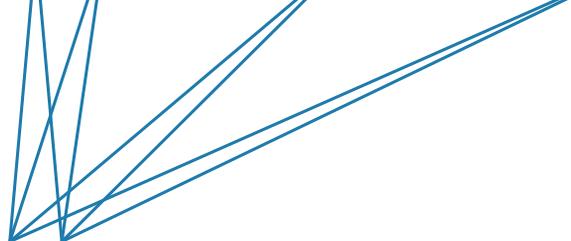


EDMONTON  
HERITAGE COUNCIL

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019







# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

For the Board of Directors, EHC's tenth year focussed on the strategic course of the next decade with the launch of *Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan to Transform Arts & Heritage in Edmonton* (C&E).

We are confident that EHC's mission and vision are powerful and adaptable to change, whether natural progressions or sudden sweeping shifts. EHC is poised to provide support to the heritage sector to meet the needs of a rapidly changing city, with these strategic goals:

1. Conditions are in place to remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in heritage experiences;
2. Edmonton's neighbourhoods have meaningful and relevant opportunities for heritage participation and engagement;
3. Edmontonians have a sense of belonging and connectedness to the people, places, and stories of their city;
4. Edmonton's heritage sector, organizations, and individuals, are innovative and economically resilient.

Remaining both steady and nimble allows the EHC to fulfill its role of supporting citizens to "connect to people, places, and stories." I remain impressed with the flexibility and responsiveness our board and staff show in supporting heritage work in Edmonton, coupled with the resilience of the heritage sector itself. The need to "remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in cultural experiences" has never been more compelling or clear.

**Wendy Birch**  
Chair, Board of Directors



## A WORD ON EHC'S PRIORITIES

We connect people to the stories of our city through our leadership, support, and programs. We do this by helping Edmontonians research, preserve, interpret, and advocate for our heritage.

The Edmonton Heritage Council has a mandate to serve as a leader in advancing *Connections & Exchanges*, Edmonton's 10-year arts and heritage plan.

Arts and heritage are fundamental elements of any operational, infrastructural public project—from refurbishments, to civic planning, to new transportation projects.

### Ambitions of *Connections & Exchanges*



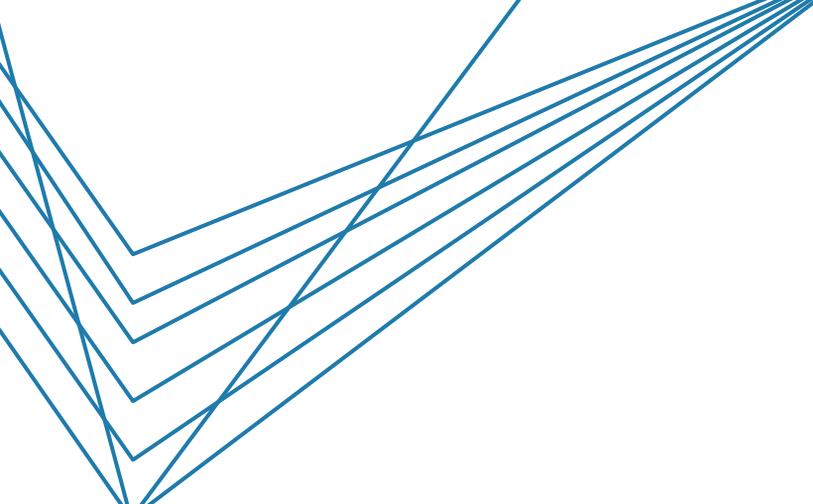
Alive with  
arts and  
heritage



A hub for  
extraordinary  
creation and  
reputation



A  
thriving  
and well-  
funded arts  
and heritage  
ecosystem



# ABOUT THE EDMONTON HERITAGE COUNCIL

## Connecting people to the stories of our city.

**VISION:** A city embracing its diverse heritage, inclusive of all people, communities, and cultures on Treaty 6 Territory, consistent with the principles of *Truth and Reconciliation*.

// Encourage active civic engagement and participation in cultural activities."

