

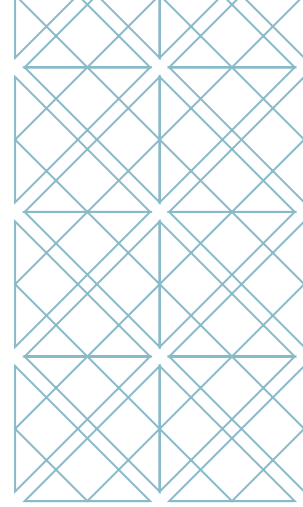


Heritage 2023: **A Living Tapestry**

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



ABOUT EHC



VISION

Edmonton embracing its diverse heritage, inclusive of all people, communities, and cultures on Treaty 6 Territory, consistent with the principles of Truth and Reconciliation.

MISSION

We connect people to the stories of our city by helping Edmontonians research, preserve, interpret, and advocate for our heritage.

MANDATE

The Edmonton Heritage Council is a leader in advancing "[Connections & Exchanges](#)," Edmonton's 10-year arts and heritage plan.

The award-winning [Connections & Exchanges: A 10-Year Plan to Transform Arts and Heritage in Edmonton](#) promotes Edmonton as a cultural centre and encourages recreational, cultural, artistic, and entertainment opportunities for all residents. It seeks to infuse culture, arts, and heritage into every aspect of civic fabric, support cultural makers and interpreters, and grow Edmonton's heritage and arts audiences. Through the ambitions that we strive towards, the aims we use to chart progress, the actions that define our approach and the measurement framework that validates it all, this plan guides the development of Edmonton's heritage and arts landscape through extraordinary transformation until 2029.

VALUES

Heritage: The range of Edmonton's unique, diverse, and shared historical experiences, cultural memories, living traditions, and identities; this includes monuments, objects, documents, landscapes, and natural heritage.

Inclusion: Removing barriers to support equal access to opportunities and resources for people to interpret their stories. Enable all to participate fully in the cultural life of the city, working with the principles and practices of equity and anti-racism.

Diversity: Seeking to work with marginalized and underrepresented communities to help them tell their stories in their voices.

Truth & Reconciliation: Truth-telling about the heritage of this place, founded on the presence and contributions of Indigenous peoples. Working to establish and maintain mutually-respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, advancing actions for positive change through acknowledgement of the historical causes and harms of the past that live in the present.

Community Engagement: Working in a collaborative and participatory way to develop meaningful solutions to complex issues. Everyone affected by an issue has a say in related decisions.



EQUITY POLICY:

Consistent with EHC's other Guiding Framework Policies, we recognize the rights of individuals and groups to fair access to heritage-related resources and outcomes. Below is EHC's Equity Policy. EHC's work is ongoing towards the creation of equitable outcomes, including addressing systemic barriers in our processes and within the heritage sector. To this end:

a. EHC will be responsive to the changing needs of the Edmonton area and the many people and socio-cultural communities that add to the vibrancy and resiliency of our region. We acknowledge that systemic barriers to equity exist.

b. Equity is an on-going process with no completion date. EHC strives to ensure we are supporting and creating inclusive and equitable communities. We recognize that treating all groups equally will not result in equity.

c. We will continue and increase our work with diverse people and communities towards shared goals, engaging diverse voices to ensure all communities within the Edmonton area see themselves reflected in the work of the Edmonton Heritage Council.

d. EHC commits to communicating about our successes and challenges in our equity work.

We will examine our programs through the lens of this Equity Policy and continue to work with our partners to serve our sector better.

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Imagine the effort required to produce a single tapestry. The planning, the foresight, the gathering of threads, and the many hours at a loom, weaving strands in and out amidst thousands of others. It's a labour few of us have ever undertaken.

And yet, thousands of tapestries from all over have survived the rigours of history, being carefully passed down from generation to generation. It speaks to an innate understanding within our shared humanity of the profound significance of preserving our narratives and our cultural and community legacies.

All of us who call this part of the world home form a living tapestry: Our stories are threads of varying colours, lengths, and origin. Alone, these threads may seem inconspicuous, but when woven together, we create a powerful work of beauty and resilience.

Our stories represent where we come from and how far we've come. The threads of our contributions are the fabric of our unique tapestry. But this tapestry of story, experience, and memory in a city such as ours requires care.

The Edmonton Heritage Council—its board, staff, and members—sees the stewardship of this vibrant legacy as our essential duty. It is our privilege to connect, support, preserve, and bring together the components of this living, breathing tapestry that contains a bit of all of us. And as I hope you will see in this Annual Report, our dedication to preserving our collective heritage is woven into all our many important initiatives and programs.

On behalf of our organization and our valued partners, I would like to thank all Edmontonians for entrusting us with this responsibility. We look forward to serving you in 2024 and beyond as our tapestry grows bigger, more beautiful, and more vibrant with every new thread.

Jean-Louis Zokpe

Chair, Edmonton Heritage Council Society



Image provided by Jean-Louis Zokpe

Imaginez tout le travail qu'implique la fabrication d'une seule tapisserie. La planification, la prévoyance, le rassemblement des fils et les nombreuses heures passées au métier à tisser, à entrelacer les fils d'un côté et de l'autre, par milliers. Voilà un ouvrage que peu d'entre nous avons tenté de confectionner.

Ici à Edmonton, des milliers de tapisseries d'un peu partout ont survécu aux rigueurs de l'histoire, transmises méticuleusement de génération en génération. Au sein de notre humanité partagée, ces tapisseries témoignent d'une compréhension innée de la signification profonde de la préservation de nos histoires et de nos patrimoines culturels et communautaires.

