

# HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY

City of Edmonton

26 March 2026  
Draft v4.2



## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Edmonton acknowledges the traditional land on which we reside is in Treaty Six Territory. We would like to thank the diverse Indigenous Peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as Nêhiyaw (Cree), Dené, Anishinaabe (Saulteaux), Nakota Isga (Nakota Sioux), and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) peoples. We also acknowledge this as the Métis' homeland and the home of one of the largest communities of Inuit south of the 60th parallel. It is a welcoming place for all peoples who come from around the world to share Edmonton as a home. Together we call upon all of our collective, honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for today and future generations.

The place we call Edmonton is known to many as amiskwaciwâskahikan (ᐱᓄᓴᑦᕈᕐᕋᐱᓂᓴᐅᓂᓴ or Beaver Hills House). Indigenous Peoples have looked to the meaning of space (referring to location, physical space and/or physical geography) as a means of establishing a sense of place (referencing meaning within space) long before Edmonton's built form developed. A new heritage strategy will help to broaden what heritage can be, beyond our colonial and settler history, to reflect a more holistic representation of the histories and stories for those who call this place home.



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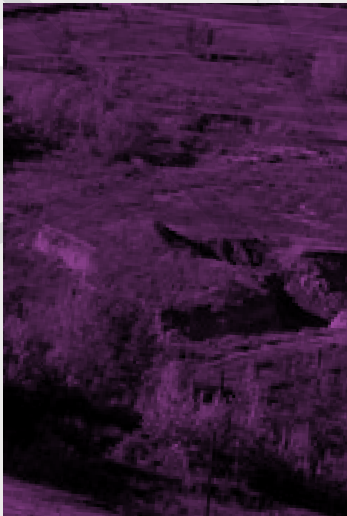
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# THE TEAM

This project would not have been possible without the energy and support of many people. Thank you to everyone who contributed their time and ideas to the development of the Heritage Places Strategy.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

\*This section will be finalized following the March/April 2026 Engagement, this is a placeholder\*

DRAFT

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INTRODUCTION

## NEED FOR A HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY

Heritage reflects what communities inherit from the past and choose to carry forward to future generations. Heritage places are locations that hold special meaning and contribute to understanding our history, identity, and sense of place. These places also contribute to Edmonton’s cultural vitality, economic activity, and climate resilience.

The City of Edmonton’s heritage conservation program was established in the 1980s and has supported the designation and protection of many significant historic resources. These include iconic landmarks such as the Hotel Macdonald, the Garneau Theatre, and Alexander Circle, as well as many publicly and privately owned historic buildings across the city.

A new Heritage Places Strategy is required to update how places that matter to Edmontonians are identified, commemorated, and conserved. The strategy expands the scope of heritage planning to recognize diverse histories, voices, and both natural and cultural places. In March 2024, City Council directed City Administration to develop a new strategy to replace the 2009 Historic Resource Management Plan and retire Policy C450B (2008).

The Heritage Places Strategy aligns with The City Plan, particularly the Guiding Value to “Preserve”, and supports policy directions related to heritage, including facilitating programs and services that preserve, document, and celebrate Edmonton’s heritage. The strategy also contributes to the City’s Indigenous Framework by supporting stronger relationships with Indigenous Peoples in heritage planning. In addition, it advances broader Council priorities, including climate resilience and local economic development.

## HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY GOALS

The development of the Heritage Places Strategy was guided by three primary goals:

- Build on the City’s existing heritage program to create a strategy that reflects diverse histories, voices, and places.
- Expand the scope of the heritage program to:
  - Recognize and advance the contributions of underrepresented people, places, and cultures, including Indigenous Peoples
  - Recognize, protect, and integrate cultural, natural, and built heritage
  - Consider how heritage conservation can contribute to climate resilience objectives.
- Replace the Historic Resource Management Plan and retire Policy C450B.

## HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The Heritage Places Strategy provides recommendations and guidance for City Council, City Administration, Indigenous partners, heritage organizations, community groups, and residents.

The document is organized into four main sections:

- **Background** - summarizes engagement, research from other municipalities, and a review of existing City policies.
- **Guiding Principles** - outlines the shared values and approaches that inform heritage decision-making.
- **Pillars** - defines the updated focus areas and recommended directions for the City's heritage program.
- **Implementation** - identifies activities that support delivery of the directions under each Pillar.

A glossary of frequently used terms is provided at the end of the document. Supporting appendices are referenced throughout the strategy document and are available at [edmonton.ca/historicresources](http://edmonton.ca/historicresources).

## BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HERITAGE PROGRAM

The City's heritage program was developed in the early 1980s to preserve Edmonton's early landmarks. The Tegler Building was the first building designated. However, the designation bylaw was repealed soon after and the building was demolished in 1982. The Hotel Macdonald was the second building designated in 1985 and initiated a period of rapid identification and preservation.

In 1995, the City developed its first Historic Resource Management Plan (HRMP) to guide the heritage program and support future designations. The Historic Resources Management Plan was updated in 2009 and continued to guide the success of the program, with a focus on built heritage. Over the last 40 years, nearly 200 Municipal Historic Resources have been identified and preserved.

## BENEFITS OF HERITAGE PLANNING IN EDMONTON

Heritage planning continues to offer Edmontonians and visitors cultural, social and economic benefits. Heritage and historic resources provide people with links to the past allowing us to understand where we have come from and helping us shape our city in the future. Historic buildings and streetscapes become landmarks and touchstones for the community, reminding us of our collective history and contributing to the aesthetic enrichment of Edmonton. The direct benefits of heritage include economic development, job creation, promoting tourism, strengthening our tax base, and climate resilience.

The expanded scope for heritage, through the Heritage Places Strategy, will ensure that Edmonton's oldest and evolving natural features and landscapes have the opportunity for recognition. Indigenous communities, immigrant and newcomer communities and communities that may have been underrepresented will have support to recognize places of historical significance, whether natural, cultural, built, celebratory, or challenging. The existing built heritage program will also be improved and continue to offer services to support the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources. The updated scope provides added social, environmental, and economic benefits to those who live and visit Edmonton.