**Connections & Exchanges** bk 2, pg 12

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Robert Geldart (RETIRED FALL 2019)  
Kathryn Ivany  
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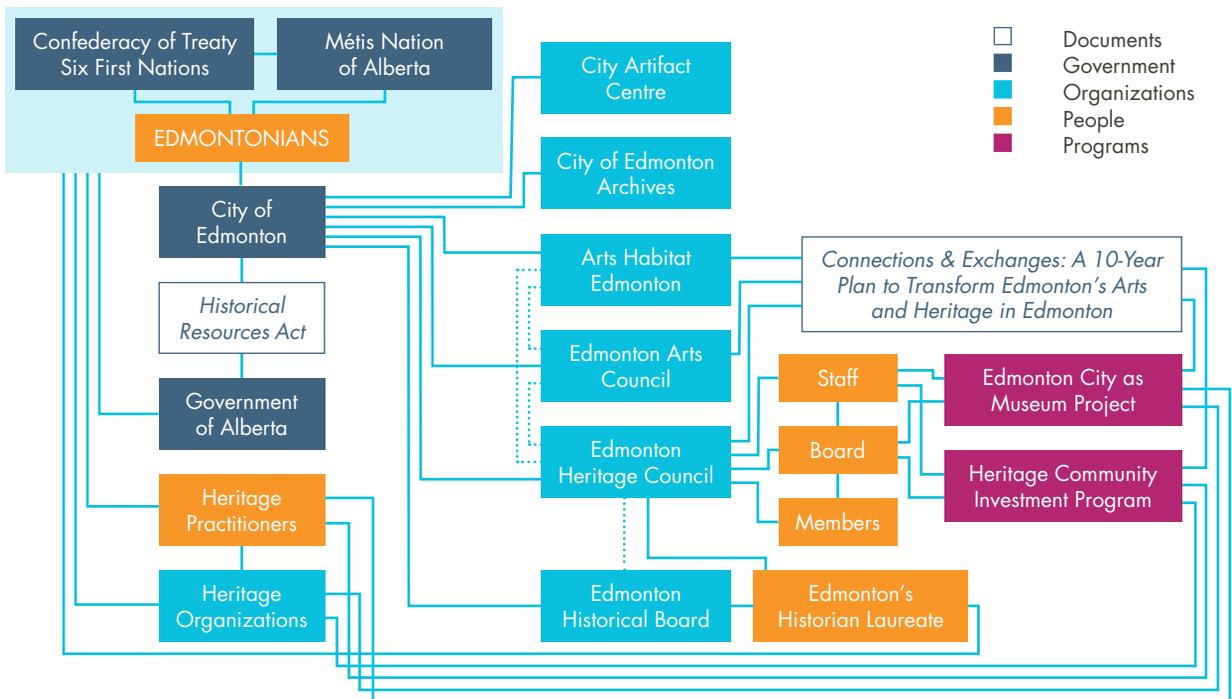
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INTERIM GRANTS COORDINATOR (2019-2020)  
Grace Doll  
FINANCIAL OFFICER (– JUNE 2020)  
Dan Rose  
COMMUNICATIONS (– MAY 2019)

# KEY CONNECTIONS OF 2019

“ Connect individuals, groups and organizations with the people, skills, networks, and resources they need to do high-quality, creative, and innovative heritage work.”

**Connections & Exchanges** bk 3, pg 12

*The exchange within Edmonton’s heritage and broader communities made 2019 a rich year for EHC as both partner and broker of partnerships.*



As a funder and convenor, we make connections between museums, historical societies, historians, documentarians, and community initiatives practitioners resulting in greater visibility to the public and to each other. Through a series of social events for individual grant runs, bonds were strengthened not just between EHC and HCIP recipients, but between those recipients.

More connections arose from a mentorship pilot project in collaboration with interVivos, a step forward in the sharing of knowledge and resources. Partnerships, which are now supported by a specific EHC staff member, allow EHC to help sustain the heritage sector.

# HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

## 1 ECAMP

Launched in 2013, the Edmonton City as Museum Project (ECAMP) is an initiative of the EHC that explores the history of our city through story. Restarted in 2019 following an expansion of our service agreement with City of Edmonton, ECAMP lives online and all across our city. People connect with the stories of this place by exploring our online collections, listening to the ECAMP Podcast, or by signing up for an online ECAMPing trip!

