



2023

people's choice awards finalists



urban
design
awards



Before, Michael Phair Park



After, Michael Phair Park

Michael Phair Park

Urban centers are freckled with utilitarian spaces and forgotten parkettes bursting with unwritten opportunities for intentional community building. These in-between spaces are blank canvases with boundless potential to connect people across cultures and social bubbles through shared experiences centered around art, gathering, and play. Michael Phair Park in downtown Edmonton was the quintessential example of this. An urban fragment diamond in the rough.

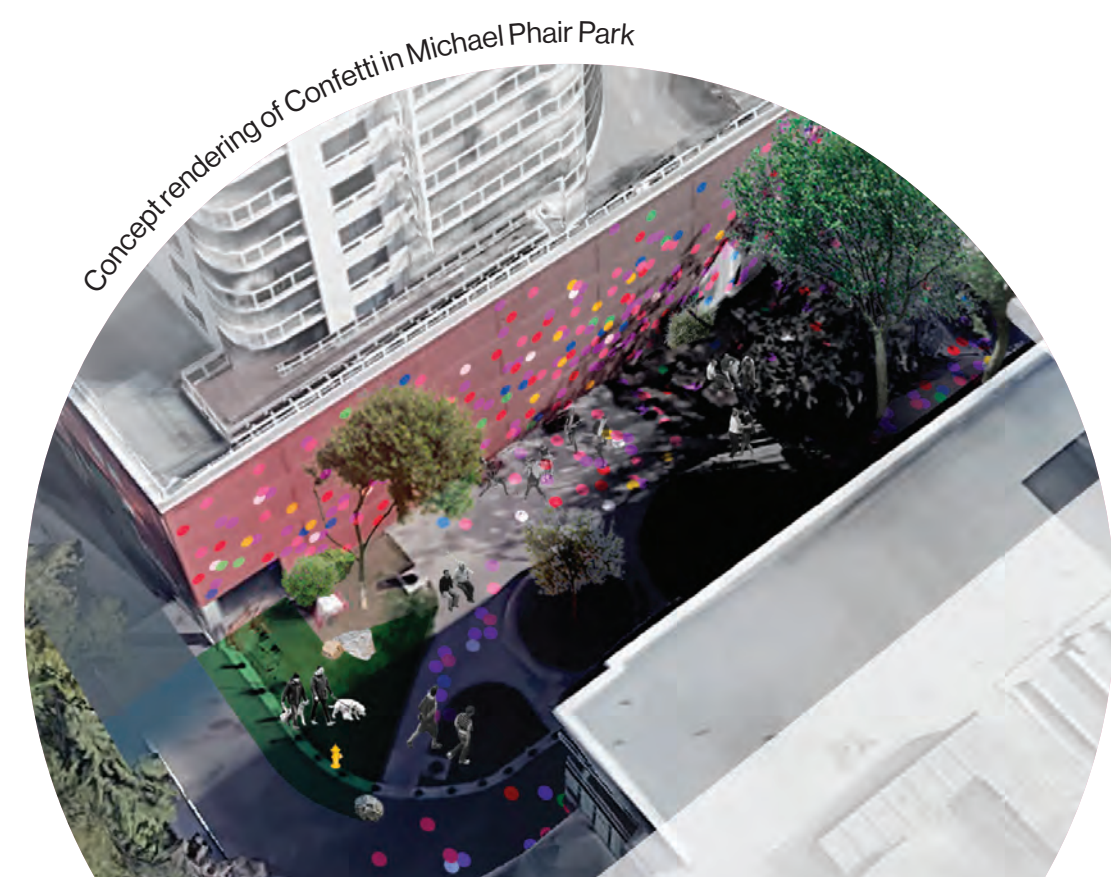
Named in 2016 after Alberta's first openly gay former City Councilor Michael Phair, the park celebrates Phair's distinguished career as a politician, an LGBTQ2Ai+ community advocate, and his many contributions to the City of Edmonton at large.

However, the original design of the park was not fully realized due to budget constraints, which resulted in the micro-park not fully achieving its potential.

In 2021 the parks renewal plan began when Phair, with full support from the Downtown Edmonton Community League and Urban Development Institute, engaged a local firm to conceptualize ways to improve the parkette. The group successfully applied for a City of Edmonton Downtown Vibrancy Strategy grant for three interventions in the park: painted murals on the adjacent building walls, a permanent stage, and overhead lighting to increase safety and extend operating hours.



Michael Phair giving opening speech at Confetti's community reveal



Concept rendering of Confetti in Michael Phair Park



Confetti

Michael Phair Park's Confetti (the first intervention) is the physical realization of Michael Phair; vibrant, playful, provocative, celebratory, impactful, and welcoming. The key to Confetti's success is its simple but undeniable ability to capture those intentions as a design byproduct of Phair's profound positive legacy, passion for community, and the mark he continues to leave on the City of Edmonton.

Confetti early concept development



Confetti Friday in Michael Phair Park



Confetti in Michael Phair Park

Confetti is thousands of equally sized circles, in 16 vibrant colours, covering the building walls that frame the park and spread across the ground, acting as an iconic unifying component of the entire park area. Their placement is explosive, performative, and random. An exuberant proliferation of colour bursting out of the park. As the paint fades with time, new circles will be added to maintain the vibrancy of the piece and hopefully inspire other areas of the City to reflect Michael's wide ranging impact across Edmonton by adding a little colour.

Big City Moves

What was once a forgettable shortcut is now a community hub for formal and informal gathering; Confetti Fridays, dog photoshoots, a lunch spot for weekend warriors. Confetti brought Michael Phair Park to life with an explosion of colour. The once anonymous urban parkette now defines an intentional place in the city's core in celebration and support of the LGBTQ2Ai+ community. An example of radical placemaking to keep the city full of energy.



THE MERCURY BLOCK

The Mercury Block is an example of housing innovation going beyond the physical, fostering community health and well-being. Nestled just off 124th Street, in one of Edmonton's most desirable neighborhoods west of downtown, The Mercury Block is a 7-storey mid-rise, mixed-use development currently under construction with completion in December 2023.