Nous tous, établis ici, formons une tapisserie vivante : nos histoires sont des fils de couleurs, de longueurs et d'origines variées. De prime abord, ces fils peuvent sembler anodins, mais une fois enlacés, ils forment une œuvre puissante, empreinte de beauté et de résilience.

Nos histoires représentent nos racines, notre cheminement. Les fils associés à nos contributions constituent l'étoffe de base de notre tapisserie unique en son genre. Mais dans une ville comme celle-ci, cette

tapisserie à l'image de notre histoire, de notre expérience et de notre mémoire, il faut en prendre soin.

Le conseil du patrimoine d'Edmonton (EHC) – son conseil d'administration, son personnel et ses membres – considère que l'intendance de ce patrimoine imprégné de vitalité constitue son devoir essentiel. Nous avons le privilège de relier, de soutenir, de préserver et de réunir les composantes de cette tapisserie vivante, qui respire et qui contient un peu de nous tous. Par l'intermédiaire de ce rapport annuel, j'espère que vous pourrez palper notre dévouement à conserver notre patrimoine collectif, un dévouement qui se manifeste dans nos nombreux programmes et initiatives hors du commun.

Au nom de notre organisme et de nos précieux partenaires, je tiens à remercier tous les Edmontoniens de nous avoir confié cette responsabilité. Nous sommes impatients de vous servir en 2024 et dans le futur, à mesure que notre tapisserie grandit, s'embellit et s'anime grâce à l'entrecroisement de chaque nouveau fil.

Jean-Louis Zokpe

Président du conseil, Société du conseil du patrimoine d'Edmonton

STRATEGIC GOALS & PRIORITIES 2021-2024



Edmontonians have a sense of belonging and connectedness to the people, places, and stories of their city.

- ▶ Create and support opportunities for cultural connection and understanding between people, communities, and places.
- ▶ Advance Edmonton City as Museum Project as a place of dialogue, exchange, and collaborative city building.
- ▶ Work with heritage community to adopt inclusive practices in museums, archives, historical research, and programming.
- ▶ Contribute to placemaking through connections to cultural landscapes, natural history, built history, object, language, and story.
- ▶ Support Indigenous peoples in revitalizing and participating locally in traditions that reflect their connections to ancestors and the land.

Remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in heritage experiences.

- ▶ Create learning opportunities to build sector capacity and remove barriers to participation.
- ▶ Review Historian Laureate program and mandate for cultural inclusion.
- ▶ Stand with Indigenous leaders in cultural work.
- ▶ Resource Indigenous-led activities that support cultural practice and reclamation.

Heritage leaders are actively engaged in civic planning and implementation.

- ▶ With City Administration, develop policy guiding interpretation, naming, commemoration, participation, built heritage, boards, committees, facilities, and collections. Incorporate heritage into City strategies and planning.
- ▶ Encourage active civic engagement and participation in cultural activities.
- ▶ Adopt a definition of civic vitality including heritage as a valued component.
- ▶ Apply a Fourth Pillar approach to City of Edmonton planning and policy development.





Edmonton's neighbourhoods offer meaningful opportunities for heritage participation and engagement.

- ▶ Nurture cultural curiosity through planned and spontaneous heritage experiences.
- ▶ Inventory and develop heritage interpretative experiences to increase visibility, access, and engagement.



Dynamic exchanges of ideas and expertise between Edmonton's heritage sector and the world.

- ▶ Work with City Administration to champion public heritage experiences and raise awareness of Edmonton's leading practices.
- ▶ Create opportunities for practitioners to develop and promote innovative practices.
- ▶ Work with public and private partners to celebrate and promote Edmonton's historic urban landscapes, including sites of conscience.



Edmonton's heritage sector, organizations, and individuals are innovative and economically resilient.

- ▶ Increase investment in Edmonton's heritage through Heritage Community Investment Program (HCIP).
- ▶ Research, develop, and implement an equitable pay scale for practitioners.
- ▶ Build funding opportunities for heritage practitioners and organizations.
- ▶ Increase heritage sector capacity through training and mentorships.
- ▶ Research prospect of grants for organizations to enhance program development, access, and consistency.
- ▶ Provide change capital to cultural organizations to meet the needs of a rapidly changing city.

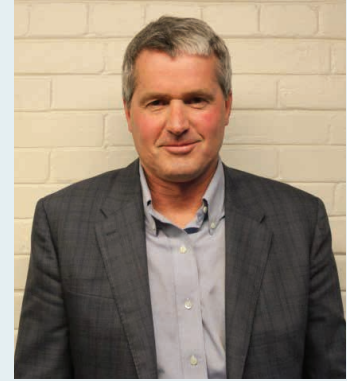


Diverse platforms for collaboration within Edmonton allow heritage communities to connect and create.

- ▶ Broaden Edmonton City as Museum Project to include public art as well as neighbourhood and cultural heritage in a significant platform for cultural discovery and knowledge building.
- ▶ Connect individuals and groups with the resources they need to do creative, innovative heritage work.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



As we mark the 15th anniversary of our organization, it is with great pride and gratitude that we reflect on our journey of heritage preservation and community building in this beloved city. Over the past decade and a half, we have worked to foster a deeper sense of belonging and connectedness among Edmontonians, weaving together the diverse tapestry of our shared heritage.

Edmonton's heritage sector is a dynamic force, continuously innovating and economically resilient. We are dedicated to increasing investment in heritage through our grant programs, the Heritage Community Investment Program (HCIP) (which includes Operational, Project Accelerator, and Community Impact Grants) and the Funding Indigenous Resurgence in Edmonton (FIRE) program, with the related Cultural Connection Fund. All this while working to create equitable pay scales and funding opportunities for practitioners and organizations. The recently established Edmonton Heritage Places Fund (<https://www.ecfoundation.org/funds/edmonton-heritage-places-endowment-fund/>), made possible through the support of the City of Edmonton heritage planners, is another important initiative toward increasing long-term investment in the sector.