## 2 HCIP

As EHC advances the aims of *Connections & Exchanges*, HCIP evolves. Grant streams will be introduced in the future to support organizations and practitioners in strengthening their capacity to share Edmonton's stories. EHC's new [Equity Policy](#) allows us to better fulfill our commitment to reducing barrier in accessing funding, engaging new communities in heritage, and amplifying the voices of underrepresented communities. As new opportunities and criteria for funding are developed, HCIP remains focussed on building a diverse and resilient heritage community in Edmonton.

## 3 SYMPOSIUM

*Reconciliation & Resurgence: Heritage Practice in Post-TRC Edmonton*, a March 2020 event largely planned throughout 2019, was supported by the collective wisdom of Indigenous advisors, Knowledge Keepers, and Elders. In planning and developing the symposium, EHC staff examined our approaches to working with Indigenous communities. The symposium allowed participants, attendees, and our partners to re-examine current ways of thinking and working. 150+ people from Treaty 6, Treaty 7, and Treaty 8 Nations would go on to attend the event.

// Create opportunities for heritage practitioners to explore ideas around emerging local and global practice."

***Connections & Exchanges*** bk 3, pg 10

# 1 EDMONTON CITY AS MUSEUM PROJECT (ECAMP)

**ECAMP tells the stories of the PEOPLE, PLACES, THINGS, MOMENTS that make Edmonton our city**

The stories that connect us, the stories that divide us, and the stories that nurture an appreciation of our differences as Edmontonians.

*Connections & Exchanges* is an important vehicle for connecting Edmontonians to arts and heritage in our city, and ECAMP has returned to play an exciting role in the development and delivery of those opportunities.

- To create a city where diverse platforms for collaboration exist within Edmonton that allow artistic and heritage communities to connect, create and collaborate.
- That Edmontonians feel a sense of belonging and connectedness to peoples, places, and stories.
- That Edmonton's neighbourhoods [will] come alive with meaningful and relevant opportunities for participation and engagement.
- That conditions are in place to remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in cultural experiences.

In September of 2019, EHC welcomed a new full-time ECAMP curator. By the end of the year, plans were in place to add 26 new stories to the ECAMP website with a mandate to prioritize stories that have been traditionally excluded from representations of Edmonton's past.

// Jumpstart Edmonton City as Museum Project to establish its role as a program and a place of dialogue, exchange, and collaborative city building through heritage."

***Connections & Exchanges*** bk 2, pg 10

# 2 HERITAGE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAM (HCIP)

The Heritage Community Investment Program invests funds—provided by the City of Edmonton—into the stabilization, increased professionalism, and innovation of heritage in Edmonton, for Edmontonians.

## OPERATIONAL GRANT

Operational grants are designed to provide limited operating assistance—up to 25 percent of an applicant’s eligible expenses—to museums, archives, and other heritage organizations so that they can continue to research, preserve, and interpret Edmonton’s heritage.

### GRANT AWARD BREAKDOWN

Alberta Aviation Museum	\$134,103.00
Alberta Genealogical Society	\$17,396.25
Alberta Labour History Institute	\$8,716.25
Alberta Pioneer Railway Association	\$9,024.00
Edmonton Chinatown Chinese Library	\$13,935.75
Edmonton Radial Railway Society	\$9,291.00
Loyal Edmonton Regiment Museum	\$10,852.00
Société généalogique du Nord-Ouest	\$10,900.00
Société historique francophone de l’Alberta	\$35,394.75
Telephone Historical Centre	\$20,187.00

## PROJECT GRANT

Project grants are designed to provide assistance for non-profit organizations to undertake projects that preserve, research, document, interpret, celebrate, and raise awareness of the history and heritage of Edmonton.

### GRANT AWARD BREAKDOWN

Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues	\$20,000.00
Edmonton Multicultural Coalition	\$16,000.00
Edmonton Space & Science Foundation	\$20,000.00
John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights	\$25,000.00
Ukrainian Shumka Dancers	\$25,000.00

// Increase investment in Edmonton’s heritage through the EHC’s Community Investment Program (HCIP)."

**Connections & Exchanges** bk 4, pg 8

// Build funding mechanisms with an emphasis on multi-year research and documentation projects, mentorships, residencies, and professional development."