Comprising 163 residential units of various sizes, including junior 1, 1, 2, and 3 bedroom units, The Mercury Block ensures inclusivity by providing a variety of housing options for individuals and families. This mix encourages a healthy and socially cohesive community.

At the heart of The Mercury Block's design philosophy is the concept of dynamic public space that defies traditional apartment living. The ground level exterior courtyard, surrounded by small tenant bays, creates a unique and inviting atmosphere that encourages social interaction and fosters a sense of belonging among residents and visitors alike. Moreover, the colorful and vibrant aesthetic, highlighted by a red exterior staircase, promotes healthy lifestyles and enhances pedestrian safety by keeping "eyes on the street."

The building's thoughtful approach to incorporating outdoor spaces also extends to the residential levels. 2-meter deep balconies provide occupants ample space to engage with the pedestrian realm and connect with nature. In addition to private amenity space, The Mercury Block also features a large, communal rooftop patio and fitness centre. These areas serve as extensions of the living spaces, encouraging outdoor activities, social gatherings, and healthy lifestyles.

Through curated retail experiences and incorporating universal design principles into the public realm, The Mercury Block becomes more than just housing—it becomes a magnetic community hub that is accessible and inclusive. Retail tenants on the ground floor not only add convenience to the lives of the those in the community, but also create opportunities for interaction and shared experiences.

Through its location, versatile residential units, dynamic public spaces, and emphasis on outdoor interactions, The Mercury Block nurtures a thriving community. By transforming a previously underutilized plot of land into a vibrant and playful urban realm, The Mercury Block sets the standard for neighborhood intensification and showcases the immense potential of thoughtful, community-oriented housing design.





view of the interior courtyard from the southwest passageway

The Mercury Block aligns with The City Plan and its Big City Moves by showcasing exceptional place-making abilities that foster a sense of personal connection in big city living. Redeveloping a parking lot into a mixed-use building in an accessible district with excellent public transit and bicycle infrastructure, it embraces sustainable urban development. Acting as a community within a community, it demonstrates how innovative housing can promote a more connected and vibrant city life.



view of the public interior courtyard and the red exterior residential staircase



view of the 102 Ave commercial pedestrian interface



view from 102 Ave of the southeast perspective of the building

UNIVERSITY COMMONS

DESIGN NARRATIVE

At the front door of the University of Alberta's main campus, the Dentistry Pharmacy Building, now known as University Commons, has stood as a cherished historic landmark since 1922. Blending the timeless charm of the original structure with contemporary design elements, this adaptive reuse includes a dynamic seven-storey addition and a vibrant south plaza, establishing a student hub that fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, inclusion, and social interaction.

A balance between historical and contemporary elements characterizes the design approach. The rich heritage of the original 1922 building is thoughtfully preserved by identifying and incorporating character-defining elements. The south entrance, reading room, and lecture theatres underwent substantial rehabilitation, forming the heart of the historic core. With a focus on inclusion and accessibility, the main south entry is thoughtfully modified to create accessible entries that link the original and new buildings. A grand arching pathway emerges as a defining feature, shaping the new south plaza and inviting all to enter.

The east facade is wrapped by a new student porch that extends around the north side of the building, providing additional accessible entries and activating the campus through engaging public space. Hemlock wood clad overhangs create sheltered walkways and entries. The South Academic Link emerges as a vital artery, seamlessly connecting University Commons with the South Academic Building, resolving accessibility and connectivity issues within the campus.

University Commons sets an exemplary standard for sustainable practices. Photovoltaic solar arrays adorning the roof ensure long-term energy savings and a reduced carbon footprint, underscoring the project's commitment to environmental responsibility. The pursuit of LEED Gold certification further reaffirms this dedication to creating a more resilient future.

The transformation of University Commons is a testament to the power of heritage conservation and contemporary design thinking. The seamless integration of old and new spaces fosters interdisciplinary connections and social interactions, embodying the essence of a vertical university and the integration into an existing campus. With a harmonious blend of inclusivity, sustainability, and cultural appreciation, the building stands as a beacon for the successfully adaptive reuse of heritage buildings, embracing the past while confidently stepping into the future.

BIG CITY MOVES NARRATIVE

The University Commons stands as a testament to the potential of adaptive reuse in contemporary cities, reshaping Edmonton's landscape while honouring its heritage. It aligns with the City Plan, providing a resilient, accessible, and welcoming environment. As it supports the University of Alberta's mission and elevates Edmonton's global competitiveness, the University Commons serves as a catalyst for transformative growth, fostering a vibrant and inclusive community hub that celebrates learning, collaboration, and innovation.



TOP

View of the historic 1922 building and south plaza with the new additional peaking over the roof line.