Collaboration lies at the heart of our efforts, as we strive to connect heritage communities and individuals with the resources they need to flourish creatively. By broadening initiatives like the Edmonton City as Museum Project (ECAMP) to include cultural heritage, we aim to create platforms for cultural discovery

and knowledge-building that resonate across our city and beyond. ECAMP has served as a catalyst for dialogue, exchange, and collaborative city-building, enriching our collective understanding of Edmonton's past, present, and future.

Yet, our work is far from done. Guided by the priorities set out in Connections and Exchanges, our 10 year strategic plan, we continue to remove barriers that hinder Edmontonians from participating in heritage experiences, fostering learning opportunities and building sector capacity. We are committed to reviewing programs and mandates to ensure cultural inclusion and stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities in their cultural work.

As we further navigate the rich tapestry of our city's heritage, it is imperative that we reinforce our sense of belonging and connectedness to the people, places, and stories that shape Edmonton's identity. Our collective journey towards cultural understanding and appreciation requires intentional efforts to create and support opportunities for connection among diverse communities and places.

Together, we are shaping a future where every Edmontonian feels a profound sense of belonging and connection to the rich tapestry of our city's heritage.

David Ridley
Executive Director,
Edmonton Heritage Council

CONNECTIONS & EXCHANGES

STRATEGIC PRIORITY ALIGNMENT

	Sense of Belonging	Engaged in Civic Planning & Implementation	Removing Barriers	Meaningful Opportunities	Dynamic Exchanges	Innovation & Economic Resilience	Diverse Collaboration
	Edmontonians have a sense of belonging and connectedness to the people, places, and stories of their city.	Heritage leaders are actively engaged in civic planning and implementation.	Remove barriers for all Edmontonians to participate in heritage experiences.	Edmonton's neighbourhoods offer meaningful opportunities for heritage participation and engagement.	Dynamic exchanges of ideas and expertise between Edmonton's heritage sector and the world.	Edmonton's heritage sector, organizations, and individuals are innovative and economically resilient	Diverse platforms for collaboration within Edmonton allow heritage communities to connect and create.
Edmonton Living Rooms	✓		✓	✓			✓
Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway Indigenous Expansion	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Iskwehew Kamik	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Indigitization	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Black History Walking Tour	✓	✓		✓			✓
Threads That Connect	✓			✓			
Honouring our Okihcihtāw Regalia and Design Mentorship for our Young Male Warriors	✓		✓				✓
Exploring Wāhkōhtowin Board Game	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
Journey of the Horse	✓			✓			✓
Traditional Indigenous Toys of Edmonton And Area	✓		✓	✓			



The projects listed above and featured in this report represent just a small sample of the local heritage work Edmonton Heritage Council played a role in bringing to life in 2023.

SPECIAL PROJECT:

EDMONTON LIVING ROOMS

In 2016, an initiative was born from discussions among the Edmonton Heritage Council, the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative (MCHB), and seven distinct refugee/newcomer communities.

These groups proposed the creation of opportunities showcasing and celebrating the cultural capital of amiskwacîwâskahikan/Edmonton: a living tapestry enriched by the contributions of newcomers.

In the early days of planning, the concept of “Living Rooms” emerged as a moniker for a program in which traveling and virtual exhibits provided a venue for under-heralded but exceptional peoples to discuss home and ancestry (around core themes of Resilience, Food, Learning, Home, Justice, Migration, Love, and Artistic Expression).

Edmonton Living Rooms is not limited in meaning to that common household space where one gathers, hosts, and converses. It's also the matter of the emotional, spiritual, and physical space for reflection on how individuals, families and communities make Edmonton a good place to live.”

—David Ridley, Executive Director

Now in the first year of its third iteration following extensive community engagement, ELR has a new permanent online home at citymuseumedmonton.ca/exhibitions/edmonton-living-rooms.

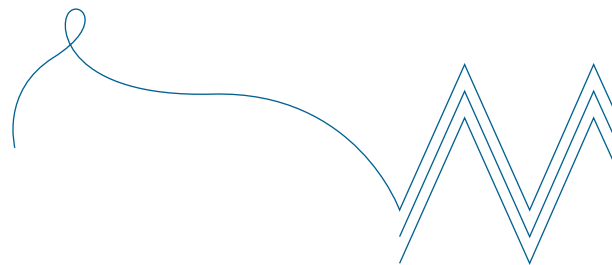
Members of these newcomer communities (including, but not limited to youth and families) played essential roles in the exhibition’s redevelopment through thoughtful sharing of materials and stories.

It is a core ambition of the program to create spaces in which community members of such diverse heritage as Bhutanese, Eritrean, Iraqi, Kurdish, Sierra Leonean, Sudanese, and Syrian groups can see their culture in vibrant public display.

The program is about how these cultural and community memories, living traditions, and historical experience have shaped and continue to shape Edmonton. Grandparents and children; youth and parents; old friends and new friends: they all came together to share memories and mementos.

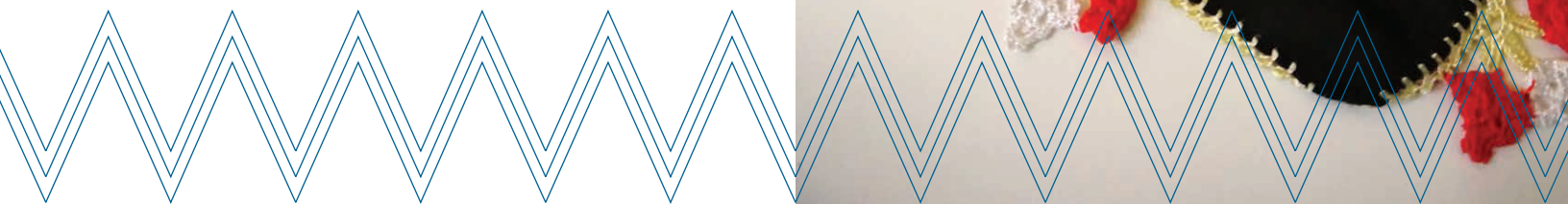
And it’s a better place because of this.