*Connections & Exchanges* bk 4, pg 8

Learn more about the year's HCIP recipients at [edmontonheritage.ca/2019-annual-report-more-on-hcip-funded-projects](https://edmontonheritage.ca/2019-annual-report-more-on-hcip-funded-projects)

## PROJECT ACCELERATOR GRANT

Project Accelerator grants are designed to support individuals and organizations undertaking small scale heritage projects that tell Edmonton stories in unique or innovative ways.

### GRANT AWARD BREAKDOWN

Dustin Bajer	\$9,103.00
Andrea Beça	\$10,000.00
Canadian Art and Leisure Association	\$8,486.00
Molly Chisaakay	\$10,000.00
Commonwealth Association of Museums	\$10,000.00
Creating Hope Society of Alberta	\$9,103.00
Edmontonians for Change	\$3,000.00
Rayanne Haines	\$6,995.00
Judith (Judy) Iseke	\$10,000.00
Derek Jagodzinsky	\$9,103.00
Jennifer Kelly	\$9,592.00
Migrante Alberta	\$10,000.00
Amal Mohamud	\$10,000.00
Nisha Patel	\$4,755.00
Reconciliation in Solidarity Edmonton (RISE)	\$10,000.00
Somali Canadian Cultural Society of Edmonton	\$9,103.00
Thirdspace Playback Theatre	\$9,103.00
Marlena Wyman	\$10,000.00
#YEGARTS Podcast Collective	\$9,635.00
Robin Yusaf	\$10,000.00

## TRAVEL GRANT

Travel grants provide assistance to individuals to travel outside of the Edmonton Metropolitan Region for professional development or research that will support the telling of Edmonton-based stories.

### GRANT AWARD BREAKDOWN

Erik Backstrom	\$980.00
Catherine C. Cole	\$3,415.00
Holly de Moissac	\$1,930.00
Naima Haile	\$2,195.00
Don Hill	\$3,082.00
Marina Hulzenga	\$1,253.00
Miranda Jimmy	\$800.00
Ava Karvonen	\$1,069.00
Jean Middleton	\$2,155.00
Nisha Patel	\$1,239.00
E. Neil Taylor	\$2,203.00
Shawn Tse	\$2,533.00

# HCIP PROJECT PROFILES



SOCIÉTÉ  
HISTORIQUE  
FRANCOPHONE  
DE L'ALBERTA

## OPERATIONAL

Société historique francophone de l'Alberta

“Thanks to the Edmonton Heritage Council’s support through the Operational Grant stream, we have the systems and structures in place to allow us to produce and disseminate two seasons of our podcast *La Place*. Due to our podcast’s success, we are working to enhance our digital footprint through access to sources and dissemination over social media.”

**La Société historique francophone de l'Alberta** is a generalist organization that works towards the preservation, access, production, and dissemination of Alberta’s francophone heritage.



Photo credit: wevideo.com

## PROJECT

Telling Our Stories: The Legacy of Horn of Africa Immigrants and Refugees in Edmonton

“Thank you for the funds received from the Edmonton Heritage Council’s Project Grant. We will be able to share the stories of immigrants and refugees and those who identify their ethnic origin to the Horn of Africa. We will help share and promote the stories of their family’s journeys to Edmonton and share their experiences integrating into their new homeland.”

**Phil O’Hara**, Edmonton Multicultural Coalition

// Create an inventory of existing heritage experiences and develop new ways (digital and analog) to increase visibility, access, and engagement."

**Connections & Exchanges** bk 2, pg 8



Andrea Menard and Elder Tom McCallum in *Wesaketewenowuk: Roots Growing Up*

## PROJECT ACCELERATOR

### *Wesaketewenowuk: Roots Growing Up*

"The funding and support from Edmonton Heritage Council enabled the short film *Wesaketewenowuk: Roots Growing Up* to share the wisdom of Métis Elder Tom McCallum through his storytelling and the brilliant voice and songwriting ability of Métis song keeper Andrea Menard. It also supported the completion of my vision for the film which celebrates the resilience of Métis people, culture, and knowledge. I am deeply grateful for the support of Edmonton Heritage Council."