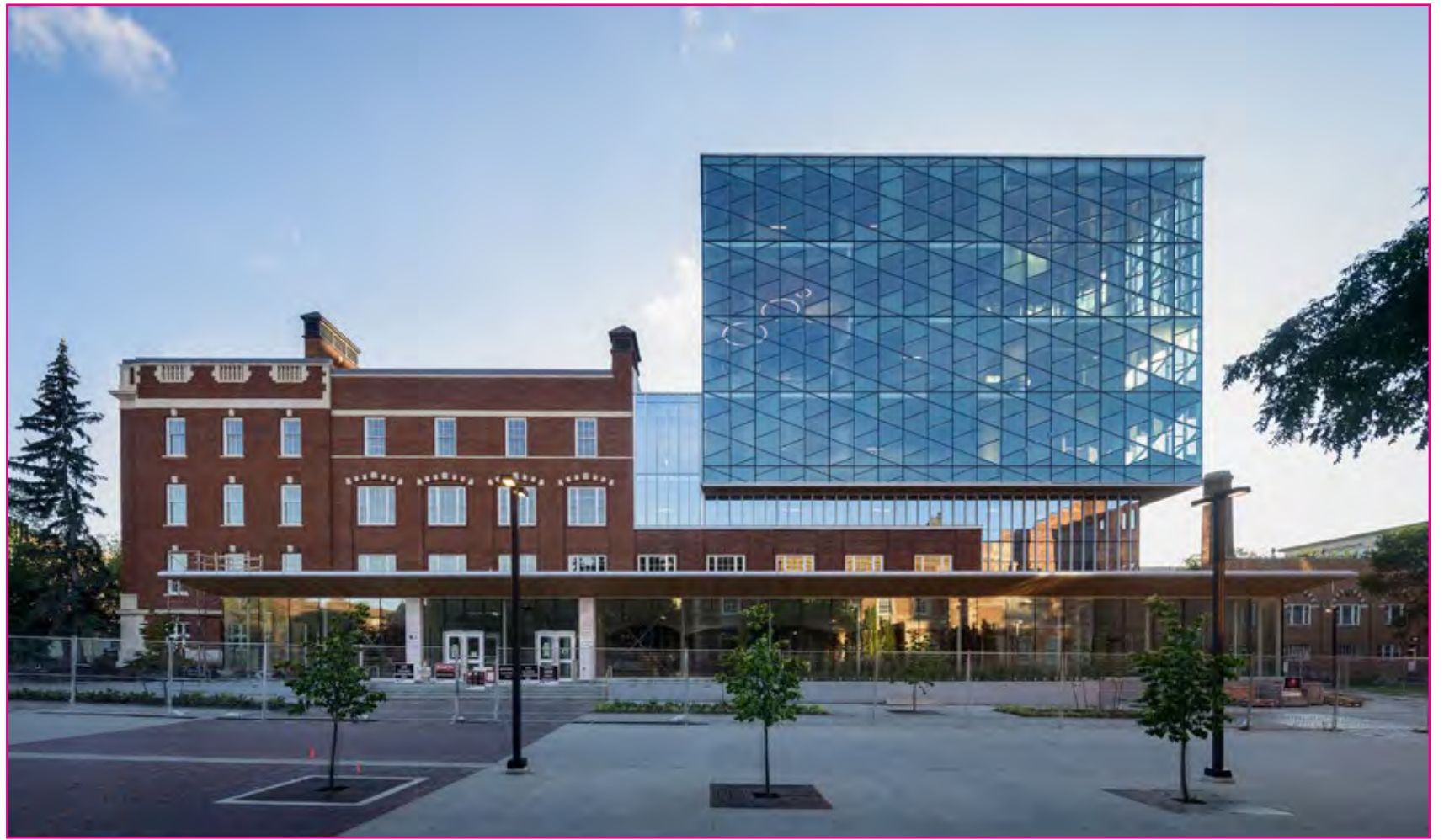
BOTTOM LEFT

Aerial view illustrating the relationship between the old and new buildings.

BOTTOM RIGHT

The student porch wraps the building providing new east and north entrances.





LEFT

View from the 89 Avenue student boulevard.

TOP

View towards the new student porch and accessible east entry.

BOTTOM

Overall site plan illustrating the south plaza and grand arching pathway.



TOUCH THE WATER PROMENADE

urban design plan

While most 21st-century riverfront redevelopments are driven by the demands of urbanization, Touch the Water Promenade is distinct; seeking to restore and regenerate the ecology of the North Saskatchewan River Valley, while providing new opportunities for people to experience the water's edge and accommodating critical infrastructural functions.

A wilderness in the heart of the city, the riverfront is essential ecologically but also culturally and socially, representing an urban identity specific to Edmonton – as an Indigenous space, where gathering, hunting, fishing, and trading has occurred since time immemorial, and a former

industrial space whose degradation is finally being addressed. The project responds to this layered history by preserving and enhancing existing character while inviting people to literally "touch the water."

Social and ecological goals are intertwined in every aspect of the plan. The team examined questions of access from multiple angles. The resulting design solution reconnects the urban fabric to the river through a series of gateways at key nodes; navigates technical constraints including steep grade changes, variable water levels, and frequent icy conditions to provide access right at the water's edge; and slopes pathways to accommodate visitors of varied mobilities. To bring people into the space while respecting its role as a critical wildlife corridor, the circulation design takes into account different modes of human transit, but also different avian, terrestrial, and aquatic species.

This is achieved through the selection of plant species as habitat and food sources for birds, providing unbroken corridors for the movement of larger mammals, and improving feeding and spawning conditions for fish using planting, erosion control, and a softened riparian edge.

This approach was made possible by an interdisciplinary team representing alliances outside of the traditional design and engineering disciplines, including fisheries biologists, environmental scientists, hydrologists, paleontologists, and archaeologists. Furthermore, engagement with 26 Indigenous Nations and Communities as well as over 430 respondents from the general public was an essential component of the process. The plan for Touch the Water Promenade is a model for restoring, protecting, and coexisting with a complex landscape that forms a living part of our collective cultural identity.

ENHANCED GROAT BRIDGE MULTI-USE PATH



ROSSDALE PLAZA, RIVERFRONT SCRAMBLE, AND PUMP HOUSE 2



GROAT RAVINE DAYLIGHTING



THE BEND AT ROSSDALE



kihcihkaw askî

Canada's first urban Indigenous ceremonial grounds

Category: Civic Design



The grassy-sloped amphitheatre provides a natural setting for learning.

A pavilion building houses washrooms, a gathering space, locker rooms and storage. It features solar panels on the roof!



kihcihkaw askî ("sacred earth") is the first of its kind in Canada: a permanent, urban space designed to facilitate Indigenous ceremony, celebration and education.

Nestled on Treaty 6 Territory, in the greenery of the River Valley just south of Fox Drive, kihcihkaw askî provides a natural setting for ceremonies, sweat lodges, celebrations, knowledge-sharing activities such as tipi-raising and other land-based learning opportunities.