Funding for Edmonton Living Rooms was provided through the Government of Canada.

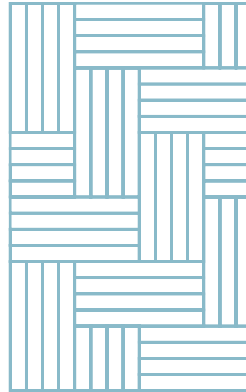




Artifacts photos provided by Marina Hulzenga



EDMONTON COMMONWEALTH WALKWAY INDIGENOUS EXPANSION



Literally and spiritually, Edmonton's River Valley has sustained countless people for many generations, and it has shaped their stories as indelibly as the land has been shaped by the waters of the kisiskâciwanisîpiy (North Saskatchewan River).

In the spirit of preserving cultural heritage and championing environmental conservation, the Commonwealth Walkway initiative came to include Edmonton's River Valley in 2019, dotting 10 kilometres from the Funicular to the Groat Bridge with literal and figurative milestones. Through the project, pedestrians of our River Valley were welcomed to explore stories of natural and built history via an interactive web application.

In its first year, the project saw 3,200 mobile app downloads and 40,000 visits to the desktop version.

As stewards of this initiative, the EHC recognized the need for inclusivity and diversity in storytelling. In that spirit, in 2024, we will unveil an updated and expanded app, facilitated by pipikwan pêhtâkwan, an Indigenous-owned, led, and majority staffed public relations agency. This collaboration birthed a collection of 46 new stories (and revisions to 23 existing stories)

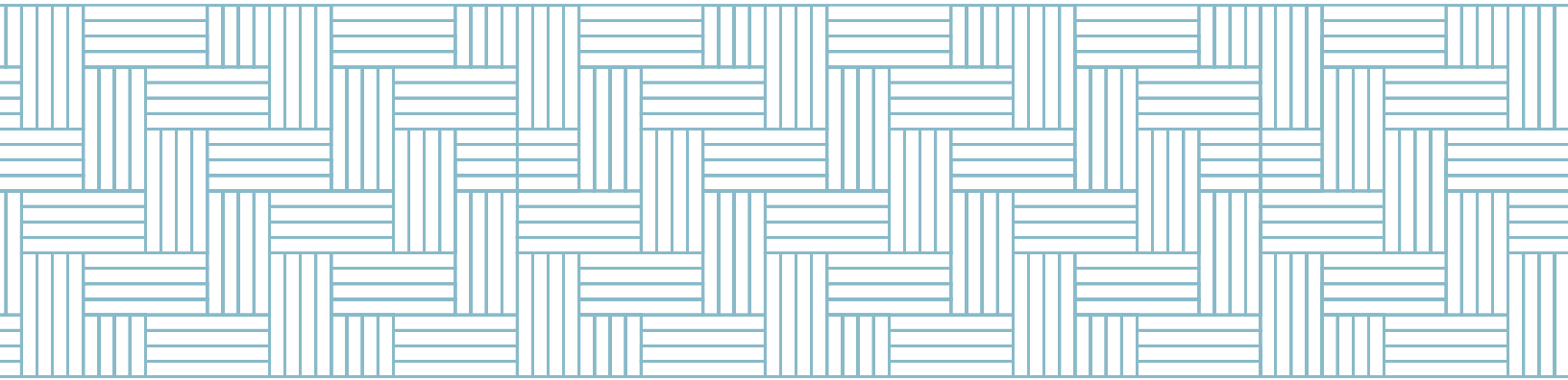
from Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Holders, and storytellers, breathing new life into the Commonwealth Walkway.

Ranging from the genesis of the North Saskatchewan River to the importance of Indigenous women in history, these stories infuse the walkway with depth and authenticity. Through poetry, visual art, and prose, they offer glimpses into an array of Indigenous Peoples' cultures, honoring its past and present significance with a commitment to accuracy and sensitivity.

The app's functionality was also enhanced for improved accessibility, ensuring Indigenous storytelling is shared in a good way.

The impact of these additions extends far beyond the digital landscape, paving the way for stronger connections between residents and the land they inhabit and fostering a deeper appreciation for Indigenous perspectives and contributions.

As we anticipate the relaunch in spring 2024, we celebrate not only the evolution of the Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway app but also a collective journey toward cultural understanding and stewardship.



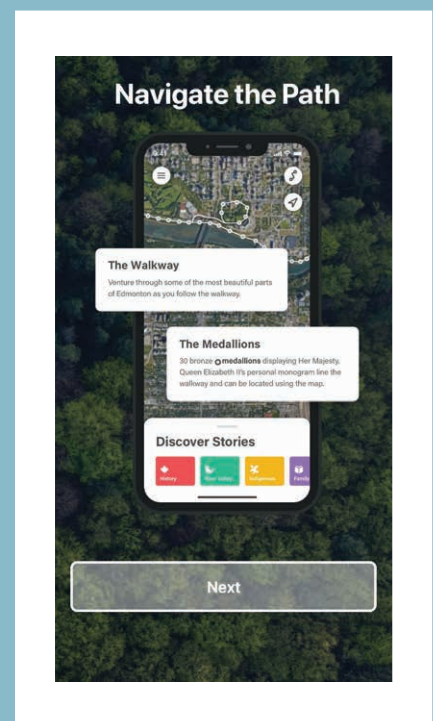
“This work is just a small part of EHC’s ongoing commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Edmonton Commonwealth Walkway has reinforced that the meaning of Treaty begins by recognizing our shared histories.”