**Judy Iseke**, Producer/Director



Photo credit: John Liddle, Alberta Aviation Museum

## TRAVEL

### Jean Middleton

"The HCIP grant enabled me to attend a conference in Ottawa on family learning and how to incorporate more play-based activities into a museum context. Much of the Alberta Aviation Museum's activity through 2019 and into 2020 has been around increasing programming for kids. Our goal is empowering people. Museums are viewed as keepers of knowledge, but innovative ways of learning and engagement allow people to trust themselves to explore heritage. The support of HCIP and EHC helps me not only grow as a heritage practitioner, but also to be a member of the heritage community."

**Jean Middleton**

# 3 SYMPOSIUM

## RECONCILIATION & RESURGENCE: HERITAGE PRACTICE IN POST-TRC EDMONTON

The Reconciliation & Resurgence Symposium brought Indigenous and non-Indigenous heritage practitioners together to exchange knowledge and ideas, and to identify barriers to participation. To come up with projects together was deemed a worthwhile and necessary step to address the gaps.

Beginning in June 2019, a Steering Committee of Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers, community members, and representatives of various government and post-secondary institutions worked to make this gathering happen in a good way. Representatives from the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta, and Edmonton Arts Council contributed to the Steering Committee.

Together, the committee and EHC team created a meaningful forum for speakers, attendees, and our partners to explore how we can encourage new ways of thinking and working in Edmonton's heritage sector. 150+ people attended the event, representing Treaty 6, 7, and 8 Indigenous and non-Indigenous people.

Photos on this page: Mat Simpson Photography, [www.matsimpson.co](http://www.matsimpson.co)

Drummers from [Northern Cree](#)



Iqaluit-born student Miranda Olannie Gilchrist McCollum and Inuk Elder Edna Ellias light the Qulliq

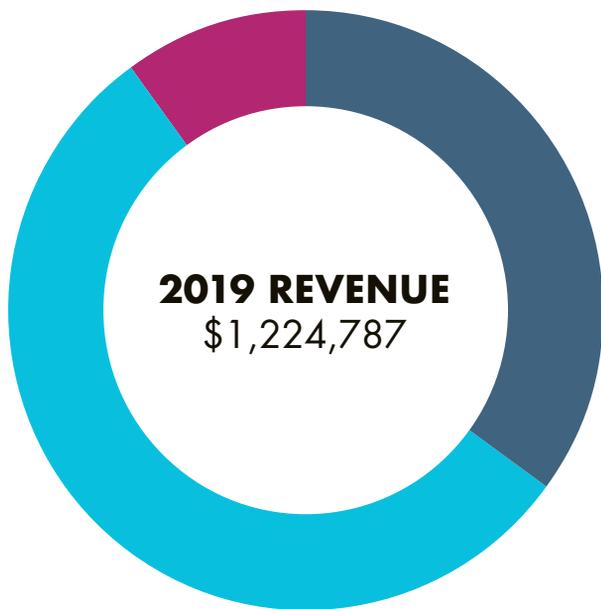
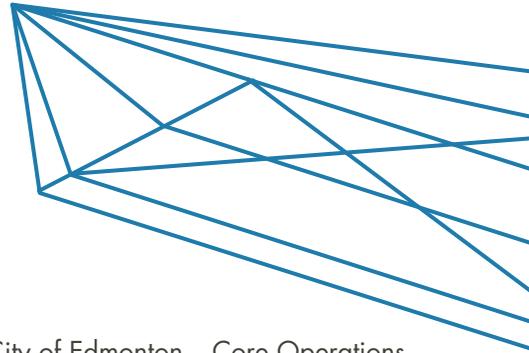
“ As a person who has worked in the museum and heritage sector for 15 years, I found this symposium to be a much needed and monumental event. Thank you for organizing this and I would love to see more offerings like this... I have never gone away from a conference talking about it so much for days afterwards.”

– *Symposium attendee*



Grand Entry with Chief Calvin Bruneau, Papaschase First Nation.

# 2019 FINANCIAL BREAKDOWN



- 35% City of Edmonton – Core Operations
- 55% City of Edmonton – Program (HCIP, ECAMP, Other)
- 10% Other (Grants, Donations, Memberships)

To view the full statements, please visit [edmontonheritage.ca/reports](http://edmontonheritage.ca/reports).