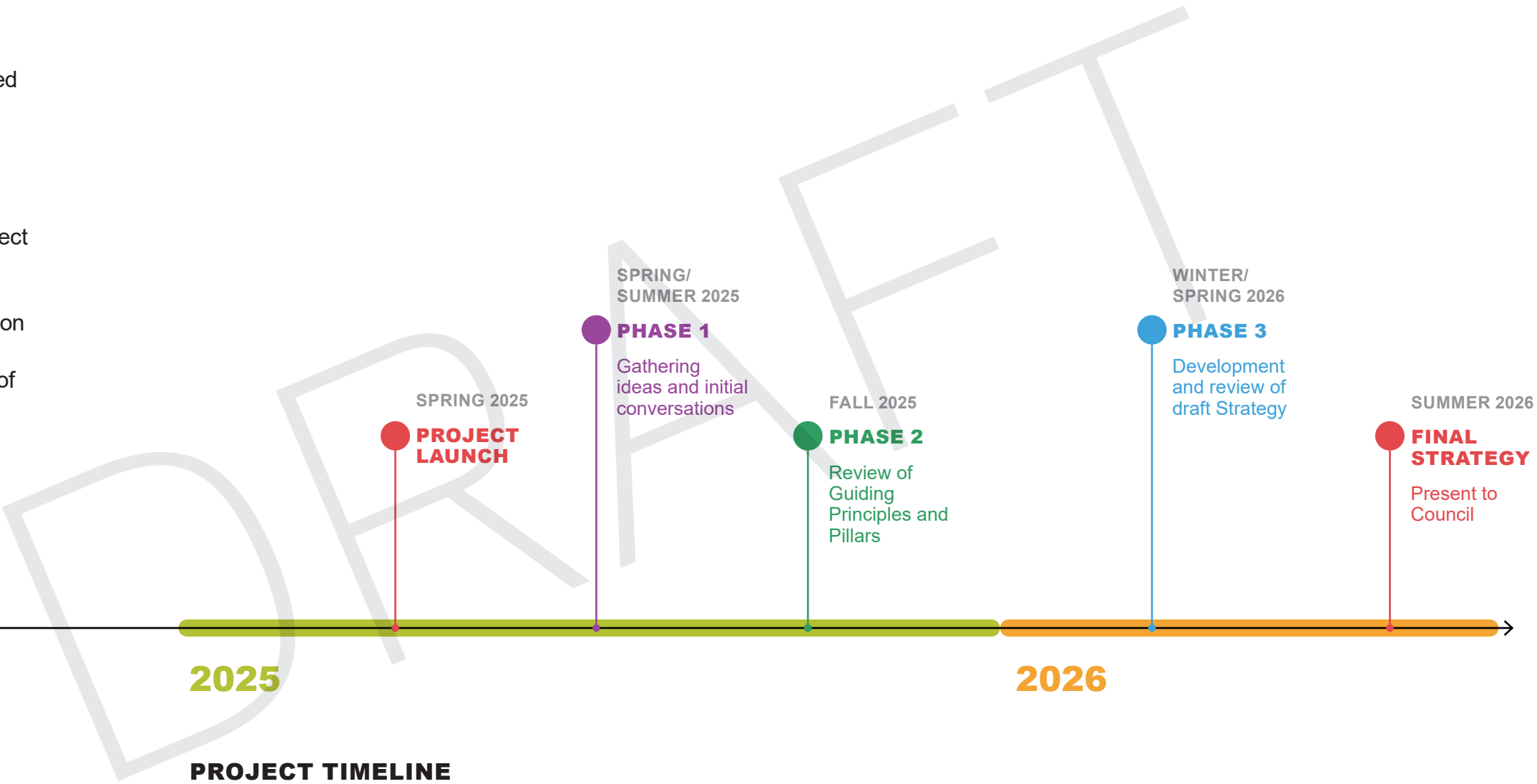


# 2 BACKGROUND

MAKING THE STRATEGY

The Heritage Places Strategy project launched in Winter/Spring 2025 and was developed through three phases. Engagement with partners and the public was an important component of each phase.

In addition to engagement feedback, the project team considered existing City policies and guidelines, as well as research and leading practices from other municipalities. This section summarizes the development of the strategy and highlights key findings from each phase of engagement.



## PARTNER AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

The City of Edmonton is committed to involving people and seeking diverse perspectives, experiences, and knowledge to ensure a broad range of viewpoints are considered in decision-making.

The City’s Gender-Based Analysis Plus (GBA+) framework guided this project by considering diverse identity factors, reducing barriers to participation, and promoting equitable outcomes.

Engagement activities were carried out in three phases and involved a range of partners, organizations, and members of the public, including the following groups.

### Indigenous Partners

Indigenous engagement was essential to ensuring that Edmonton’s approach to heritage management reflects Indigenous ways of knowing and being and supports meaningful reconciliation. Engagement was undertaken with three of the City’s Indigenous Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) partners: the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, Enoch Cree Nation, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government.

### Heritage Partners

Heritage partners and community organizations included groups with a strong interest in heritage, organizations whose mandates include heritage stewardship, and those interested in exploring their role in heritage planning. Partners included the Edmonton Heritage Council, Edmonton Historical Board, Edmonton Arts Council, Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, the City’s Naming Committee, several individual community leagues, Edmonton Public Schools, business improvement areas, and representatives from the development industry.

### Underrepresented Groups

This included communities and organizations with an interest in heritage that have historically been underrepresented in traditional heritage planning processes. Engagement included representatives from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, including the Queer History Project and Pride Corner; the City’s Accessibility Advisory Committee; the Council of Canadians of African and Caribbean Heritage; the Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative; proponents for South Asian heritage and Francophone heritage.

### Public

The public included residents, property owners, individual members of heritage or historical organizations, members of community leagues, and Edmontonians more broadly. Participants may or may not have been familiar with heritage or the City’s heritage program but shared an interest in providing their perspectives.

# COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

## PHASE 1 ENGAGEMENT RECAP AND HIGHLIGHTS

Phase 1 engagement took place in spring and summer 2025 at the Advise and Refine levels of the City’s Public Engagement Spectrum. People were invited to share their familiarity with the City’s heritage program and provide input on considerations for the Heritage Places Strategy.

Key themes gathered through Phase 1 engagement are summarized below. A complete summary is available in the [Phase 1 What We Heard Report](#).

### Expanding the Definition of Heritage

Participants noted that heritage extends beyond buildings and physical structures. Cultural practices, community connections, stories, and traditions were shared as important elements that give places meaning. Natural heritage, including the river valley, mature trees, natural formations, and landscapes, was also identified as a significant component of Edmonton’s heritage.

### Inclusivity and Indigenous Perspectives

Participants emphasized the importance of recognizing a broader range of histories and perspectives in heritage planning. Indigenous heritage and perspectives were identified as foundational. The Otipemisiwak Métis

Government, the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, and Enoch Cree Nation highlighted the importance of collaboration, community-led engagement, and storytelling. Participants also noted the importance of recognizing the contributions of newcomer and immigrant communities that have shaped Edmonton’s development and character.

### Creative and Flexible Approaches to Heritage Recognition

Participants expressed interest in creative and flexible approaches to recognizing heritage. Suggestions included digital storytelling, art projects, walking tours, interpretive programming, and community-led initiatives. Examples such as community-led plaque programs and walking tours were noted as successful initiatives that could benefit from continued City support.

### Development Pressures and Growth Management

Participants expressed concern about the potential impacts of infill redevelopment on heritage resources. Many noted the importance of heritage-informed approaches to development that balance growth and conservation rather than treating them as competing priorities.

## Policy Integration and Resource Considerations

Participants highlighted the importance of aligning heritage planning with broader City priorities, including climate resilience, waste reduction, economic development, and social equity. Questions were also raised regarding feasibility and resourcing, including the need for enhanced incentives, streamlined processes, and recognition of heritage conservation as an investment that contributes to broader city-building objectives.

## PHASE 2 ENGAGEMENT RECAP AND HIGHLIGHTS

Phase 2 engagement took place in fall 2025 at the Advise and Refine levels of the City’s Public Engagement Spectrum. Building on the feedback received during Phase 1, as well as research from other municipalities and a review of Edmonton’s policies, the project team drafted Guiding Principles and Pillars to form the foundation of the new Heritage Places Strategy.

Key themes gathered through Phase 2 engagement are summarized below. A complete summary is available in the [Phase 2 What We Heard Report](#).