—Elaine Yip, EHC’s Digital Projects Lead

for heritage, archives, and museum spaces to engage in visiting and thinking deeply about care ethics and cultural processes over end products. Just as important, and deeply tied to this, is the need for revisiting, just as we have revisited the Commonwealth Walkway project completed in 2019. We are always in relationship to our work and our responsibilities to our projects don’t end when the project is “completed,” and our grant report is turned in. It is a gift to be able to continue this meaningful work.”

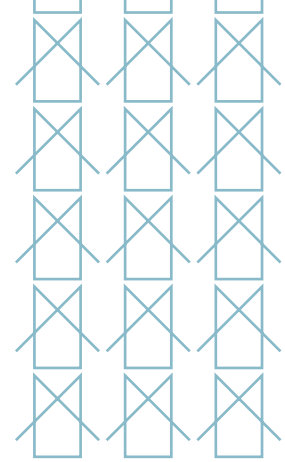
Jessica Johns, the Indigenous Initiatives Lead and lead on this project, quotes from Indigenous researcher and professor Eve Tuck: “Being a visitor is showing care and being responsible for our impact and presence. Visiting does not assume entitlement to space, control, or ownership over land.”

Johns continues: “The 2024 Commonwealth Walkway project was done through a visiting methodology, which matters because in the heritage space, there is a clear history of centering colonial narratives and adopting extractive practices when it comes to community engagement with marginalized groups. I believe the CWW project, and many other wonderful projects being done in this city that take a visiting methodology approach, can be used as a case study for the need



INDIGENOUS INITIATIVES:

ISKWEHEW KAMIK & INDIGITIZATION



Iskwehew Kamik

In response to a lack of urban Indigenous women occupying ceremonial roles, Iskwehew Kamik (Women's Firsts Lodge) convened from May 25 to 28, 2023 to furnish urban Indigenous women with ceremonial rites of passage.

With support from EHC, as well as Edmonton Public Library and the City of Edmonton, 40 women met in the Heartland Space (in the amiskwaciwâskahikan river valley) to participate in the ceremony.

Elders Jo-Ann and Jerry Saddleback led participants in mastering the procedural intricacies of erecting a mikowap (Moon Lodge), learning how to use traditional women's tools, and hearing excerpts of the creation story about the four feminine deities in the Plains Cree History of Creation Story.

Women and ihwehew (the Cree term for gender-diverse individuals) congregated within the mikowap to absorb the ceremonial cadences of women's sweat songs and to embrace their roles as stewards of Indigenous heritage.

The culmination of Iskwehew Kamik was marked by ceremonies in which nine individuals received their Cree names (a rite that is often inaccessible for Cree people due to systemic barriers).

Particularly appropriate was the choice to hold these ceremonies in the Heartland

space, both a traditional gathering and ceremonial space as well as the site where Two-Spirit folks and allies have recently been trying to activate Two-Spirit ceremonies.

"The experience of being involved in a ceremony held in a public, urban space was a privilege I do not take for granted. The ability to practice our cultural traditions and heal through ceremony in an urban public space enabled me to participate where I might not have otherwise been able to."

—Ceremony Participant



Indigitization

Modern technology and information management can be powerful tools in the important efforts toward preserving Indigenous heritage; the challenge, however, lies in how to ensure that information is being managed by its rightful stewards.

Indigitization, originally a collaboration among BC Indigenous nations and the University of British Columbia (UBC), is an initiative by which Indigenous communities become equipped with resources, toolkits, and training to effectively digitize their records (including video and audio recordings as well as paper records) and manage their digital heritage.

Recognizing the significance and potential of this initiative, the EHC and Edmonton Public Library joined forces with Indigitization to extend its reach to Treaty 6 territories, as well as Fort Edmonton Métis District and Edmonton Whitemud Métis District.

Edmonton's Indigitization training workshop in September 2023 marked an important and successful step towards Indigenous heritage in the region. Here, ten community members from diverse Indigenous backgrounds gathered to participate in hands-on training that prioritized culturally-respectful practices, aimed to strengthen community capacity and to promote Indigenous sovereignty over data and knowledge.

Among the initiatives of the workshop was the process of digitizing cassette and videotape collections containing traditional knowledge, oral history, and language. These collections, if inaccessible or improperly stored, are liabilities to the preservation of invaluable cultural artifacts. When digitized, communities can safeguard and provide access to these materials for future generations.

Indigenous community members were also provided with training that empowers them

to preserve analog heritage collections. Additional sessions covered project planning, navigating archives, and Indigenous data sovereignty.

Attendees appreciated the thoughtful organization and engaging sessions, with overwhelmingly positive feedback highlighting the workshop's value.

Elders Jo-Ann and Jerry Saddleback (who opened the event with a prayer) noted that the process of creating and delivering this project was just as important as the four-day workshop itself; as they say, "culture is a process, not a product."

Jessica Johns (EHC's Indigenous Initiatives Lead), says of the program "we look forward to continuing this important work and ensuring that the cultural and heritage sovereignty of Indigenous communities is safeguarded for future generations."

Images provided by Amber Paquette



SPECIAL PROJECT:

BLACK HISTORY WALKING TOUR

To many, the narratives of Edmonton's Black history (for instance, the significant African-American migration from Oklahoma) are too often underappreciated. To shed light on some of these lesser-known stories, the Edmonton City as Museum Project (ECAMP) organized a compelling Black History Walking Tour in June 2023.