A circular area edged in stone, and equipped with two permanent stone heating devices and water sources, accommodates up to eight sweat lodges. Nearby, another circular space is for tipis; it features a permanent fire pit for ceremonies. A lush amphitheatre with a grassy slope emerges from the ground, offering a place to sit and listen, facilitating educational and cultural exchange. There is indoor space too: a pavilion building houses washrooms, locker rooms, a gathering space and storage for ceremonial items. The ground beneath the amphitheatre is used to store equipment, too.

kihcihkaw askî's architecture is literally and philosophically grounded in the earth: its design minimalist but meaningful. Its structures are simple and sustainable: local materials were used, and they are oriented to maximize solar gain. Solar panels are installed on the pavilion building, to harness the generous sunshine Edmonton receives.



Up to 8 sweat lodges can be built in this space.



Edmonton's River Valley is home to Canada's first urban ceremonial grounds.



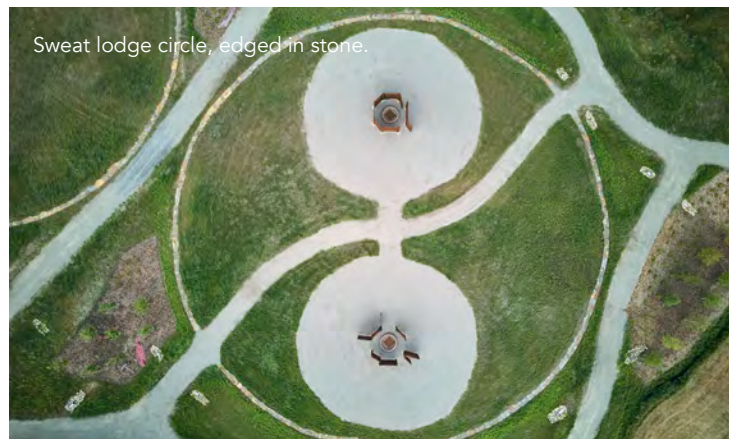
The site facilitates many opportunities for land-based learning.



A classroom/gathering space is offered in the pavilion.



Tipi-raising, being taught by Elders.



Sweat lodge circle, edged in stone.



The pavilion offers indoor space, washrooms and storage.



Grass lines the slope of the amphitheatre.



Permanent stone heating devices and water sources are provided for ceremonies.

Project Name: Plátanos

Design narrative

An homage to the artist's cultural heritage and the many communities that call north east Edmonton home, *Plátanos* graces the Belvedere station. Three individual sculptures of plantain bundles are arranged to mimic their natural growth on trees. The sculptures are inspired by the artist's experience as a Salvadoran immigrant in Edmonton, finding comfort through foods that bring back a sense of home. The intention of the artwork is to speak to the diversity of the Belvedere neighbourhood where the artist was raised, while honouring a staple of many regional diets from South America to China. *Platanos* brings a sense of visual warmth to the space that shelters commuters, especially on dark winter days.

The green banana-like food is part of many cuisines – African, Asian, Caribbean, Latin American. “You notice the overlap of cultures and their markers more, which is why I chose the plantain as my inspiration. We’re all living outside our home regions and it’s so beautiful how these things bring us together. I wanted to honour that.”

Creating *Plátanos* was a homecoming, the artist says: “Part of my journey of learning how to live between cultures

is finding my way back to those cultural markers that I ignored for the sake of surviving. There’s a big cultural push with people younger than me who are honouring their cities and the things they grew up with. I am inspired by that pride because for so long I did not carry that with me. *Plátanos* is part of paying homage to that.”

“Food is important to our well-being. Outside of the necessity of eating, it is a reminder of ‘home’ or where we come from. It’s something I turn to when I need to be grounded and remember who I am.”

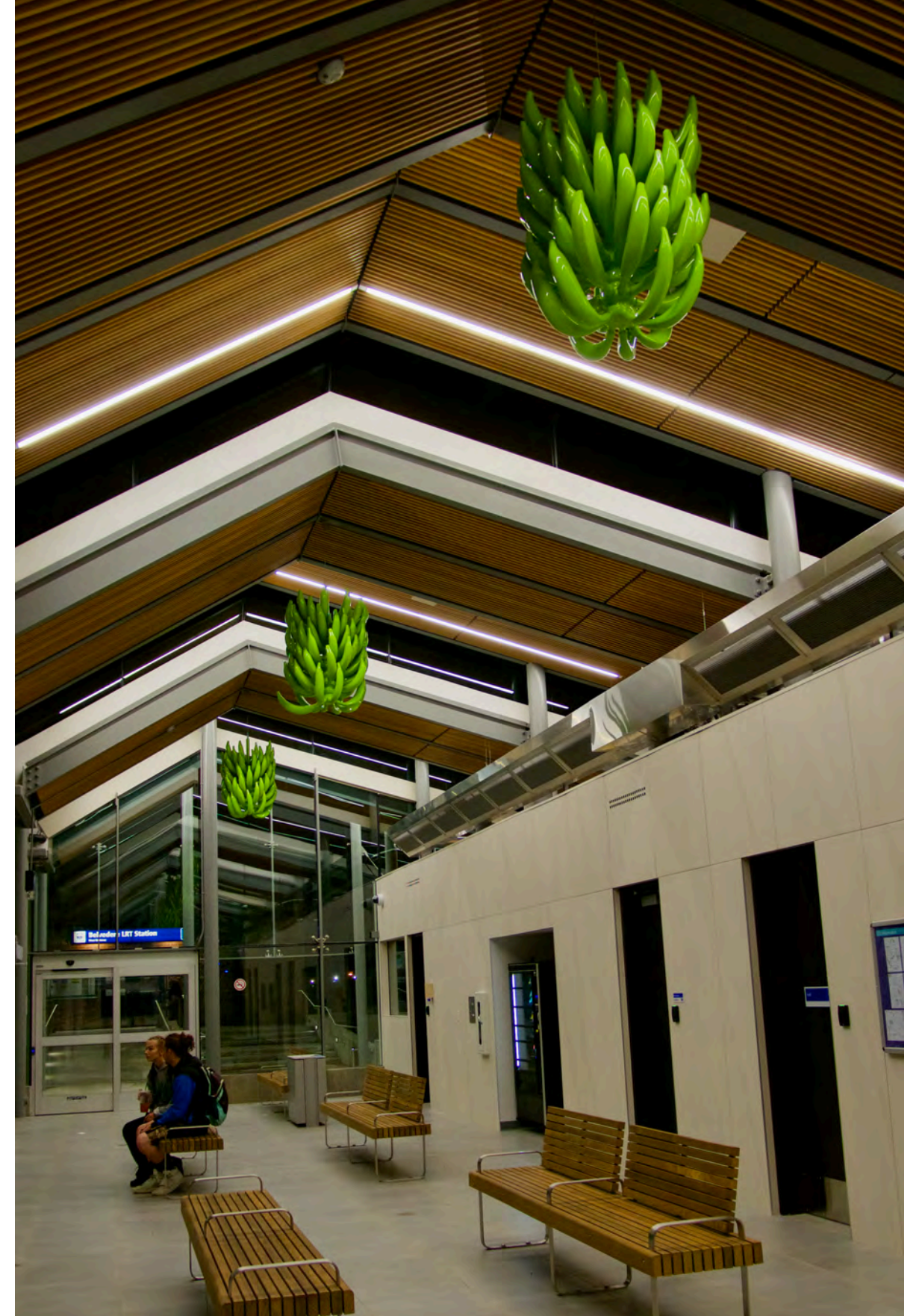
Special recognition: How this project aligns with the Big City Moves of the City Plan