## Feedback on the Overall Strategy

Participants expressed general support for the draft Heritage Places Strategy and its expanded understanding of heritage. Many noted that the proposed approach appropriately recognizes heritage beyond historic buildings to include natural spaces, cultural landscapes, community landmarks, and intangible heritage.

Discussions with representatives from Enoch Cree Nation, the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, and the Otipemisiwak Métis Government highlighted several important considerations related to both the project and engagement process. Key themes included the importance of relationship-building, trust, and presence in determining what knowledge can be shared; the role of ceremony in creating appropriate conditions for dialogue; the persistence of historical experiences in the present; and the importance of recognizing diversity within Indigenous communities. They also emphasized that heritage is lived in the present and that the structure and logic of the strategy framework are important in shaping how heritage is understood and supported.

Across engagement activities, additional themes included the importance of integrating heritage within broader City priorities to avoid it being treated as a secondary consideration, the need for timely action given ongoing



loss of heritage resources, clearer and more accessible language within the strategy, and recognition of heritage as an important component of community identity.

**Feedback on the Guiding Principles**

A slight majority (59%) of survey respondents agreed that the proposed Guiding Principles provided strong guidance for the new Heritage Places Strategy.

Across engagement activities, participants shared several areas for refinement. These included clarifying how the Guiding Principles are distinct while working together as a cohesive framework; recognizing heritage as a form of vibrant social capital; establishing clearer standards and policy direction; and moving beyond symbolic recognition toward meaningful action.

Based on Phase 2 feedback and internal review, refinements were made to the language and framing of certain Guiding Principles to clarify their intent and better reflect the engagement themes of integration, clarity, and actionable direction.

**Feedback on the Pillars**

Over two thirds (69%) of survey respondents agree that the proposed pillars provide a strong foundation for the new Heritage Places Strategy.

Themes heard through engagement included the importance of strengthening language beyond “recognition” to emphasize protection, preservation, celebration, and stewardship. Participants also highlighted concerns about economic pressures affecting heritage resources, including buildings, landscapes, and public spaces. There was strong support for expanding the scope of the heritage program beyond traditional built heritage to include social, cultural, natural, and intangible heritage.

**PHASE 3 ENGAGEMENT RECAP AND HIGHLIGHTS**

**\*This section will be finalized following the March/April 2026 Engagement, this is a placeholder\***

The feedback received from Phase 2 engagement, together with the ongoing research and alignment with policy objectives, was used to draft the Heritage Places Strategy. In Phase 3, the project team shared the draft strategy with partners and the public showing how their contributions were used.

**A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the strategy’s development!**

# RESEARCH FROM OTHER CITIES & REVIEW OF CURRENT POLICIES, GUIDELINES & LEGISLATION

As part of the development of the Heritage Places Strategy, a review of relevant municipal policies, legislation, and guidelines was undertaken. Research also included local, national, and international examples to inform the identification of tools and approaches suitable for Edmonton’s context.

This review helped ensure that the Heritage Places Strategy aligns with existing City directions while incorporating emerging best practices in heritage conservation and management.

## CITY PLAN

The City Plan provides a long-term vision for Edmonton’s growth, focusing on sustainability, equity, and resilience. It includes policies on integrating heritage conservation into urban development, addressing heritage through a balanced approach that ensures historic assets contribute to the city’s identity while allowing for the necessary growth and redevelopment. The City Plan sets the framework for the city’s broader vision, including the adaptation of historical resources in a manner that respects both the past and future needs.

### Highlights:

- Prioritize heritage conservation within broader city planning frameworks to balance historic conservation with development.

- Meaningful engagement and storytelling are essential to recognizing diverse communities, particularly Indigenous peoples, within heritage conservation.

## DISTRICT POLICY

The District Policy provides general direction for planning, design, mobility, and growth management for all districts. Section 2.3 concerns Heritage Places and Cultural Areas. The policies encourage the identification of heritage places, adding them to the Inventory and Registry of Historic Resources, and promoting development adjacent to heritage places and within cultural areas. The policy also supports efforts to identify, manage, and celebrate Indigenous heritage and places of significance.

### Highlights:

- Clearly identifying heritage areas and creating supportive planning regulations is vital.
- Collaborating closely with Indigenous communities to identify and manage significant cultural sites ensures more inclusive and accurate heritage recognition.

## DISTRICT PLANS

The District Plans contain district-specific maps and area-specific policies to show how the city-wide District Policy directions are applied in each district. Edmonton has 15 District Plans. The District Plans indicate areas that are zoned with heritage considerations, such as the Westmount Architectural Heritage Area. They also contain maps which show where Inventory and Registry resources are located in each district.

### Highlights:

- Successful district-level heritage management requires detailed guidelines for adaptive reuse, sensitive urban design, and conservation of visual character and historic streetscapes.
- Integrating heritage considerations explicitly in redevelopment and zoning processes promotes the conservation of local identity.

## INDIGENOUS FRAMEWORK

The Indigenous Framework acknowledges the city’s obligation to respect and honour Indigenous cultural heritage. It sets out commitments for integrating Indigenous perspectives into heritage planning, ensuring meaningful engagement with Indigenous communities, and promoting the recognition of Indigenous cultural heritage within urban spaces.

### Highlights:

- Authentic engagement with Indigenous communities is crucial for accurately representing and respecting Indigenous heritage in municipal planning.
- Providing ongoing staff education on Indigenous cultural practices ensures more meaningful and culturally sensitive policy implementation.

**CHINATOWN STRATEGY**

The Chinatown Strategy focuses on preserving and revitalizing one of Edmonton’s most culturally significant areas. It addresses the heritage of Chinatown’s built environment, landscapes, and its community significance, proposing a vision for sustaining and enhancing the area’s historical value through sensitive development and interpretation.

**Highlights:**

- Active community-led initiatives, including tourism and marketing plans, are critical to revitalizing cultural and historic areas.
- Heritage landmarks and streetscapes need explicit conservation and maintenance strategies to sustain long-term community value.

**RIVER CROSSING HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN**

This plan outlines a vision for interpreting the heritage of Edmonton’s River Crossing area. It emphasizes the area’s cultural and historical significance to multiple communities, including Indigenous peoples, and provides a framework for future interpretive work that honours the area’s diverse history through landscape, programming, and the built environment.

**Highlights:**

- Explicitly interpreting diverse histories, particularly Indigenous and industrial, in public spaces enriches urban narratives and fosters deeper community connections.
- Heritage interpretation should be central in redevelopment areas, significantly contributing to the success of revitalization projects.

**BREATHE: GREEN NETWORK STRATEGY**

This strategy outlines policies for connecting natural and cultural landscapes within Edmonton. It recognizes the importance of heritage in green spaces, integrating cultural and ecological heritage through public art, interpretive signs, and the use of public space for community engagement. The strategy supports the conservation of significant ecological and cultural landscapes, leveraging them as focal points for urban design and social interaction.

**Highlights:**

- Parks and open spaces can effectively integrate cultural heritage through landscape design and public interpretation.
- Educational partnerships with Indigenous groups enhance understanding and stewardship of ecological and cultural landscapes.