The tour was led by Dr. Russell Cobb (author of *The Ghosts of Crook County: An Oil Fortune, A Phantom Child, and the Fight for Indigenous Land*), alongside Deborah Dobbins of the Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots, and Tanika Burlie-Tanner, granddaughter of Mary Burlie (a legend in Edmonton's volunteer community). Participants travelled from Kinistinâw Park, through Mary Burlie and Giovanni Caboto Parks, and concluded at the Commonwealth Stadium.

Over 30 participants, including descendants of early settlers, joined the walking tour. Stories of resilience and community emerged as they ventured through historical landmarks and vibrant neighbourhoods with a strong Black presence.

Memories were shared of iconic spots such as Hatti's Harlem Chicken Inn and Immigration Hall, sparking conversations about the enduring impact of Edmonton's Black community.

The success of the Black History Walking Tour highlighted the importance of preserving and celebrating Edmonton's diverse narratives. As participants reflected on the day's discoveries, it became evident that these stories are not just relics of the past but integral threads in the fabric of Edmonton's identity.

Images provided by Kyla Fisher



PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH HCIP AND FIRE

In 2023, local heritage practitioners continued to display the creativity and diversity needed to tell Edmonton’s stories in new and compelling ways. It is our privilege to support this storytelling through our granting programs, FIRE (Funding Indigenous Resurgence in Edmonton) and HCIP (Heritage Community Investment Program), as well as our multimedia platform ECAMP (Edmonton City as Museum Project).

HCIP PROJECTS

Over the past two years, the Heritage Community Investment Program has distributed over one million dollars in funding to 49 different projects and a dozen heritage professionals developing their practice, while supporting nearly a dozen heritage organizations with operational funding.

In the first decade of HCIP, we have engaged thousands of Edmontonians, from our dedicated community juries assessing and recommending heritage work for funding through our programs, to volunteers and workers in the heritage sector who rely on our funding to complete their work.

Community Impact

(Funding up to \$20,000 for individuals or non-profit organizations to undertake projects that preserve, research, document, interpret, celebrate, and raise awareness of the history and heritage of Edmonton)

- ▶ The Archives Society of Alberta – Supporting Indigenous Archives
- ▶ ShiftLab – Exploring wâhkôhtowin Board Game
- ▶ Josh Languedoc – Trail Worship: A Ceremonial Community Healing Walk
- ▶ Emily Chu – Chinatown Maps

Operational

(Limited operating assistance—up to 25 percent of an applicant’s eligible expenses—to museums, archives, and other heritage organizations to increase their capacity to research, preserve, interpret, and advocate for Edmonton’s heritage)

- ▶ Alberta Aviation Museum
- ▶ Alberta Genealogical Society
- ▶ Alberta Labour History Institute
- ▶ Alberta Pioneer Railway Association
- ▶ Edmonton Chinatown Chinese Library
- ▶ Edmonton and District Historical Society
- ▶ Edmonton Radial Railway Society
- ▶ Société Généalogique du Nord-Ouest
- ▶ Société historique francophone de l’Alberta



Images provided by Marina Hулzenga

Project Accelerator

(Funding up to \$10,000 to individuals and organizations undertaking small-scale heritage projects that tell Edmonton stories.)

- ▶ Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts – Fashion Show Project
- ▶ Backroads Productions – Making Kayfabe
- ▶ John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights – Inspiring Change: Learning Activism from Older Generations
- ▶ The Mah Society of Edmonton– Journey of the Horse
- ▶ Anna Ouedrago – Edmonton Black History Project
- ▶ Rainbow Story Hub – Spotighting Queer Community Leaders and Events
- ▶ Fahad Suleiman – Caribbean in the Prairies

Research & Planning

(Funding up to \$5,000 to individuals and organizations to complete preliminary research or planning towards a larger heritage project)

- ▶ Sara Awatta – Stories of Black Women Leaders and Community Builders in Edmonton
- ▶ Kyler Chittick – Sex and Sin in the City of Champions: A History of Moral Regulation in Edmonton
- ▶ Cheryl Croucher – Our Spirit Survived: Archiving Interviews Related to the Edmonton Indian Residential School
- ▶ Ground Zero Productions – A Working History of Edmonton Chinese Community 1890 – 1960
- ▶ Erina Harris – Traditional Indigenous Toys of Edmonton and Area
- ▶ Saint Jackson – Prayers in Peril Research
- ▶ Taghreed Saadeh Meqdadi – I Am Arab Canadian Research
- ▶ Philippine Arts Council Alberta – Echoes of Identity: Tracing Filipino Cultural Landscapes in Edmonton
- ▶ Jeannette Sinclair – Stories & Story Mapping of Our People: amiswâciwâskahikan Connections



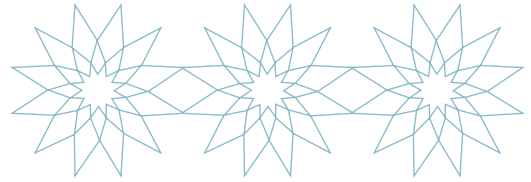
FIRE PROJECTS

Since its inception in 2019, the Funding Indigenous Resurgence in Edmonton (FIRE) grant has supported over 30 Indigenous-led heritage projects in Edmonton and the greater Treaty 6 and Métis Region 4 area, distributing over 300,000 dollars in grant funding. We update our funding guidelines every year based on feedback from our Indigenous peer jury and Indigenous applicants, ensuring the grant continues to be molded and improved by the people it's intended to serve.

