



# Edmonton Heritage Council Mentorship Program Fall 2019

**September 24, 2019  
Mixer Event Program**

6:00-6:15 p.m. - Registration and Networking  
6:15-6:30 p.m. - Opening Comments  
6:30-7:30 p.m. - Speed Rotations  
7:30-7:45 p.m. - Closing Comments



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@yegheritage



@yegheritage

Use hashtag  
**#EHCMentor** tonight!

[www.edmontonheritage.ca](http://www.edmontonheritage.ca)

# Event Facilitators

Danielle (she/her) grew up on the edge of Edmonton's MacKinnon Ravine, bike riding through the neighbourhood, playing soccer on the community league team, and getting a head start on her homework. With her degree in Liberal Arts and Art History, as well as her graduate studies in Communications and Media Studies, she seeks out connections in unlikely places and helps people tell their stories to enrich communities and preserve culture.

As a Project Manager, Danielle enjoys planning events and executing projects down to the smallest detail. When she's not at work, you'll find her scrambling up mountains with her husband or in her front yard vegetable garden, seeking shade beneath a very large tomato plant.



**Danielle Dolgoy, Event Host and Operations and Initiatives Manager**



**Zohreh Sahar, interVivos Representative**

Zohreh (she/her) is an experienced policy professional with over 13 years of experience working with elected officials, community leaders, and all orders of government. Besides policy development, her career has also focused on event management, communications, project management, sponsorship, corporate social responsibility, and grassroots organizing.

She is also one of the founders of the nonprofit interVivos, an organization focused on leadership and professional development for emerging leaders.



Soni Dasmohapatra BA, MPA (she/her) is a passionate advocate for the promotion of equity, diversity, and inclusion. Throughout her diverse twenty plus years career, she has had the opportunity to be an educator, policy worker, convener, and creative leader locally, nationally, and internationally. Soni is open to discussing opportunities for collaborations.

She was inspired by her experiences with interVivos and seized the opportunity to create the Edmonton Heritage Council Pilot Mentorship program that will take shape over the fall. She thanks you for your trust, commitment and curiosity to create, play, and invest in this exciting process.

**Soni Dasmohapatra, Mentorship Program Manager and Grants Coordinator**

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**A special thank you to our event partner!**



# Fall 2019 Mentors



**David Ridley**

**Facebook - @edmontonheritagecouncil**

**Instagram - @yegheritage**

**Twitter - @yegheritage**

**[www.edmontonheritage.ca](http://www.edmontonheritage.ca)**

**What is your preferred meeting day(s) of the week?**

Weekdays, usually Thursday and Friday.

**Where is your preferred area(s) of the city to meet?**

Downtown and surrounding neighbourhoods (west to 124th, north to 118th, east to 75th), University area, and southside.

**What is your preferred meeting time(s)?**

Mid-to-late afternoons.

David Ridley (he/him) is the Executive Director for the Edmonton Heritage Council and has been so since inauguration ten years ago. He has over 25 years of experience in heritage and culture, in that time serving as Curatorial Researcher, Director of Research, and Curator and Program Manager. Being a part of the founding team of the Edmonton Heritage Council, David helped the organization grow and mature into a dynamic not-for-profit body in Edmonton.

David is passionate about the importance of local knowledge, local places, and how these are important to the way people and communities connect. David would like to assist a protégé in finding the right path for work in the heritage sector by exploring their ideas and suggestions for the heritage sector in Edmonton.

David defines heritage as a broad set of practices, disciplines, and perspectives that are continually evolving. For him, it is essential that the current practices and professionalism of archivists, curators, conservators, and programs continues and develops, but the traditions and perspectives of Indigenous and cultural communities must be acknowledged and appreciated.

*I would like to help others find a good path in this work—it's not easy because it's not a large sector and opportunities in Edmonton are not as abundant. But it is good work and that's something there can never be too much of.*



**Marlena Wyman**

**Facebook - Edmonton's Historian Laureate**

**[www.marlenawyman.com](http://www.marlenawyman.com)**

**[www.theprairieline.wordpress.com](http://www.theprairieline.wordpress.com)**

**What is your preferred meeting day(s) of the week?**

Fairly open. Not Monday mornings, Friday afternoons, or Saturday mornings.

**Where is your preferred area(s) of the city to meet?**

Southside.

**What is your preferred meeting time(s)?**

Fairly open. Not Monday mornings, Friday afternoons, or Saturday mornings.