**CLIMATE RESILIENT EDMONTON: ADAPTATION STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

Edmonton’s Climate Resilient Edmonton strategy outlines how the city will adapt to the anticipated impacts of climate change, focusing on minimizing risk and building urban resilience. It recognizes the role of heritage in climate adaptation by emphasizing the reuse of existing buildings and the protection of vulnerable cultural landscapes.

**Highlights:**

- Reusing heritage buildings reduces environmental impact and helps meet adaptation goals.
- Cultural assets and landscapes are identified as part of community climate resilience planning.

**EDMONTON’S COMMUNITY ENERGY TRANSITION STRATEGY**

This strategy sets out Edmonton’s roadmap for achieving a low-carbon future, with targets for emissions reductions across buildings, energy systems, and transportation. While not heritage-specific, it supports adaptive reuse and deep energy retrofits of existing buildings.

**Highlights:**

- Encourages retrofits of older buildings to reduce emissions without demolition.
- Aligns climate goals with long-term conservation of Edmonton’s built environment.

**CONNECTIONS & EXCHANGES**

Connections & Exchanges is Edmonton’s cultural plan that outlines goals for supporting the city’s arts and heritage sectors. It includes commitments to support diverse cultural expression, increase access to heritage spaces, and recognize Indigenous and equity-deserving communities in public memory.

**Highlights:**

- Infuse culture by integrating arts and heritage into the city’s daily life and civic fabric.
- Supports inclusive storytelling and programming in heritage spaces.
- Emphasizes partnerships and capacity-building across heritage and arts sectors.
- Increase public engagement with arts and heritage events and activities.

**PROVINCIAL HISTORICAL RESOURCES ACT**

This legislation provides the legal framework for heritage protection in Alberta. It governs the designation of Provincial and Municipal Historic Resources, regulates alterations to protected sites, and enables municipal powers to recognize and conserve local heritage assets.

**Highlights:**

- Enables municipalities to designate and legally protect heritage properties resources, including designating a part of the municipality as a Municipal Historic Area.
- Provides authority to offer grants, incentives, and conservation tools under municipal bylaws.
- Considers “historic object”, “historic resource”, and “historic site” of nature or of humans as having value for their palaeontological, archaeological, prehistoric, historic, cultural, natural, scientific, or aesthetic interest.

**STANDARDS & GUIDELINES FOR THE CONSERVATION OF HISTORIC PLACES**

This set of guidelines establishes best practices for the conservation of historic places in Canada. They emphasize the need for a careful balance between conserving character-defining elements and accommodating contemporary needs, providing a valuable reference for the conservation efforts in Edmonton.

**Highlights:**

- Clearly defining and conserving character-defining elements is central to successful heritage conservation.
- Balancing strict preservation guidelines with flexibility for contemporary needs ensures heritage resources remain relevant and actively used.

## RESEARCH FROM OTHER CITIES

For full and in depth document review refer to Precedent Research Matrix in **Appendix A**.

Municipal governments play a vital role in leading by example when it comes to heritage stewardship. Across Canada, cities are proactively designating, reusing, and investing in their own heritage assets—from historic civic buildings to public parks and cultural facilities. These assets serve the public in visible and impactful ways, reinforcing civic identity, supporting cultural programming, and advancing sustainability through adaptive reuse. The following case studies highlight how municipalities across the country approach the management of heritage assests, including city-owned heritage, through policies, incentives, public access strategies, and partnerships that demonstrate a strong commitment to preservation. Together, they offer replicable tools and inspiration for the Heritage Places Strategy.

### CALGARY, ALBERTA

- Proactive designation of city-owned properties, including historic schools, fire halls, and parks.
- The city leads by example by designating its own assets, even when it creates limitations on redevelopment.

- Strong support from Heritage Calgary, an arms-length organization that provides public education and advocacy.
- Maintains a Heritage Incentive Program that includes municipally owned assets and partnerships with nonprofit stewards.
- Heritage Calgary provides education, promotes heritage values, and advises on policy development, contributing to a broader culture of conservation.
- Calgary integrates heritage considerations into municipal planning and development review processes.

#### Notable Heritage Assets:

- Calgary Public Building (1931): Now houses the Jack Singer Concert Hall and City of Calgary offices.
- King Edward School (1913): Transformed into cSPACE Arts Hub, a creative arts incubator.
- Pumphouse No. 2 (1913): Converted into the Pumphouse Theatres, preserving its historic architecture.
- Bow Valley Ranche Site: A city-owned heritage landscape that incorporates Indigenous history, natural trails, and cultural interpretation.

#### Key Tools:

- Heritage Conservation Program: Provides financial incentives and support for the preservation of heritage properties.
- Municipal Historic Resource Designation: Offers legal protection to significant heritage sites.

### ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO

- Has designated many city-owned properties under Part IV of the Ontario Heritage Act (e.g., public libraries, City Hall, historic homes).
- Actively uses heritage conservation as part of its downtown revitalization strategy.
- Clear internal coordination between Planning, Culture, and Facilities to ensure consistent conservation of assets.
- The city applies its Heritage Impact Assessment process to both public and private proposals affecting heritage properties.
- Community heritage committees play a role in site evaluations and heritage planning reviews.

#### Notable Heritage Assets:

- Montebello Park: Designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, featuring a historic band shell and pavilion.
- Sts. Cyril and Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church (1946): Designated as a municipal heritage site in 1997.

#### Key Tools:

- Heritage Designated Property Grant: Provides financial assistance for the conservation of designated heritage properties.
- Heritage Conservation Districts: Includes areas like Port Dalhousie and Queen Street, preserving the historical character of neighbourhoods

### TORONTO, ONTARIO

- One of the largest inventories of heritage properties in North America, with many municipally owned sites designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.
- The Toronto Heritage Register includes over 4,500 properties, many of them city-owned or used for public purposes (e.g., community centres, parks, museums).



- The city mandates Heritage Impact Assessments for any work involving public heritage sites.
- Operates City-owned museums like Fort York and Spadina House under dedicated heritage stewardship frameworks.

**Notable Heritage Assets:**

- Old City Hall: A designated heritage property serving as a courthouse.
- St. Lawrence Market: Historic market building integral to Toronto’s heritage.

**Key Tools:**

- Heritage Register: Maintains a list of over 9,000 properties with heritage value, including approximately 4,500 designated under the Ontario Heritage Act.
- Heritage Conservation Districts: Areas like Cabbagetown and Queen Street West are protected to maintain historical integrity.

**VANCOUVER, BC**

- While it doesn’t always designate its assets, many public heritage sites are listed on the Heritage Register (e.g., City Hall, Carnegie Library).

- Employs a policy of “honourable stewardship” through maintenance, public engagement, and adaptive reuse.
- Projects like the Heritage Hall, Burrard Bridge, and PNE Livestock Building show strong in-house restoration capability.
- Incorporates Indigenous heritage and cultural landscapes more visibly through the City of Reconciliation framework.
- While not all heritage buildings are designated, the city applies maintenance standards, hosts community workshops, and publishes detailed conservation guidelines.

**Notable Heritage Assets:**

- City Hall: An iconic example of Art Deco architecture.
- Carnegie Community Centre: Originally the Carnegie Library, now serving as a community center.