- ▶ Kyle Napier—DeneQuest
- ▶ Ellie Adjun—Kalikuq Making Workshop
- ▶ Verna Fisher – New Beginnings (OskyaMatchetawin)
- ▶ Britney Supernault—Save Sage (An Indigenous Superhero Graphic Novel Series)
- ▶ Heather Shillinglaw – Nookomis/ Dibiki-giizis/Grandmother Moon
- ▶ Conor McNally – Untitled George Littlechild Documentary
- ▶ Lillian Crier – Teaching Mossbag and Sewing
- ▶ Keara Lightning – pimâtisihtâw: a bison story
- ▶ Connie LeGrand (Cikwes) – NehiyawNikamowinaᐅ"Δᐅ° (Cree Songs Concert)
- ▶ E2S (Edmonton 2 Spirit Society) – Crafting Spiritual sîsîkwâ Melodies
- ▶ Chad Whitford – From Our Elders
- ▶ Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective – kamâmak nihtâwikihcikan
- ▶ Charis Auger – Miyo pimâtisiwin
- ▶ Native Counselling Services of Alberta – Indigenous Cultural Programming: Flying Canoë Volant Festival 2024
- ▶ Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre – Rippling Winds
- ▶ Kokum's Helper Society – Kokum's Helper Round Dance
- ▶ Creating Hope Society – Healing Through Regalia Project

EHC GRANT RECIPIENTS:

IN THEIR OWN WORDS



“Textiles have the innate ability to retain and communicate memory, and through each recollection they reveal the historical, cultural, and personal moments that bring our community together. There has been a notable global interest that has played a significant role in popularizing embroidery and Slavic-inspired style, reflecting a growing appreciation for traditional craftsmanship, cultural diversity, and unique aesthetic expressions. The funding ACUA received through the Project Accelerator Grant for the Threads that Connect fashion show is allowing us to connect our community and provides a platform to celebrate the rich tapestry of textile artistry.”

—**Robin McHugh**, Alberta Centre for the Ukrainian Arts (ACUA)
(HCIP Project Accelerator Grant Recipient)

Image provided by Olena Romanova



Image provided by Creating Hope Society



HONOURING OUR OKIHCIHTÂW REGALIA AND DESIGN MENTORSHIP

The *Honouring Our Okihcihtâw Regalia and Design Mentorship for our Young Male Warriors (Ages 14–22)* mentorship consists of designing, sewing and creating men's powwow regalia. Through this process, our Okihcihtâwak (young warriors) were able to gain valuable sewing and design skills, which created an opportunity for healthy expression and healing through cultural connections. Many of our youth who have completed the regalia-making program are actively involved in powwow and are eager to hit the powwow trail this summer!

—**Creating Hope Society of Alberta** (FIRE Grant Recipient)

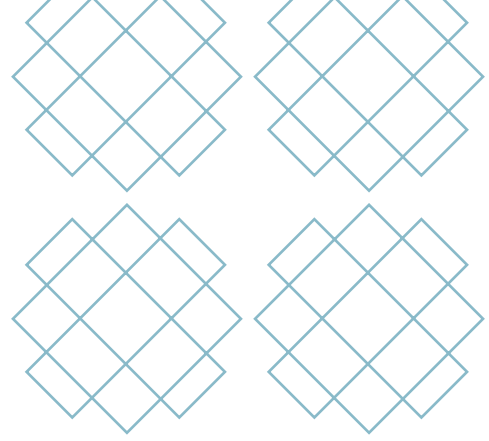
EXPLORING WÂHKÔHTOWIN BOARD GAME

The Edmonton Heritage Council Community Impact Grant has been instrumental in advancing our mission to promote Indigenous knowledge and cultural wisdom through the development and preparation of the exploring wâhkôhtowin board game. Over time, we've witnessed Exploring wâhkôhtowin grow—we've launched a website, created an online game version, and are in the process of producing the board game for classrooms. We envision the game being integrated in classrooms across Canada and accessible to the wider community. Our goal is for the game to ignite conversations around treaty responsibilities and inspire individuals to seek truth and take action towards positive change. This support has allowed us to honor the rich heritage of amiskwaciywaskahikan and Treaty 6 Territory, fostering deep connections within and beyond our community, while nurturing vital dialogue and understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

—**Rabia Naseer**, Shift Lab (HCIP Community Impact Project Grant Recipient)

Sam Singh and Liam Burns from the Exploring Wahkohtowin team, among others, attending the C-Tribe Game Pitch Quest in Edmonton. Image provided by C-Tribe x Gaming Festival.

JOURNEY OF THE HORSE



The Project Accelerator grant from the Edmonton Heritage Council has helped the Mah Society of Edmonton share to the community its rich history of over 100 years as well as the history of the Chinese in Edmonton through its "Journey of the Horse" Exhibit. The exhibit has opened the eyes of the community at large to the discrimination, hardships and resilience that the Chinese faced in their journey for a better life.

—**Sue Mah**, The Mah Society of Edmonton

Images provided by Andrea Maru



TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS TOYS OF EDMONTON AND AREA

I am extremely grateful to have received support from the Edmonton Heritage Council; the funding will enable me to travel to several sites in Edmonton in June (also one in Calgary) to research and document traditional Indigenous toys (including dolls, after having built relationships with various curators and sites for the past year). This will enhance the research I have been at work on for two years. Once this is completed, it is my hope that, better prepared, I will then be able to converse with the Cree traditional Doll Maker again at the end of June. She will determine what she wishes to share with me and will be welcome to review any work I create arising out of our conversations.

I will be developing creative work based on this research; part of the crucial challenge of this meditation is to determine how and what is respectful to share and represent (and what is not right, or mine, to engage in print). Overall, the creative work on the subject of toys is part of an exploration of contemporary shadows of colonialism and ecological ethics. I respectfully celebrate several different cultural conceptions of what “imagination” is and its vital role in our lives, all of which come to life through study of specific cultural histories of specific toys.