- 50% HCIP
- 35% Staff and Contracts
- 8% Operations
- 3% Professional Fees and Honoraria
- 3% Other
- 1% Board of Directors

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



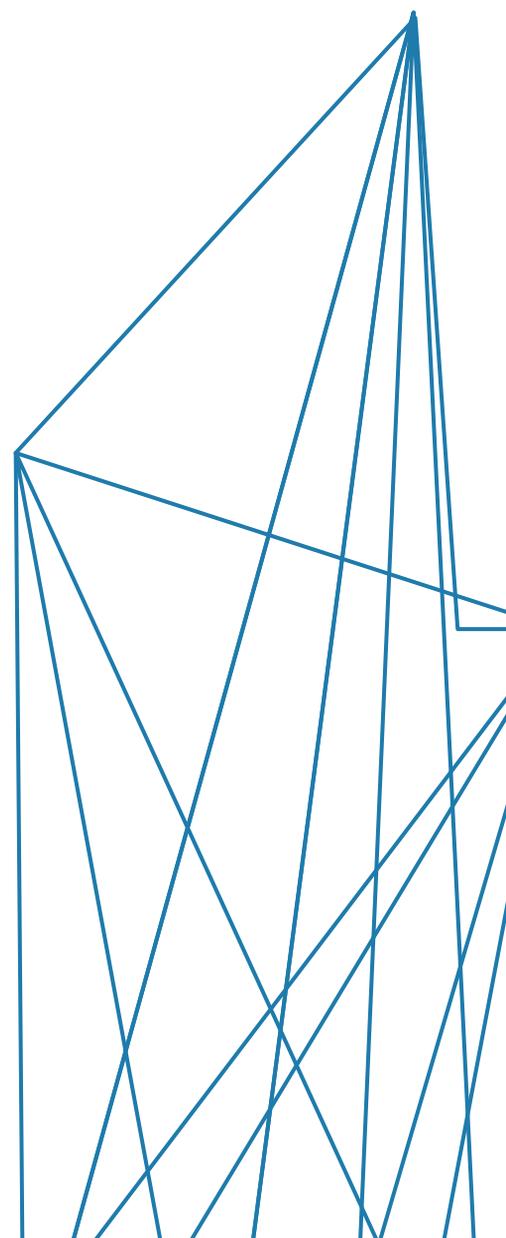
We are fortunate to have these powerful elements with which to do our work: a compelling mission and vision, the excellent support of the citizens and City of Edmonton, a vibrant membership and heritage sector, talented staff and a strong, engaged Board of Directors.