For the Edmonton artist who created *Plátanos*, green plantains symbolize her experience finding home, common connections, belonging and community. An homage to her cultural heritage and the many communities that call north east Edmonton home, *Plátanos* graces the Belvedere station.



Photos of *Plátanos* by Doyle C. Marko.

Project Name: Plátanos



Photos of *Plátanos* by Doyle C. Marko.

Strathcona Back Street

Strathcona Back Street is a pilot project that implemented Low Impact Development (LID), thoughtfully integrated as public realm enhancements. In years preceding project funding, businesses, community and City staff recognized area transformational potential and unfunded concepts were developed. The result borne of collaboration features conversion of two parking lots and an alley into pedestrian plazas and a shared street built on green infrastructure. Constructed in 2021, ongoing monitoring of outcomes have indicated environmental, social, and economic benefits:

- Preliminary monitoring results indicate reduction of stormwater pollutants including average removal of total suspended solids, total phosphorous, and total dissolved phosphorous by 79.5%, 69.9%, and 76.9% respectively. The project is designed to retain a 1:2 year storm event and increases resiliency of the drainage system and reduces runoff volume discharged into the river valley.
- A steady increase in public use: colourful tables and chairs were added as community-led placemaking, and festivals and events such as the Art Walk, Farmer's Market, and Fringe Festival program the spaces.
- Improved universal accessibility and visibility to businesses facing the alley and the back street.

- Increased business activity and redevelopment. Since approval, new businesses have activated the spaces with retail frontages and patios. Nearby businesses such as the Strathcona Hotel and Farmers' Market have announced recent and complimentary redevelopment plans.

Being the first of its kind in Edmonton the project navigated multiple challenges. These included defining and refining City policies for shared streets, securing funding, and collaboration with diverse stakeholders. Technical challenges include retrofitting environmental infrastructure into a constrained urban context.

The project initiated with minimum funding to repave the alley right-of-way only. Analysis of flood modelling data indicated the site experiences surface ponding and combined sewer overflow during large storm events. The project subsequently became eligible for LID funding under EPCOR's program, and the project sought and was subsequently awarded a grant from the Green Municipal Fund (GMF) through the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The grant is awarded to projects that:

"reflect the very best examples of municipal leadership in sustainable development - feasibility studies and pilot projects that are expected to lead to high environmental benefit."



2019 Back Street Concepts - Courtesy Kirstin Smith, City Of Edmonton



Project Rendering - 2020



West Plaza - Summer 2023



East Plaza Festival Use & Programming Summer 2023



Aerial View - West & East Plazas From 83 Avenue 2022



Aerial View - West Plaza 2022



Pre-Existing Context: Parking Lot (East Plaza) 2021



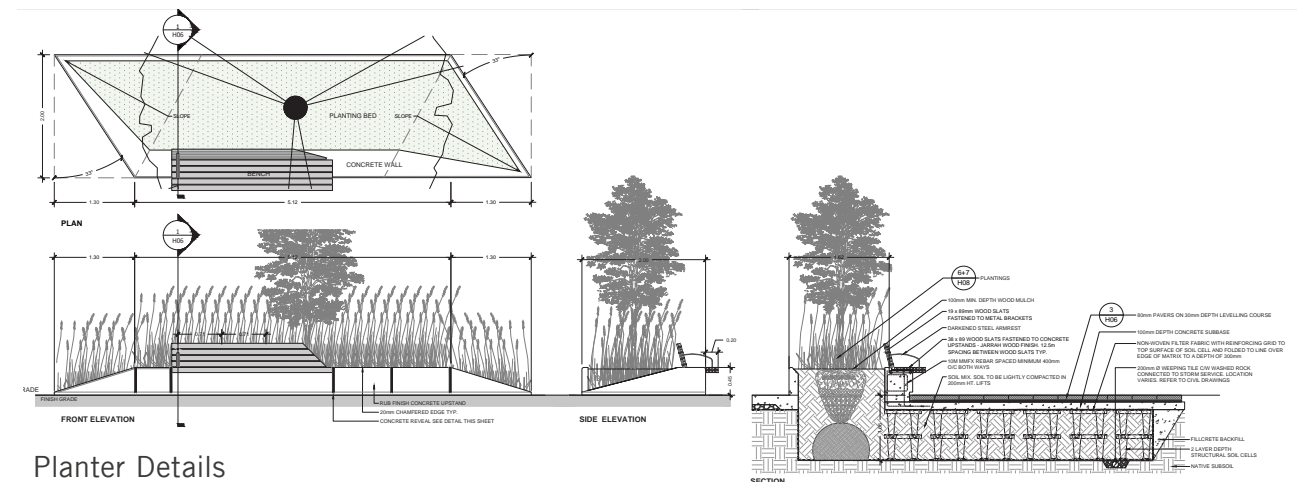
Pre-Existing Context: Parking Lot (West Plaza) 2021



Drainage Analysis - Project Driving Force That Led To Key Minimum Project Funding Sources



'Cultural Canvas' Concept Recognized an Existing Rich Context to Support Businesses & Festivals - Rendering 2020



Planter Details



Approved Site Plan - Includes Elements Approved At Preliminary Design For Future Implementation



East Plaza All Seasons Use Considerations - Rendering 2020



West Plaza Soil Cells Under Construction in 2021

Main Photo: The building's active frontage along 124th Street, expresses an evolution of the theatre's commitment to the public realm.



