

Edmonton Heritage Council

Introduction

The Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) is a not-for-profit organization that supports and promotes heritage in Edmonton and the surrounding region.

Created in 2010 as a result of the recommendations of the Art of Living the EHC has just started its third year of operations. Funding at present comes from a City of Edmonton grant, membership fees and donations. It is directed by a Board of 16 members some of which are drawn from member organizations and others from the heritage community at large.

The vision of the Edmonton Heritage Council is of a place where heritage is understood and valued by all members of the community as an integral part of life. *Heritage is the legacy of our past, informing our present, and shaping our future.*

The mission of the Edmonton Heritage Council is to support the work of individuals and organizations that: research, preserve, protect and present Edmonton's unique heritage

promote an understanding of how this distinct place and community came to be

engage with the past in planning for the future.

The Board of the EHC is responsible for hiring the executive director, who in turn hires the rest of the staff. Other positions at the EHC are the Programs Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant. The EHC shares some administrative functions with the Edmonton Arts Council with which it also shares office space in the Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre.



Heritage Symposium: Heritage, Innovation & the Livable City

Held October 2010, this community symposium featured keynote speakers and panels (see attached brochure) on Edmonton's heritage. Over 150 participants discussed Edmonton history and heritage in relation to other civic activity and development.

Edmonton Maps Heritage (EMH)

EMH is a collective and ongoing "mapping" of the city's heritage online; the city's heritage buildings, archaeological sites, and landscapes including links to local museums and archives. This provides access to Edmonton's heritage resources and stories in an interactive, graphic format which is easy to read and understand. Initiated in 2010 with ongoing updates, it is publicly accessible through EHC's website and will soon be integrated with the City Hall interactive map interface to provide broad public benefit.



Capital Modern: Edmonton Architecture and Urban Design 1940-1969

Edmonton has a wealth of Modernist architecture that is often under-appreciated locally, but recognized as nationally significant. Based on the companion publication to the exhibition of the same name ([Art Gallery of Alberta: 2007](#)), the website version of *Capital Modern* (www.capitalmodernedmonton.com) is an initiative of the EHC and several organizations and individuals collaborating on content development. Completed in 2011, this aspect of the city's architectural heritage now reaches a larger public audience.

Edmonton Heritage Council

.Herzog on Heritage

Lawrence Herzog is an accomplished and recognized journalist who, since 2010, provides biweekly columns on Edmonton's heritage, posted on EHC's website www.edmontonheritage.ca/, publicly accessible through social media and newsletters. These engaging articles provide Edmontonians with new knowledge and fresh insight on Edmonton's heritage and history. Herzog's estimated biweekly readership is approximately 500 people.

Percolate Speakers Series



The EHC is a partner with the Alberta Museums' Association, MacEwan University and the Edmonton Arts Council in this annual 3 event speaker's series of exploring arts, heritage and cultural developments relevant to the Edmonton scene. Now in its second year, the 2011 series included a presentation by Nancy Noble of the Museum of Vancouver, an organization that's redefining the place and purpose of museums in Canadian cities. The 2012 dates, which drew approximately 500 participants, are listed below.

Douglas McLennan 'Liquid Culture: How the Digital Revolution is Transforming the Arts' February 6, 2012

Kelly Hill "Towards a Better Understanding of the Arts in the Alberta Economy & Society", March 14, 2012

Lois H. Silverman "The Social Work of Museums", April 18, 2012

These thought provoking sessions provide insight and generate conversations among heritage professionals and members of the public on cultural developments, and their application to the local (Edmonton) context.

Historian Laureate

The Historian Laureate program raises the profile of Edmonton's heritage and history, connecting Edmonton's history to civic events, developments and occasions. EHC was a partner in selecting the City's first Historian Laureate in 2010. Historian Ken Tingley was the inaugural historian laureate finishing his term in April 2011. EHC estimated that the first Historian Laureate was heard by 2000+ people in the first term. Shirley Lowe is the 2nd Historian Laureate.

Community Events & Projects

The EHC provided support to these initiatives working with its community partners to foster education and raise awareness of the importance of history and heritage in our contemporary community.

National Day of Healing and Reconciliation celebration- Native Counseling Services of Alberta, June 8th 2012. (200 participants)

Historic Festival and Doors Open Edmonton- Edmonton Historical Society of Alberta, Realtors Association of Edmonton, July 3-8, 2012 (500 participants)

My Heart's in the Highlands centennial publication- Highlands Historical Society

Exhibit: We Simply Turned to the Women: 100 Years of the Catholic Women's League, 1912-2012- Catholic Women's League, Edmonton Archdiocese and Provincial Archives of Alberta, June- July 2012 (public access to exhibit)

Salon Africa- Afrikan History Library Project- February 2012 (Black History Month commemoration) (100 participants)



Special Projects and Reports 2010-2012

Preserving Historical Collections: Artifact Centre & Archives Strategy

The EHC managed this project with the initial study in 2010 resulting in recommendations for the future and continuing preservation of the City's historical artifact and archival collections. Currently unfunded, this plan and strategy continue to develop and will also inform the current on-going Museum's Strategy Project.