Marlena (she/her) is a visual artist who has made Edmonton her home since 1974. She was born and raised in southern Alberta on her family farm near Rockyford. She worked at the Provincial Archives of Alberta for 28 years, and her artworks are inspired by her research into archival records.

Marlena continues to work and volunteer in Edmonton's arts and heritage sector. She is a founding member of Urban Sketchers Edmonton and served on the board of the Women's Art Museum Society of Canada. In 2011, Marlena received a Historical Recognition Award from the Edmonton Historical Board for her contributions to archives and visual arts.

Because of her background in archives and art, those are two of her main areas of focus. She works to shine a light on some of the lesser-known stories in the City's archives, and interpret those through an artistic lens. She also encourages her fellow Edmontonians to fill the gaps in archival holdings in order to help complete our historical record.

Her role as Historian Laureate encapsulates the role of the heritage sector, which is to preserve and promote awareness of the history of the city by "documenting, researching, interpreting, and speaking about the people, places and events that have created Edmonton's distinctive heritage and character."

*My years in the heritage field, and in archives in particular, have provided me with specialized knowledge that I can share. I can provide encouragement as well as a realistic understanding of some of the challenges that can be a part of that field of work.*



**Shawn Tse**

**[www.falloutmedia.ca](http://www.falloutmedia.ca)**  
**[www.shawntse.com](http://www.shawntse.com)**

**What is your preferred meeting day(s) of the week?**

Monday-Friday.

**Where is your preferred area(s) of the city to meet?**

University.

**What is your preferred meeting time(s)?**

Between 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Shawn Tse (he/him) is an amiskwaciwâskahikan/Edmonton based artist, filmmaker, and educator passionate about social change through arts and media. Shawn works closely with Multicultural Health Brokers Cooperative, Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation, Edmonton Chinese Television Society, and more.

A second-generation Chinese Canadian, Shawn believes that minority cultures are underrepresented in Canadian arts and heritage industries and actively works with the ethnocultural community. Shawn's love of community and storytelling has helped him develop the intergenerational cooking show "Seconds, Please!" and lead a community arts project using Chinese ink paintings & film to highlight the historical and cultural impacts of Edmonton's ever-changing Chinatown.

Shawn is passionate about working with ethnocultural organizations and community members to help raise awareness and empower underrepresented voices through Heritage and Arts projects.

*Through this mentorship program, I want to increase representation of racialized communities in Edmonton Heritage work.*



Elliott Young (he/him) is an Indigenous Community Engagement Advisor with NorQuest College in Edmonton, Alberta. He has worked with many diverse groups of Indigenous communities throughout his career, within different sectors and fields such as government, not-for-profits, and post-secondary institutions. Within each role, Elliott applies the philosophy of “nothing about us, without us” to ensure the Indigenous community is always engaged.

It is essential to Elliott that Indigenous voices are heard, by always ensuring their voices are in the room. Elliott continues his personal development as a Masters Student in Community Engagement with the University of Alberta.

Elliott wants to mentor to spread the philosophy “nothing about us, without us”. Elliott hopes to pair with a protégé who has a genuine interest in the Indigenous community in the Edmonton region.

**Elliott Young**

**Twitter – @youngell7**  
**Instagram – @youngell7**

**What is your preferred meeting day(s) of the week?**

Any day of the week as long as it is during the work day or after 8 p.m., as I have a young family.

**Where is your preferred area(s) of the city to meet?**

Anywhere central works for me.

**What is your preferred meeting time(s)?**

Any time during the work day or after 8 p.m.

For Elliott, as an Indigenous person, heritage connects communities in a variety of ways. Exploring these connections is essential to Elliott through his commitments to Truth and Reconciliation, and he hopes to find overlap and shared values with a protégé.

*Edmonton is a diverse center for Indigenous people, so the exploration of heritage in Edmonton needs to ensure many voices are heard.*



**Beth Sanders**

**Facebook – beth0sanders**

**Twitter - @bethsanders**

**www.populus.ca**

**What is your preferred meeting day(s) of the week?**

TBC.

**Where is your preferred area(s) of the city to meet?**

TBC.

**What is your preferred meeting time(s)?**

TBC.

Beth Sanders (she/her) is the President, RPP (Registered Professional Planner with Alberta Professional Planners Institute) for POPULUS Community Planning Inc. She worked for the municipal government for 12 years before starting her own company and landing her “dream job.”

To Beth, the heritage sector is about the people and organizations who tell our stories. Her role is to help people get clear on the story, the purpose of the story, and the roles and responsibilities of people. Beth wants to help people together to tell/live into their story, to examine when the story is old or if a new, disruptive story is wanting to be seen and heard.