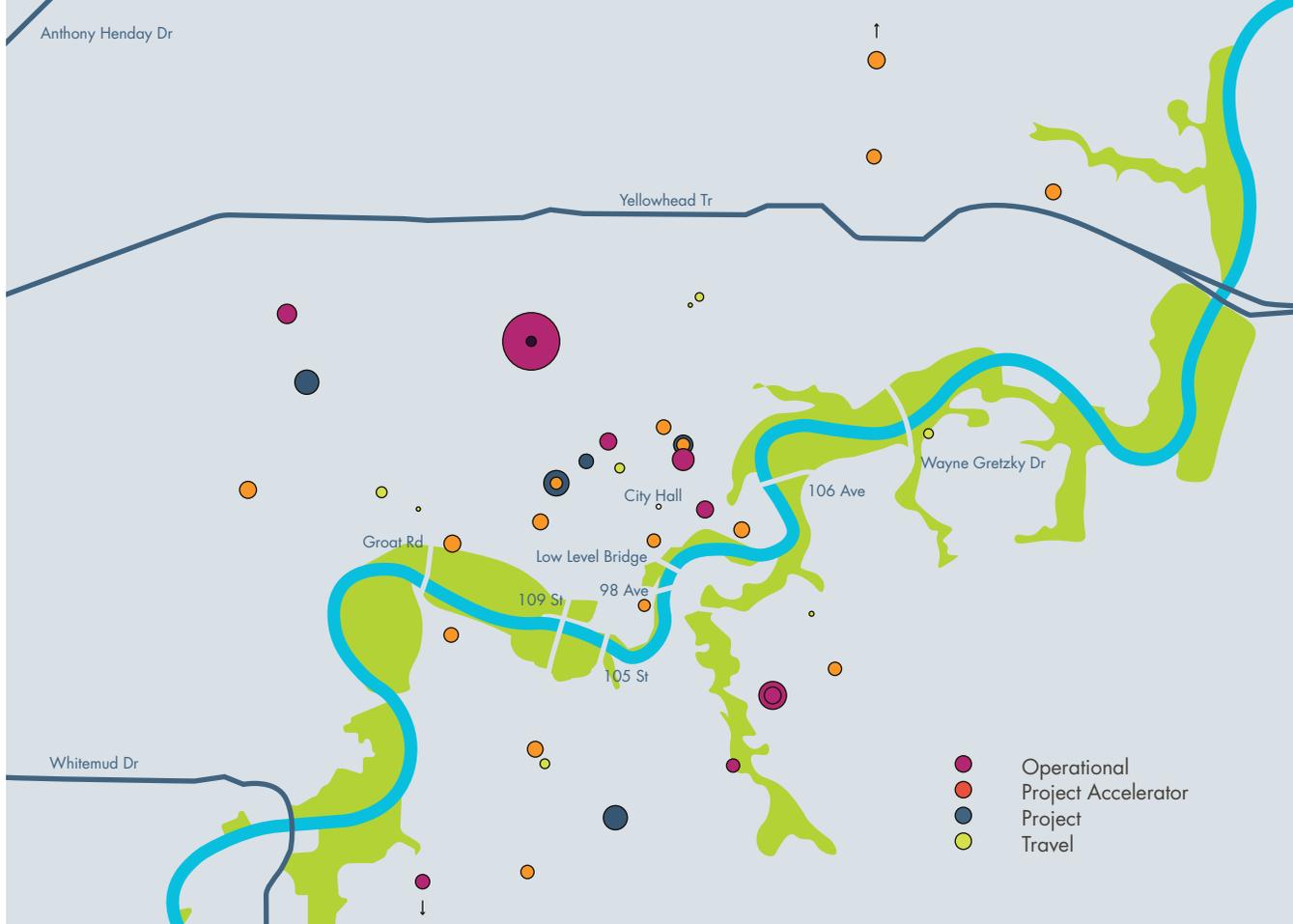
In the past year, we have advanced key priorities in *Connections & Exchanges*. To be sure, this involves substantial and ongoing planning with the community and within EHC, including measuring and evaluating how we are advancing. It is a big plan with big ambitions and aims, but as a community and organization, we are up to it. With your support EHC has enhanced its program capacity, through the Heritage Community Investment Program and the Edmonton City as Museum Project, along with new programs in development, to address these priorities.

We are particularly hopeful about and committed to the work in 2019 that led to the symposium *Reconciliation & Resurgence: Heritage Practice in Post-TRC Edmonton* in early March 2020. The continuation of this, led by Indigenous people and communities in the region, is essential to EHC.

Edmonton's heritage helps us see and understand connections. It equally provides insight into the differences of our experiences and histories, which is challenging and often painful. The fact of all this requires courage in the work we do together. This has become more important as pandemic has impacted the way many of us live and work, but I am confident the groundwork we are laying together is building a healthier, more reflective and more resilient community.

**David Ridley**  
*Executive Director*





# EDMONTON'S NEIGHBOURHOODS COME ALIVE

This [map](#), showing where HCIP-funded work took place throughout 2019, is available in interactive form at [tinyurl.com/y9kacuwf](https://tinyurl.com/y9kacuwf), allowing visitors to filter data for specific HCIP streams, program runs, and funds awarded.

We will track our year-over-year progress in future reports as we develop new visual tools relating to additional strategic priorities. As EHC's [Equity Policy](#) states, "We recognize the rights of individuals and groups to fair access to heritage-related resources

and outcomes. EHC's work is ongoing towards the creation of equitable outcomes, including addressing systemic barriers, in our processes, and within the heritage sector."

There is much more work to do in fulfilling such aims as *Edmonton's neighbourhoods come alive with meaningful and relevant opportunities for participation and engagement*, and EHC commits to addressing the factors that have contributed to a lack of diversity in representation in our programs.



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