Partners included the City of Edmonton, Community Facility Services and involved approximately 50 representatives of Edmonton's museums' and archives' organizations. Existing and future benefits to the larger public would occur, if the City pursues the recommendations, in the preservation of its historic collections and the ability of the City's museums to mount interesting and interactive exhibitions of the City's diverse heritage.

The City of Edmonton's Artifact Centre holds:

- Family artifacts from well-known early Edmontonians such as John Walter and Alexander Cameron Rutherford

- Uniforms, awards, and other memorabilia of the renowned Edmonton Commercial Grads Basketball team

- Artifacts from sporting events such as the 1978 Commonwealth Games and the 1983 Universiade Games

The City of Edmonton Archives holds:

- Over 250,000 historical photographs dating back to the 1880s

- Over 260 current and historical maps of the Edmonton area dating from 1882

- Thousands of blueprints and plans of Edmonton's commercial, public and private buildings

- Microfilm copies of early and current Edmonton newspapers

- Civic government records dating back to 1892

Edmonton Museums Strategy

At the request of Council in December 2011, the EHC is spearheading the creation of a strategy to establish a museum of the city – one that involves and engages Edmontonians in presenting the rich and diverse history of the city and a public space for the whole community to share. A second element of this project is to development additional support for the city's existing independent museums. The strategy's recommendations are expected in the fall of 2012 and include a public survey on the value of and support for creating a museum of Edmonton. The 100 plus participants from key community members, museum organizations and other heritage organizations such as archives and historical societies in and around Edmonton, and the majority of the 500 online survey participants, are anticipating that the creation of a museum will help showcase the diverse communities which thrive in the City and provide an increasing sense of civic identification and affection.

Edmonton Heritage Council

Living Local Arts & Heritage in the Neighbourhood Grants

This grants program was piloted December 2011 – August 2012 in partnership with the EFCL and EAC, to encourage neighbourhood artists, historians and community members to create artistic works and documentary evidence based on the neighbourhood's history and experience to enhance identification and appreciation of neighbourhood heritage, leading to potentially greater citizen involvement. Five community leagues were awarded grants (as indicated below), with 1000+ neighbourhood participants and audiences, selected from a total of 19 applications and a total grant allocation of \$75,250.

Given the success of the pilot project, the project partners will continue with this program in 2012.

Illuminated Boyle (Boyle Street Community League) Digital media arts project using archival photographs, with contemporary images and words from neighbourhood writers and poets. (\$20,000)

Hazeldean Green: Connecting in Place (Hazeldean Community League) A sculpture and interpretive installation animating the history of the railway spur that served industries along Millcreek Ravine. (\$17,500)

Alberta Avenue Oral History Interpretive Project (Eastwood, Alberta Avenue, Parkdale & Cromdale Community Leagues) Creating a digital archive of memories from people in the communities along Alberta Avenue, with selected stories for interpretive performances and publications. (\$20,000)

Child Artists in Action (Newton Community League) Working with Edmonton-born artist George Littlechild, students look at their neighbourhood's landscape, people, stories and shared culture to create an art exhibit. (\$3,000)

Living Local Mill Woods (Mill Woods Presidents Council) Collecting the stories of the people who created the Mill Woods community, aiming to dismantle stereotypes about Mill Woods and showing the real history of people who came to the community and made it their home. (\$14,750)

Opportunities and Challenges- Strategic Directions

1. Development of City museum and Museum Strategy

- Making a plan to create/establish a museum about Edmonton and its people (this is going to involve wide public consultation)
- Making a plan for support/investment in Edmonton's existing museums to better serve Edmonton's citizens- involves consultation with these museums

2. Increase opportunities for heritage interpretation

- Developing a grant program (Living Local) that supports neighbourhoods in documenting and presenting their history/heritage (Interpretive)
- Building and making the case for City of Edmonton investment (grant program) in heritage research, programs, organizations that will connect citizens to Edmonton's local culture/heritage
- Building an online map showing Edmonton's heritage, including buildings, archaeology sites and cultural neighbourhoods (interpretive)
- Raising awareness of Edmonton's heritage, as well as cultural heritage events and organizations through EHC communications, e.g. UPdate, FB, Herzog on Heritage
- Our advocacy work is about this as well.-- i.e. Rosssdale, The Quarters
- Historian Laureate program

3. Focus on board governance & organizational development

- Policy committee work
- Strategic planning and board development
- Grant development (initiated as a program, but is strategically about increasing opportunities for "heritage interpretation through the city" as recommended in the Art of Living recommendation #8.
- Membership development