Photo: This historic photo shows the original Roxy Theatre built in 1938. The frontage was occupied by a pharmacy and theatregoers entered through a side door.



Photo: This photo from 1988 shows the yellow Roxy sign as a beacon and landmark on 124th Street, highly visible from 107th Avenue. Activities within theatre offices are grade is concealed by posters.



Painting: Edmonton cartoonist Yardley-Jones illustrated the exceptional impact that a vibrant theatre can have on public space. Rescued from the ashes of the fire, this painting greatly influenced the design of the building and its interaction with the street.



ROXY THEATRE



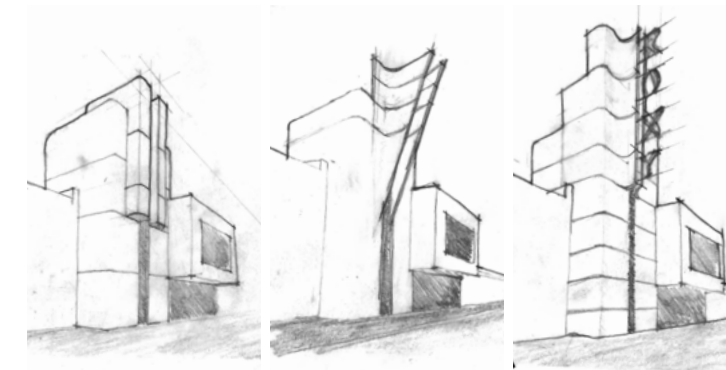
Photo: Overall view from 124th Street showing the new theatre within its context. The cantilevered overhang, aligned with adjacent awnings, is ready to welcome crowds to the street.

The original Roxy Theatre, lost to fire in 2015, was deeply embedded in Edmonton's theatre scene and an anchor of the 124th Street community. Memories recall lineups snaking down the block, an over-crowded lobby spilling onto the street and restaurants packed with audience members anticipating a show or glowing in its aftermath. The design of the new theatre celebrates these memories and reinforces the theatre's relationship to public space.

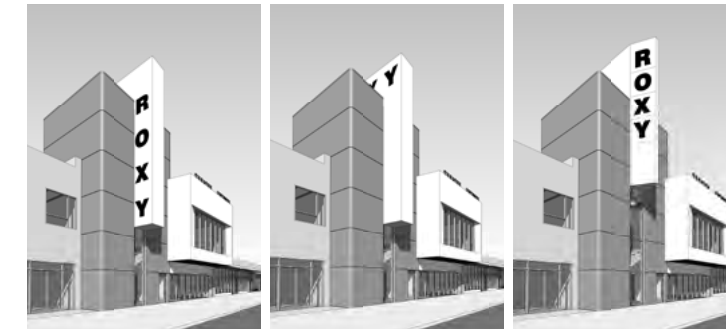
The rebuilt theatre occupies the same narrow site, presenting an urban design challenge to maximize the impact of limited street frontage while designing for inward-focused theatre spaces. Massing is tallest at the rear to accommodate the stage and catwalk,

descending towards the street in a platonic wedge that concentrates the building's formal energy at the public interface. A generous overhang protects and enhances this pedestrian-oriented space, taking advantage of zoning allowances for overhead construction above city-owned sidewalks. White stucco cladding references the international-style of its predecessor, while anticipating future development of neighbouring properties. Visitors will notice some incomplete areas where negotiations are ongoing with the abutting property owner - a significant challenge of dense urban construction.

An operable glass wall at grade creates a flexible, permeable connection to the public sidewalk, supporting direct access to the lobby in temperate conditions and

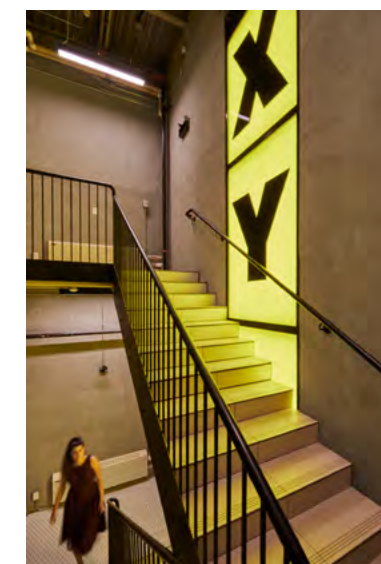
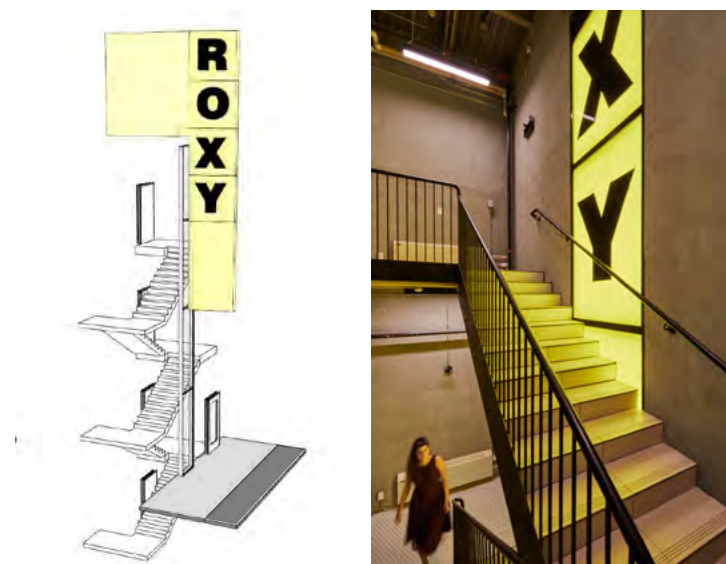


Main Photo: The height of the stair and elevator tower enhances the verticality of the sign, lifting it above the surrounding streetscape and reinstating the neighbourhood's favourite beacon.