Beth understands that as a white, cis-gendered woman, she has the privilege of benefiting from her professional experience. She knows how to navigate power structures to access resources and to support those in power to see new ways of doing things.

The purpose of Beth’s work is to shepherd community and organizational conversations and decision making into a new era where the following are front and center: pragmatic purpose, community health, fiscal and economic responsibility, environmental responsibility, cultural responsibility, and public conversation.

Beth is a former Board Member of the Edmonton Heritage Council.

*What am I passionate about? Citizens who serve our cities well, so our cities serve us well in return.*



**Catherine C. Cole**

**Facebook -  
Commonwealth  
Association of Museums  
Twitter - @ComAsscMus  
www.maltwood.uvic.ca/  
cam/about/index.html**

**What is your preferred  
meeting day(s) of the  
week?**

Dependent on my travel  
schedule.

**Where is your preferred  
area(s) of the city to  
meet?**

Central if possible, with free  
parking.

**What is your preferred  
meeting time(s)?**

Dependent on my schedule.

Catherine C. Cole (she/her) is the Principal Consultant for her own consultation firm, Catherine C. Cole & Associates. She has over 40 years of experience in the heritage sector, including having worked with the Edmonton Heritage Council, Alberta Museums Association, Canadian Association of Museums, and International Council of Museums, among others.

Catherine has been a consultant for more than 20 years; previously she worked as a museum curator and historic site interpreter. She has an MA in Canadian History from the University of Alberta and has written numerous sectoral studies, research reports, books and articles, curated virtual and physical exhibitions, collaborated on large community-based, interdisciplinary arts and heritage projects, and given many conference presentations.

Catherine has taught in the heritage sector for 30 plus years teaching introduction, management, research, oral history, interpretation, public programming/education, and volunteer management.

Catherine identifies as a well-educated Indigenous middle-aged woman but does not believe that her identity is what defines her approach to her work. Catherine follows the Golden Rule. As a consultant, Catherine is well respected internationally and spends more time thinking about how to leave the world a better place than she found it – which is what has led to her work in Indigenous and immigrant communities, as well as her commitment to social justice.

*I do a lot of mentoring in my role as Secretary-General of the Commonwealth Association of Museums; I feel that it's important to help build the capacity of the local heritage sector.*



**Crystal Willie**

**Twitter - @crystal\_willie**  
**www.purpleaspens.ca**

**What is your preferred meeting day(s) of the week?**

TBC.

**Where is your preferred area(s) of the city to meet?**

TBC.

**What is your preferred meeting time(s)?**

TBC.

*I have been blessed to have many people in my life who were willing to invest their time in my learning and professional growth over the years and I want to share whatever help I can offer to others.*

Crystal Willie (she/her) provides consulting services to cultural sector organizations and not-for-profits, primarily in the areas of project management, policy development, program support, and planning. She has worked with community organizations from small arts cooperatives to provincial and municipal government agencies. Her clients include MacEwan University's Arts and Cultural Management Program, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the National Music Centre, the Edmonton Arts and Heritage Councils, and several Alberta museums.

At the Alberta Museums Association, where Crystal worked for 12 years, she oversaw organizational performance assessment programs such as the Recognized Museum Program and the Museum Excellence Program, employing outcome-based evaluation techniques. She is the editor and project manager of the 3rd Edition, Standard Practices Handbook for Museums (2014), which frames standards of practice as a balance between organizational best practices in a context of community relevancy and organizational sustainability and agility, and the HELP! An Emergency Preparedness Manual for Museums, 2nd Edition (2018).

Crystal was a member of the Steering Committee to establish the Edmonton Heritage Council and served on the board for five years, including as its chair. She has more than twenty years of experience working and volunteering with museums, heritage organizations, and other not-for-profits. Recently Crystal began an online Design Thinking Certificate from Cornell University to further develop her skills in applying system thinking and design theory to developing strong community focused programs and services in non-profit organizations. Crystal has led a volunteer team of over 50 people which sponsored a Syrian refugee family and provides community supports to newcomer families, and engages with community and government organizations to improve or develop supports in a quickly evolving environment.