4. EHC as Catalyst and Collaborator, develop leadership friends, influence

- Percolate series, Cultural community salons (e.g. Salon Africa), Catholic Women's League anniversary exhibit, Chinese community documentation project (and one or two others that we're doing exploratory work on)
- Museum strategy work will be a key in the months in building relationships and in wider community consultation

Edmonton Heritage Council

Approved 2013 Budget (\$000)

| | 2011 Actual | 2012 Budget | 2013 Budget | \$ Change '12-'13 | % Change '12-'13 |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Expenditure & Transfers | | | | | |
| Personnel | 191 | 221 | 230 | 9 | 4.1 |
| Materials, Goods & Supplies | - | 1 | 1 | - | - |
| External Services | 47 | 39 | 39 | - | - |
| Utilities & Other Charges | 22 | 6 | 281 | 275 | 4,583.3 |
| Subtotal | 260 | 267 | 551 | 284 | 106.4 |
| Intra-municipal Recoveries | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total Expenditure & Transfers | <u>260</u> | <u>267</u> | <u>551</u> | <u>284</u> | 106.4 |
| Net Operating Requirement | \$ 260 | \$ 267 | \$ 551 | \$ 284 | 106.4 |

Expenditures & Transfers - Changes

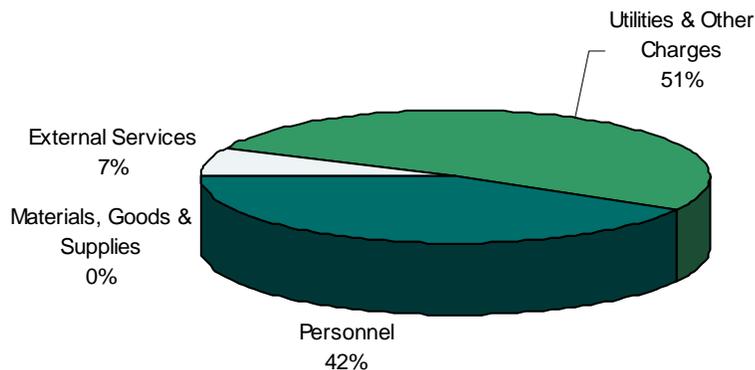
Personnel \$

Wages and benefits adjusted to meet actuals.

Utilities & Other Charges

Heritage Community Investment service package.

Expenditures by Category



Edmonton Heritage Council

Heritage Community Investment

FUNDED

Description

This service package would provide funding (to establish a grant program of the Edmonton Heritage Council) to provide for two streams of heritage community investment: 1) Heritage operating funding will provide limited operating assistance to heritage organizations to enhance their ability to present Edmonton's history and heritage for the benefit of Edmontonians. 2. Heritage project funding will provide support for research, publication, interpretive programming, related travel and for significant anniversary commemorations for Edmonton heritage and history initiatives.

Presently, the support for operating for Edmonton museums is limited to the CIG Arts and Museum facility grant program administered through the Edmonton Arts Council. Support for operating (non-facility) and project support to heritage and history does not exist.

The primary intention of this service package is not to create FTE or temporary positions, it would require an additional part-time staff person to help administer the funding through Edmonton Heritage Council.

NOTE: Funding held in Abeyance pending a Committee Report with recommendation to Council.

Justification

Edmonton's "memory" organizations are key to the city's cultural and social life providing educational, programming and research services. At present, these organizations do not receive consistent and direct grant support. The vision is to make Edmonton's diverse heritage a prominent, valued and accessible aspect of daily life. The anticipated service result is:

- Increased organizational accountability (e.g. up to date business/strategic plan, procedures) required for funding eligibility
- Improved quality of interpretive presentation (e.g. signage, publications, programs, connected to AoL Heritage recommendation #9)

Service result to public for heritage project funding will be:

- Greater community awareness through marking of significant anniversaries/milestones of organizations
- Improved access to Edmonton's history and heritage through publications, physical and virtual presentations and performances

Service Level Impact

Level of service will increase through improved citizen experience and access to Edmonton's heritage and history. This can be measured in increased operating hours of organizations, improved interpretation (through professional development of staff and exhibit design), a greater range of research and interpretive result on Edmonton's heritage (e.g. of cultural communities whose story has not been documented and presented) and development of online and mobile applications that make Edmonton's story readily and widely accessible outside the walls of heritage organizations and their programs.

Impact on Other Departments

Ad hoc requests for support and funding by heritage organizations for operating support and project funding will continue to come forward to City departments (Community Services).

| incremental (\$000) | 2013 | | | | 2014 | | | | 2015 | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------|------------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|----------|----------|----------|
| | Exp | Rev | Net | FTEs | Exp | Rev | Net | FTEs | Exp | Rev | Net | FTEs |
| New Budget Annualization | \$ 275 | - | 275 | - | \$ - | - | - | - | \$ - | - | - | - |
| | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total | \$ 275 | - | 275 | - | \$ - | - | - | - | \$ - | - | - | - |