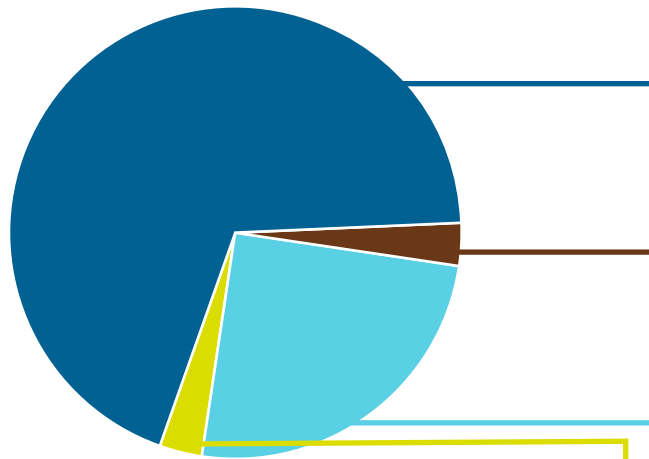
—**Erina Harris**, writer (HCIP Research & Planning Grant Recipient)

LOOKING AHEAD

The next undertakings of the FIRE team will be the FIRE Spotlight Series and the Cultural Connection Fund.

FIRE Spotlights will provide Edmontonians access to monthly events highlighting exciting research led by Treaty 6 Indigenous researchers regarding vital topics to contemporary Indigenous resurgence in Edmonton like language preservation, environmental stewardship, and territorial acknowledgements.

The Cultural Connection fund will provide funding for Indigenous people to connect to culture, land, and Knowledge Keepers. The fund will be piloted this fall.

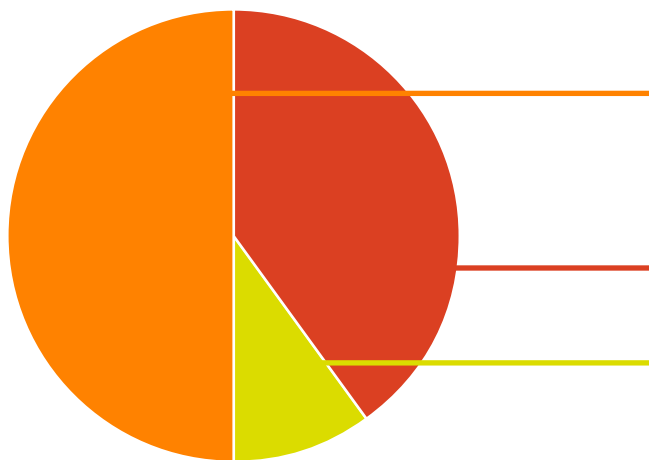


TOTAL REVENUE: **\$2,275,138**

Where does the money come from?

- 69%** City of Edmonton Grants - HCIP & Program Fund
Enables program delivery, support for community-driven heritage work
- 3%** AGLC Casino Fund
Supports technology costs related to program delivery and some administrative costs
- 25%** City of Edmonton Grants - General Fund
Sustains EHC's administrative and core capacity to deliver programs and services.
- 3%** Commonwealth Walkway Grant (Government of Canada, Canadian Heritage)
- <1%** Other

SINCE 2013, HCIP HAS SUPPORTED NEARLY **ONE THOUSAND** PROJECTS.



TOTAL EXPENSES: **\$2,014,830**

Where does the money go?

- 50%** Transfers to other organizations and individuals
Grants, honoraria, professional fees, contracting
- 40%** Program delivery and support
Salaries, wages, benefits
- 10%** Other
Advertising and promotion, office expenses, board of directors, insurance, etc.

ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO BE DEPLOYED IN 2024: **\$260,308**

For full financial statement and other reporting, visit edmontonheritage.ca/reports

PERSONNEL:

STAFF & BOARD

Staff

David Ridley, *Executive Director*

Ann Mary Babu (from June 2023),
HR & Operations Manager

Kyla Fisher, *Investment &
Partnership Manager*

Kesia Kvill (from April 2024),
Community Engagement Manager

Jessica Johns, *Indigenous Initiatives Lead*

Raffaella Loro, *Communications Lead*
(from April 2024)

Daliso Mwanza, *Digital Policy &
Research Lead* (from January 2024)

Elaine Yip, *Digital Projects Lead*

Leslie Bush, *Grants Coordinator*

Chris Chang-Yen Phillips, *ECAMP Coordinator*
(from May 2024)

Joe Hartfeil, *Communications Coordinator*

Keelan Marples, *IT Coordinator*

Fabiola Muñoz, *Administrative Coordinator*

Amber Paquette, *Community Outreach
Coordinator, FIRE* (from June 2023)

Former Casual Staff

Alexandra Hahn, *Office Assistant*
(to December 2023)

Former Staff

Danielle Dolgoy (to Feb 2024),
Programs Manager

Jamad Hassan (to March 2024),
Community Engagement Coordinator

Mary Schuurman (to June 2023),
Operations Manager

2023-2024 Board of Directors

Jean-Louis Zokpe, *Chair*

Jessica Burylo, *Vice Chair*

Geoff Wagner, *Treasurer*

Robert Hobson, *Past Chair*

Mercy Afrane

Tim Gilchrist

James Lamouche

Adegoke Ogundeyi

Abbey Preston

Kyle Schole

Lauren Wheeler

Former Directors

Henry Maisonneuve (to October 2023)

Kathryn Gwun-Yeen Lennon, *Secretary*
(to April 2024)

City Advisors to Board

Erik Backstrom - *Senior Planner*

Kathryn Ivany - *City Archivist*

Roger Jevne - *Branch Manager,
Community & Recreation Facilities*

Former City Advisor




Scott Ashe (to March 2023)



Patterns used through this report created by Marina Hulzenga based on textiles included in Edmonton Living Rooms exhibition.

This report created in collaboration with Curio Studio.

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