# Fall 2019 Protégés

## **Melissa Scott, MA**

Northern Alberta Program  
Representative And Trainer,  
Catholic Crosscultural Services

*As my personal and professional interests shift to deepening my own ties to my Métis-Cree identity and heritage, I seek to use this passion to propel forward projects that meaningfully engage diverse Indigenous communities. I hope to learn from a mentor and other heritage sector professionals who value and prioritize an approach of meaningful community and stakeholder engagement, either with Indigenous communities or otherwise*



## **Kristine Reid**

High School English Teacher, Edmonton Academy

*At present I feel I would learn best from professionals in the field as I move towards more independent heritage endeavors, including a goal of attaining a management position in the sector and self-employment opportunities. I would like to learn how to market myself more effectively, how to build my career, and ways to fill out my skills without going back to school full-time. I am interested in consulting, writing, and general museum management.*





**Elaine Yip**

Pursuing a Masters of Arts in Recreation and Leisure

*I hope to learn about the current heritage sector and how to support my community to savour, share, and grow our Edmonton heritage history through sophisticated and archival means. I also hope to learn applicable communication and educational skills to apply in my future personal and professional capacities for connecting people, history, stories, and relationships.*

**Jean Middleton**

Alberta Aviation Museum, Lead Interpreter

*I hope to gain a more holistic perspective of the heritage sector. I know that the work of heritage professionals is incredibly diverse, and I think the opportunity to learn more about how an experienced heritage professional has developed in areas other than their specializations would be incredibly valuable.*





**Kate R. Werkman**  
Author

*I am a graduate of the Alberta Museums Association Heritage Internship Program and am looking forward to revitalizing my skills. What do I hope to learn? How to handle historical political issues with diplomacy.*

**Connor Thompson**  
Research Assistant, University of Alberta

*I hope to learn more about how those working in the heritage sector create a sense of community around history. Whether in a very practical sense of public engagement and community events, or in a more subtle sense of strategic preservation projects relating to built heritage or public art that creates an awareness and sense of history, I think engaging the public in heritage and creating a sense of place is something I would really like to learn more about.*





**Samantha Lee**

Past Masters Student, Viking and Medieval Norse Studies

*In this mentorship I hope to learn more about the landscape of the heritage sector in Alberta. Specifically I would love to learn about addressing Indigenous heritage in an impactful and considerate manner in all types of heritage institutions. With the exception of volunteering with the Royal Alberta Museum I have not had the opportunity to work in a heritage institution that directly addresses Indigenous heritage, or actively works to include Indigenous topics of any scope into any of their policies or procedures. I believe that all of the heritage and culture sector has a responsibility to engage their communities with Indigenous culture and history. More broadly I would love to learn more about engaging voices that are commonly unheard.*

**Cassandra Pryer**

Bachelor of History and Psychology (double major), University of Alberta

*I hope to learn about the inner workings of heritage work in Edmonton, current initiatives, and the influence of modern technology, events, and perspective on the heritage sector in Canada. As well I would love to learn about the types of careers available in the sector. Most importantly, I want to learn how to channel my passion for history and the recording and connections of historical information. Edmonton (and the land it is on before it became Edmonton) has a rich history; economic, political, both pre and post confederation, it is multicultural giving it ties to places and history from all over the world. Furthermore how concepts important in our current time affect the way heritage work is carried out today.*



**Alle DeMelo**

Executive Assistant, Art Gallery of Alberta

*I would most appreciate to learn methods in which to ensure the heritage and culture industry remain sustainable.*

*Furthermore, I wish to expand on my available tools and accessibility to further enhance my networking capabilities. I think this is an absolutely critical skill in the changing job market and heritage industry, and would offer life-long benefit.*



**Elisabeth Hill**

Programming and Engagement Coordinator, Art Gallery of Alberta

*I am interested in participating in the Heritage Sector Mentorship program in order to expand my understanding of the opportunities, challenges, and paths available in the heritage sector, and to develop a stronger sense of direction in my own career. Although I currently work in the arts, my educational background and interests are in history, and I believe that there is a great deal of overlap between arts and heritage, as well as many transferable knowledge and skills. I am also very interested in how heritage work can be leveraged in the service of contemporary problems and the creation of sustainable and resilient communities.*





**Naima Haile**

Museum Director, Somali-Canadian Heritage Museum

*I hope to learn skills in curating developing/planning/organizing heritage and cultural programs for newcomers and by sharing with the wider Edmontonian community.*

**Welcome Mentors & Protégés!**

**Have fun!**

**Thank You!**

**interVivos**

**The Aviary**

**Tix on the Square**

**Edmonton Symphony Orchestra**

**Rapid Fire Theatre**

**All the Volunteers**

**The EHC Staff**