**Key Tools:**

- Vancouver Heritage Register (VHR): Lists over 2,300 buildings and structures recognized for their heritage value.
- Heritage Designation Bylaw: Provides legal protection to designated heritage properties, preventing unsympathetic alterations.

**OTTAWA, ONTARIO**

- Has a comprehensive Heritage Register and has designated a number of city-owned buildings, including schools, fire halls, and community buildings.
- Heritage planning is integrated into its Official Plan and Capital Budget review process.
- Operates municipal museums and heritage sites with public programming, such as Billings Estate and Pinhey’s Point.
- Integrates heritage planning into Official Plan and long-range capital budgeting.
- Community heritage panels and planning committees are consulted on heritage policy changes.

**Notable Heritage Assets:**

- Billings Estate National Historic Site: One of Ottawa’s oldest wood-frame houses, now a museum.
- Minto Park: A designated Heritage Conservation District featuring historic residential properties.

**Key Tools:**

- Heritage Register: Includes approximately 3,800 properties of cultural heritage value or interest.

- Heritage Conservation Districts: Protects areas with significant historical and architectural value.

**QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC**

- A UNESCO World Heritage Site that treats municipal assets as part of a living heritage landscape.
- All municipal work in Old Quebec follows strict restoration and materials protocols.
- Leads in site-specific conservation plans and municipal heritage easements.
- Applies conservation protocols to all municipal projects in Old Québec, regardless of ownership.
- Operates under a UNESCO designation which guides city-wide policies, not just site-specific efforts.

**Notable Heritage Assets:**

- Old Québec: A UNESCO World Heritage Site encompassing historic buildings and fortifications.
- Old Québec Custom House (1831): A rare example of neoclassical federal architecture.

**Key Tools:**

- Cultural Heritage Act: Provides a framework for the designation and protection of heritage properties and sites.
- Heritage Conservation Plans: Guides the preservation and management of heritage resources within the city.

**VICTORIA, BC**

- One of the most advanced heritage building maintenance bylaws in Canada.
- Designates many city-owned assets, including infrastructure like the Johnson Street Bridge and historic city parks.
- Offers a Tax Incentive Program (TIP) that is extended to city-owned buildings through partnerships with non-profit stewards or lessees.

**Notable Heritage Assets:**

- Royal Theatre: A historic performing arts venue designated as a heritage property.
- Old Town: Victoria’s first Heritage Conservation Area, preserving 19th-century architecture.

**Key Tools:**

- Heritage Register: Lists properties with recognized heritage value, providing them with protection and conservation guidelines.
- Heritage Conservation Areas: Designated zones where heritage conservation is prioritized in planning and development.

**ADDITIONAL**

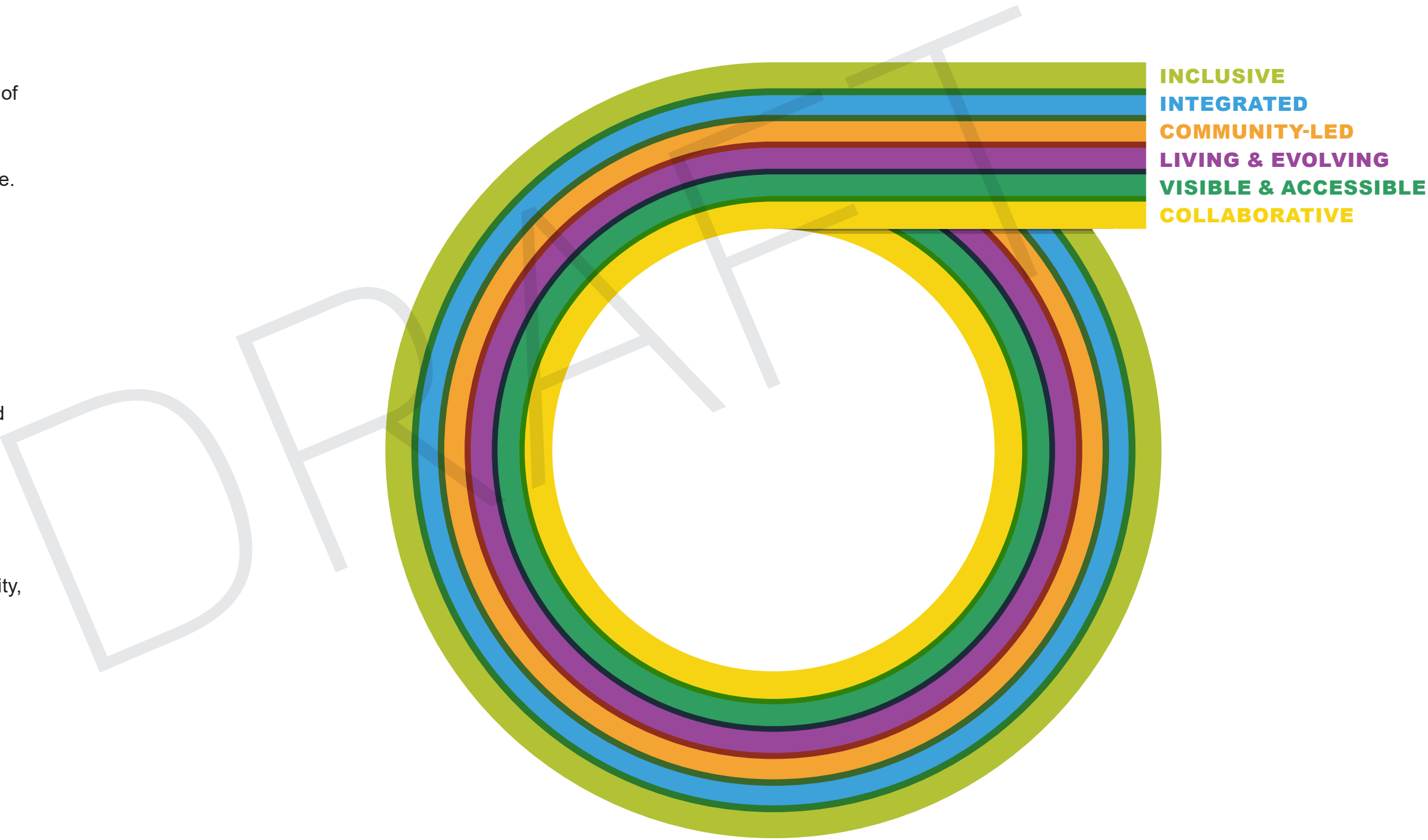
- **Halifax, NS** – Integrated planning through the Centre Plan and heritage corridors, with some city-owned designations.
- **Kingston, Ontario** – Extensive municipal designations and dedicated heritage staff.
- **Winnipeg, Manitoba** – Robust inventory; uses long-term leasing and tax incentives to manage city-owned heritage with non-profit partners.

# 3 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The following **Guiding Principles** express shared values intended to guide all elements of the Strategy and its implementation.

- **Inclusive:** Reflect Indigenous, racialized, 2SLGBTQIA+ histories and settler heritage.
- **Integrated:** Connect heritage goals with broader City priorities, including climate, housing, and economic development.
- **Community-Led:** Support grassroots storytelling, stewardship, and decision-making.
- **Living and Evolving:** Embrace heritage as dynamic, connecting past, present, and future.
- **Visible and Accessible:** Make heritage legible in public space, infrastructure, and everyday life.
- **Collaborative:** Enable meaningful partnerships between communities, the City, and heritage organizations.