Sketches: Hand sketching was used to explore art-deco forms for the sign and potential integration with the cladding.

3D Model: As its iconic importance emerged, the sign became its own distinct building element.



3D Model & Photo: Aligned with vertical glazing at grade, the sign invites people to climb the stairs and explore the theatre's inner workings. Activity on the stairs helps animate the facade.

offering views to gallery walls inside. A subtle transition from sidewalk to polished concrete floor reinforces the lobby as an extension of the streetscape. The prized second-level frontage is occupied by the rehearsal hall; large windows create a public-facing proscenium where glimpses of upcoming performances are broadcast to the street. Specially selected window blinds double as rear projection screens that further animate the facade.

The iconic sign reaches skyward to the maximum allowable building height; its warm yellow glow visible from afar signals the return of a cultural hub. Bigger and bolder, it is resolutely dedicated to the memory of its predecessor; broken shards recovered from the debris allowed for an exact colour match.

In a city where the urban fabric changes quickly the enduring legacy of this sign is an invaluable tool to recast a part of Edmonton's story.

BIG CITY MOVES

A *rebuildable city* is embraced by developing performance spaces and galleries that anticipate and promote the growth of Edmonton's arts scene. White stucco walls and a radius corner reference the heritage of the original Roxy's 1930s international aesthetic, while black-glazed brick is a metaphor for the fire that led to its demise. The design strives to *catalyze and converge* the city's creative arts with a fertile hub for local theatre.

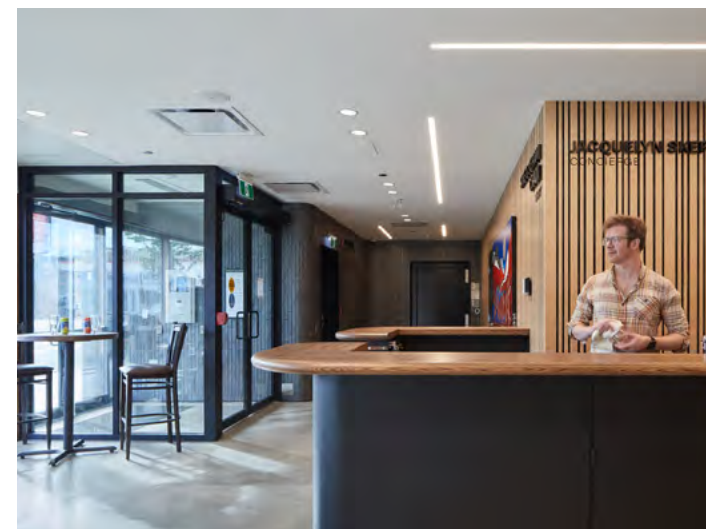


Photo: The lobby is an extension of the street with maximum transparency, an operable glass wall and exterior brick that wraps through the interior.



Photo: The rehearsal hall overlooks 124th St and beyond to downtown. Ceiling mount projectors animate the building frontage using specialized blinds.

A Station of Being



Heritage Valley is the last stop on the Capital Line LRT. Approved in 2009 as a permanent Park & Ride to support the LRT development, its current site conditions are a bleak, single-use space with a minimal human scale. The west and southwest have limited development. Currently, no public nodes are around the Park 'n' Ride; however, the space is intended to be an eventual major transit node. This project is a reframing of the current and future Heritage Valley Park and Ride.

Current Photo Facing South



Our Proposal

We reimagined a challenging single-use site into a dense multi-use destination. While transit centers offer significant infrastructure to draw and move people in and out, transit users spend much of their time in liminality, particularly in winter. Providing amenities and opportunities to encourage people to linger enhances economic and social opportunities in all seasons, which enhances cultural resilience. There are also opportunities for return on investments as it increases taxation and efficient land use. A significant development slated for the area, a new hospital south of this site, leads to the potential for this space to develop as a node. Phase A—priorities multi-modal transportation, winter design principles and dense, layered land use. Non-motorized parking is located at ground level and closest to the transit center. A large public plaza with year-round vendor kiosks and covered furniture serves users' needs while waiting for their transportation or daily routine. The current surface-level parking is transformed into a multi-level bright urban landmark. It will introduce texture, light, and enclosure to the otherwise stark concrete landscape while maintaining car capacity. The building will allow for directional legibility by standing out on the horizon, blocking the cold Northeasterly wind from the public plaza, and providing an atmospheric lighting element. It is purposefully placed in the north to ensure that the public realm would have maximum sunlight from an unobstructed southern exposure. Umea Sweden's parking garage inspires it.

This redesign demonstrates a multi-purpose site, designed for winter use first, that incrementally builds capacity for future use. The plaza gives people a reason to linger. The central section is a tiered public square inset to break up the landscape, protect it from wind, and provide accessible viewing opportunities for any programming in the space. The multicoloured flooring adds a pop of colour and visually differentiates the elevation for people with visual challenges.



Vision and Principles

We drew inspiration from a station in Northeastern Sweden, where the municipality of Umeå designed a transit station with the idea that a transit stop can - and should- be more than just waiting - it should be engaging internally. Their philosophy is to make it a spot comfortable for all seasons, turning the discomfort of waiting into a meditative, transitional experience. The site, aptly named "A Station of Being," is specifically designed to both enjoy the elements and be protected from them when necessary.

The below Design Code establishes and consistently applies the essential functional requirements of designing for and with climate—texture, Light, Enclosure, Reflection, Nature, Shelter/ Exposure, Legibility, and Colour.