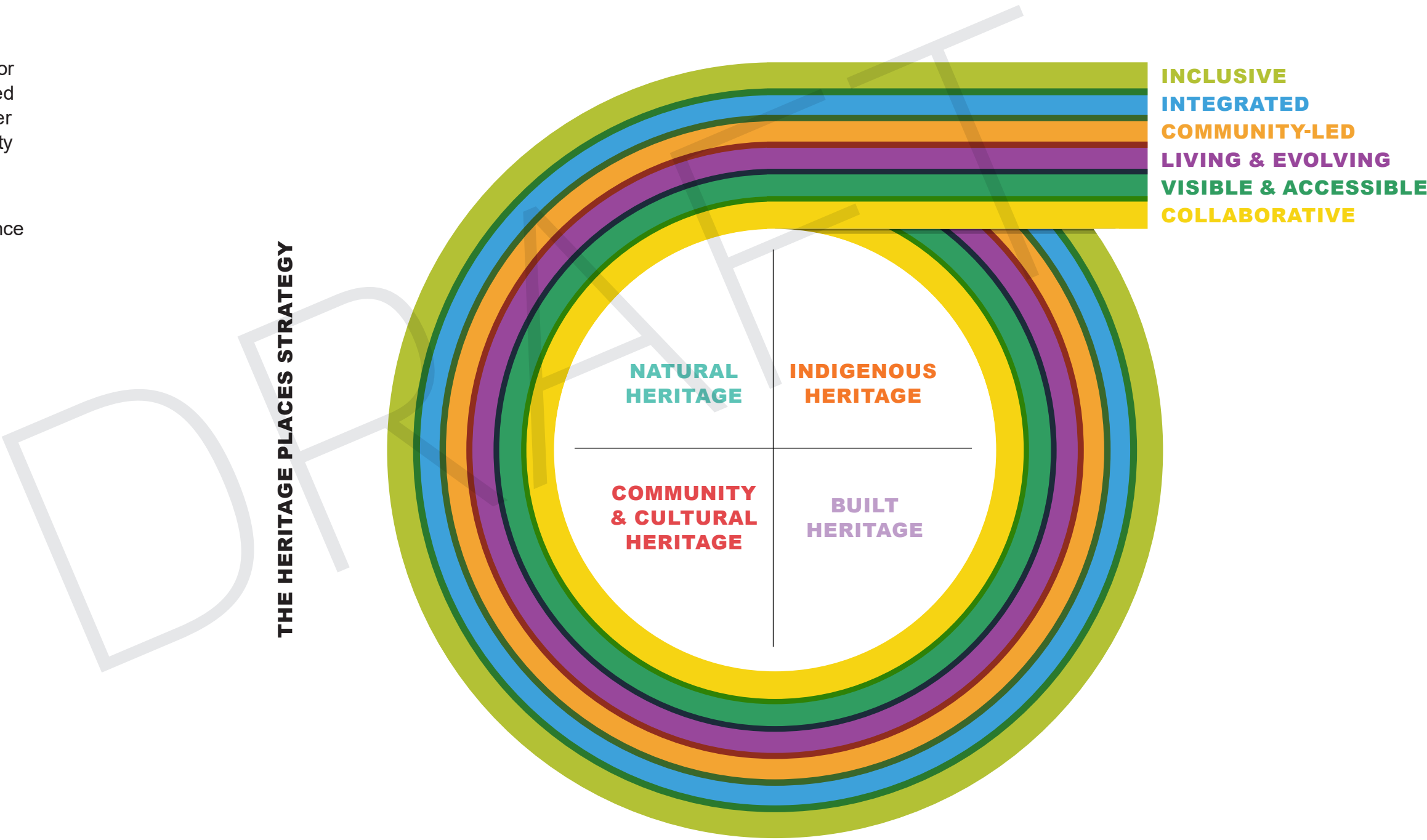
# 4      **PILLARS & DIRECTIONS**



# PILLARS

The Pillars identify the updated focus areas for the City’s heritage program. They are informed by engagement feedback, research from other municipalities, and alignment with existing City policies and initiatives.

Each Pillar includes a set of Directions that guide how the City and its partners will advance heritage conservation, recognition, and stewardship.



# PILLAR 1: NATURAL HERITAGE

The Natural Heritage Pillar recognizes the importance of natural features and ,landscapes as part of Edmonton’s heritage. This includes open and park spaces, trees and geological formations that contribute to the City’s identity, environmental systems, and cultural history.

**Natural Heritage Directions:**

- 1.1 Develop and maintain a survey of significant natural heritage resources.
- 1.2 Encourage the conservation, maintenance, and commemoration of natural heritage resources through updated processes, incentives, management plans, and other appropriate tools.
- 1.3 Consider, in collaboration with City departments, the inclusion of City-owned natural heritage resources in the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources.
- 1.4 Encourage the identification and commemoration of a site with layered or overlapping heritage values, including, but not limited to, geological, ecological, cultural, and recreational significance.
- 1.5 Encourage the use of physical and digital interpretation tools to identify and commemorate significant natural landscapes, features, open spaces, park spaces, and trees.

1.6 Encourage land developers and private sector partners to incorporate natural heritage commemoration or interpretation into the development or redevelopment of sites.



City of Edmonton Archives, EA-600-5027a  
City of Edmonton Archives, EA-10-131

# PILLAR 2: INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

Indigenous Peoples in Edmonton and across Alberta are part of the historical and ongoing narrative of this place known to many as amiskwaciwâskahikan. The Indigenous Heritage Pillar recognizes the diverse histories, languages, cultural practices, and relationships to land and water held by First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Peoples.

Within Indigenous worldviews, heritage extends beyond physical sites and objects to include stories, living practices, and traditions that continue to shape communities today. The interpretation and recognition of Indigenous heritage are therefore encouraged as living, relational, and ongoing.

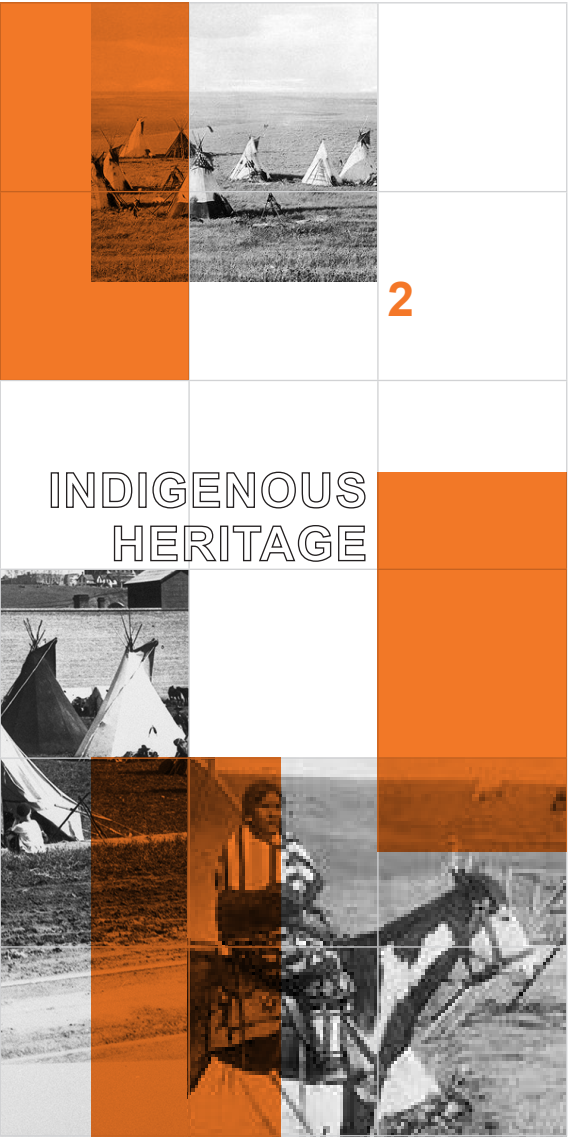
The City’s Indigenous Framework —including the Four Roles, the Responsibilities of the City, and the Seven Commitments—guides relationship-building with Indigenous Peoples and informs collaborative approaches to heritage planning and stewardship.