A major project goal is establishing a universal modality which is achieved through universal design principals and multi-modal accomadation with equal consideration to vehicular. This will increase accessibility for all people—aligning with Big City Moves and climate goals.



Reimagined Site Plan

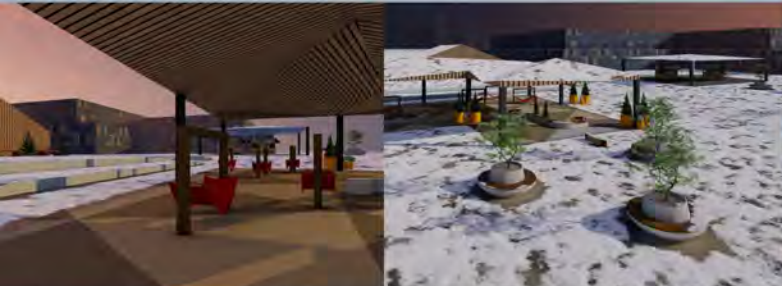
Elerslie Rd SW



Phase A

Transit stops can, and should, be more than just waiting.

Phase 1 - Plaza



Permanent all-season commercial activity concentrated on the interface of the parking section and public plaza will allow for a seamless transition between the two realms and permit spontaneous purchase potential. The kiosk approach will provide availability for an iced coffee in the summer or a hot chocolate in the winter, enabling commuters and those looking to linger. These stalls will act as a node for activity by introducing colour, texture, and seating and allowing for more permeability than a typical commercial building strip.



The Mobility Parking Buildings give non-motorized mobility preference. They are slatted wood, visually permeable with a small footprint, and located throughout bisecting pathways. The buildings are stepped upwards away from the public plaza to add texture, enclosure and potential for solar. Benches are placed throughout to facilitate putting on or removing mobility equipment. Horticulture beds provide colour and texture, and the foliage is selected for its year-round quality.



Phase 1A - Winter Garden



Summer View SouthEast



Winter View SouthEast



Milkweed Seedpod

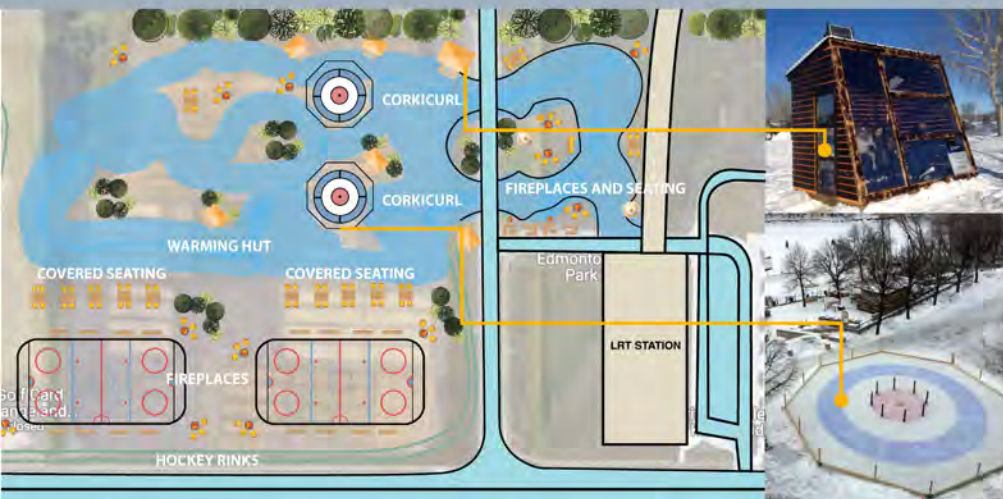


This project pairs a municipal need for transportation, LRT, Bus, and Park n Ride, with socio-ecological needs, a winter-focused garden and an activity park, on the same site to create a dense, efficient and vibrant space. The transit hub's peak hours are morning and evening, and the park's peak hours are evenings and weekends. The parking structure supports both needs. The site is just south of Anthony Henday; if developed as a TOD it would financially support the maintenance of the park and gardens and provide a significant local user population.

Outdoor winter gardens create activation throughout the year and entice people to come to take space in all seasons. Winter garden designs emulate the cyclical nature of life through the tangible landscape. Elements of these gardens include variations in horticulture that layer the landscape to define paths and draw the user through place using visual interest, texture and structure. They use frost and snow as additive elements to design with, not against.

The horticulture was selected for how the foliage adapts throughout the seasons; yellow twig dogwood provides colour, cornflower texture, grass texture colour and height variation, and conifers shape and path distinction. Butterfly milkweed is a perennial with vivid summer blossoms and a fibrous pod in fall and winter. If left to be cut back until spring, the pod is a beautiful material texture in the winter landscape.

Phase 2- Winter Activities Park



Phase B - Where the eastern section is a smaller structured garden, there is an expansive winter activities park with flowing skating trails, winter sports and areas to relax and warm up. This park will act as a major node in the area to attract users outside peak transit time. Transportation and parking requirements are shared by pairing them with the park-and-ride. As a District Park, it will focus on winter leisure activities, including organized and individual sports and become a distinct gathering and recreational place. This District Park is paired with commercial services to provide basic amenities and access to on-site sport equipment vendors, food and washrooms. Amenities are vital infrastructure to encourage people to linger and create convenience enough to be an everyday experience. There will be pathways of skating trails, sheet ice for hockey and corkicurl, and a track set for cross-country skiing which could eventually connect to the driving range to the west. It's a planned and programmed public place with infrastructure to operate as a system with enough critical mass that encourages people to linger, explore, and even try something new.

Site Connectivity



Increased site permeability and connectivity is required. By accommodating new forms of mobility, like cross-country skiing or winter cycling, Heritage Valley will become a desirable activity in itself to access the node. The current edges make this difficult from anywhere other than Ellerslie Road, but with our phased approach, we intend to further the mobility network westward and southbound. A vital intervention to this network's success is joining the abandoned 119 Street to 127th Street across the Anthony Henday with an underpass to connect 127 Street to areas north of the Henday and the more extensive District Connector Bike Network.