Updating Edmonton’s approach to heritage to be inclusive of Indigenous ways of knowing and being will contribute to meaningful reconciliation.

**Indigenous Heritage Directions:**

- 2.1** Work with the Indigenous communities, rights holders, the City of Edmonton’s Memorandum of Understanding partners, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to support Indigenous heritage initiatives through relationship building.
- 2.2** Follow the City’s Indigenous Framework to ensure that engagement with Indigenous partners supports community-led participation, includes culturally appropriate activities and settings, and seeks input from Elders and Knowledge Keepers.
- 2.3** Support, in collaboration with Indigenous partners, ceremony and cultural heritage practices, including providing funding for protocol and following trust-based approaches that enable for safe and respectful knowledge-sharing.
- 2.4** Partner with Indigenous communities to identify places of significance and commemorate the tangible and intangible heritage associated with the places.
- 2.5** Support appropriate measures to commemorate significant or sacred sites in ways that promote preservation and minimize harm.

**2.6** Encourage the recognition of Indigenous heritage across multiple domains, including land, buildings, community, public space, and storytelling.



City of Edmonton Archives, EA-160-165  
City of Edmonton Archives, EA-13-13-142

PILLAR 3: COMMUNITY & CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Community and Cultural Heritage pillar recognizes local histories and places of significance to Edmonton’s diverse communities. This includes cultural landscapes, gathering spaces, and intangible heritage such as traditions and stories that contribute to community identity, belonging, and shared memory.

Community and Cultural Heritage Directions:

- 3.1 Collaborate with diverse communities to identify places of community or cultural significance and the heritage associated with them.
- 3.2 Support place-based, community-led heritage initiatives, including programming, mapping projects, monuments and storytelling.
- 3.3 Prioritize placed-based, community-led heritage initiatives that reflect the histories and experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+, Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC), immigrant, newcomer, cultural, disability, and other traditionally underrepresented communities.

- 3.4 Encourage historical and cultural commemoration within neighbourhoods, in collaboration with City departments or community partners, through physical interpretive infrastructure such as, but not limited to, applying historical street names, banners, cultural markers, sidewalk or pavement etching.
- 3.5 Engage with partners such as the Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Heritage Council to support heritage commemoration through public art.
- 3.6 Collaborate with the Edmonton Historical Board, the Edmonton Heritage Council, and other partners to promote the importance of heritage, to improve the collective work on heritage and to strengthen the overall heritage program.
- 3.7 Work with community partners to support historical research, expand the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, and strengthen place-based heritage initiatives.



City of Edmonton Archives, EB-21-71  
Province of Alberta Archives, NA-559-16



# PILLAR 4: BUILT HERITAGE

The Built Heritage pillar recognizes buildings and structures with historic, architectural, or cultural value. The City of Edmonton maintains and regularly reviews the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources to identify, conserve, and protect significant heritage resources.

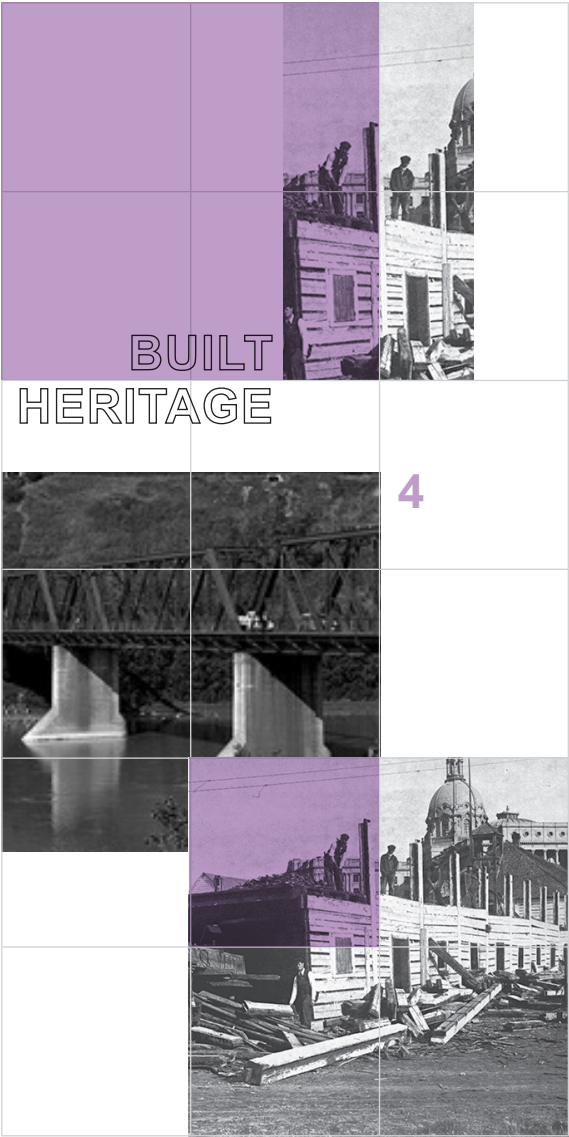
The Inventory and Register of Historic Resources includes properties that have been evaluated and determined to merit conservation but are not legally protected. The Register of Historic Resources includes properties that have been legally designated as Municipal Historic Resources and are protected from demolition or inappropriate alteration. Designated resources are eligible for grants and incentives that support their rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance.

**Built Heritage Directions:**

- 4.1** Work with property owners to add eligible properties to the Inventory of Historic Resources.
- 4.2** Work with property owners to support the designation of eligible properties as Municipal Historic Resources.
- 4.3** Review and explore updates to the allocation, disbursement, and administration of existing heritage grants and incentives.
- 4.4** Explore new grants or incentives to support heritage designation, rehabilitation and

- maintenance in support of climate resilience initiatives and energy-related retrofits.
- 4.5** Explore new grants or incentives to support heritage designation, rehabilitation and maintenance that support City or council priorities.
- 4.6** Create maintenance guides that reflect heritage conservation best practices, climate resilience considerations, estimated costs, and appropriate material options.
- 4.7** Investigate areas of historical interest that could be recognized through heritage commemoration tools as opportunities arise and capacity allows.
- 4.8** Ensure that broader histories and stories associated with Municipal Historic Resources are documented and shared.
- 4.9** Continue to improve processes to support property owners and developers through heritage designation, approvals, and technical requirements.
- 4.10** Steward the preservation, management, and celebration of City-owned built heritage resources.
- 4.11** Address issues related to materials and other heritage matters while seeking alignment with provincial or national heritage standards and guidelines.

- 4.12** Promote heritage as a contributor to economic development, local businesses, and tourism.
- 4.13** Explore grants, incentives, or enforcement tools to prevent willful neglect or the potential demolition of properties listed on the Inventory or the Register of Historic Resources.
- 4.14** Explore grants, incentives or other tools that support deconstruction over demolition to retain materials, reduce waste, and advance circular economy practices.
- 4.15** Support other orders of government, post-secondary institutions, school boards, utility companies, and other organizations in creating inventories of their heritage building stock. The City will work with these organizations toward additions to the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources.
- 4.16** Support work towards geographical, topical, or theme-based studies to expand the Inventory of Historic Resources where appropriate.
- 4.17** Prioritize, where staff or financial resources are limited, Municipal Historic Resource designation of publicly accessible properties.



City of Edmonton Archives, EA-160-1326  
City of Edmonton Archives, EA-10-79



# 5 IMPLEMENTATION

# OVERVIEW

The Heritage Places Strategy represents another exciting shift in Edmonton’s evolving approach to heritage. Heritage offers Edmontonians and visitors cultural, social and economic benefits providing people with links to the past, contributing to our collective identity and sense of place. The new Heritage Places Strategy will help Indigenous communities, immigrant communities and underrepresented communities recognize places of historical significance, whether natural, cultural, built, celebratory, or challenging. Implementation of the strategy will ensure heritage contributes to broader City priorities, including The City Plan, district plans, climate resilience, reconciliation, and economic development.

This section includes six implementation activities, timelines, resourcing, ongoing communication and engagement, and monitoring.

## IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

While the Directions under each Pillar provide ongoing guidance, the Implementation Activities are specific and discrete project or program-like tasks. The activities will include dedicated scoping, resources, coordination, and collaboration to advance multiple Pillars and Directions. Based on the engagement feedback and project team’s analysis, six activities have been developed:

### 1. Indigenous Stewardship and Partnership

- 2. Community-led Storytelling and Interpretation
- 3. Heritage Awareness and Promotion
- 4. City-owned Heritage Stewardship and Leadership
- 5. Incentives
- 6. Heritage Areas and Context-Based Conservation

The purpose, implementation approach, projected timelines, and which Pillars and Directions will be advanced are described below for each activity.

## TIMELINE

Timeline for implementation is broken into the following horizons:

- Short term (0 to 2 years)
- Medium term (2 to 6 years)
- Long term (6+ years), and
- Ongoing

While each Implementation Activity will have tasks that fall within the short, medium, and long term, the activities are ordered to reflect those that can be started sooner versus those that require more time. When and how they are initiated will be carefully considered with staffing, resources, coordination, relationships and opportunities in mind.

## RESOURCING AND FUNDING

Implementation will rely on a combination of existing resources, partnerships, and access to additional funding sources. Potential funding approaches may include integration with capital planning, alignment with other city initiatives or programs, cost-sharing with external partners, and leveraging grants from other orders of government. Implementation may require choices and tradeoffs, which may include reallocation or realignment of responsibilities, to achieve the strategy’s goals. The City will confirm resource requirements, roles, and sequencing following Strategy adoption.

## COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Implementation will include ongoing communication and future engagement opportunities with Indigenous Partners, heritage partners, underrepresented groups, and the public. The City’s Public Engagement Spectrum will continue to guide the level and type of input needed for different activities. The City’s GBA+ (Gender-Based Analysis +) framework will also guide implementation to consider identity factors, reduce barriers to inclusion, and ensure equitable outcomes.

Edmonton has a strong network of organizations that together form a broader heritage ecosystem focused on preserving, sharing, and promoting the city’s history and culture.

As the Heritage Places Strategy advances, a broader and more inclusive understanding of heritage, the City looks forward to working with the MOU Partners, Edmonton Historical Board, the Edmonton Heritage Council, and other organizations, to support implementation, visibility, and community momentum.

## MONITORING AND REPORTING

It will be important to monitor and report on the progress of the Heritage Places Strategy. While the Directions under the Pillars will provide ongoing guidance, the Implementation Activities may have specific tasks and milestones associated with them. Possible indicators to monitor could include initiatives started and/or completed by partners, grants issued, additions to the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, recommendations on City-owned heritage, as well as others. Given the strategy’s broader focus, the influence of market factors, opportunities or shifting civic priorities may require flexibility or adjustments to monitoring. Similar to the lifecycle of other strategies in the City’s planning toolkit, the monitoring will serve to inform when the City should renew or update the Heritage Places Strategy.

1

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY:  
INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP & PARTNERSHIP

PURPOSE

The City will support Indigenous-led heritage place initiatives. Indigenous heritage is living, relational, and grounded in land, language, and ongoing cultural practice. Indigenous peoples have stewardship of their own history. Celebrating Indigenous heritage (pre- and post-contact) is necessary to tell the full story of this place, known to many as amiskwaciwâskahikan, and to contribute to meaningful reconciliation.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will support Indigenous partners to identify, assess, interpret, and commemorate Indigenous heritage places. Relationship is key to this collaboration and will be fostered by regular updates and formal or informal touch points between the City and partners. Support to Indigenous partners could include (but not limited to) championing existing initiatives, exploring joint heritage initiatives, finding opportunities to incorporate Indigenous heritage as part of other Directions or Implementation Activities, or providing grants.

As part of the work, the City will honour the principles of OCAP® (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) when receiving knowledge or information shared by Indigenous partners. This activity will align with the City’s Indigenous Framework and include coordination with the City’s Indigenous Relations Office and different City departments.

APPROXIMATE TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Connect with Indigenous Partners and build relationships

Medium-term (2 to 6 years)

- Collaborate on and support Indigenous-led initiatives

Long-term (6+ years) / ongoing

- Foster relationships and explore future initiatives

PILLARS ADVANCED

Indigenous Heritage

**2.1** Work with the Indigenous communities, rights holders, the City of Edmonton’s Memorandum of Understanding partners, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to support Indigenous heritage initiatives through relationship building.

**2.2** Follow the City’s Indigenous Framework to ensure that engagement with Indigenous partners supports community-led participation, includes culturally appropriate activities and settings, and seeks input from Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

**2.3** Support, in collaboration with Indigenous partners, ceremony and cultural heritage practices, including providing funding for protocol and following trust-based approaches that enable for safe and respectful knowledge-sharing.

**2.4** Partner with Indigenous communities to identify places of significance and commemorate the tangible and intangible heritage associated with the places.

2

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY:  
COMMUNITY-LED HERITAGE STORYTELLING & INTERPRETATION

PURPOSE

The City will support diverse communities in identifying, sharing, and interpreting their own heritage stories across different accessible formats. Community-led heritage storytelling strengthens people’s sense of place and identity, increases community and cultural visibility, attracts visitors to neighbourhoods, and can support a neighbourhood’s local economy.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will work with community groups, organizations or leagues on an opportunity basis and consider proposals or requests. Support could include (but not be limited to) brainstorming possible initiatives, connecting communities with (external) partners or City departments, providing grants or letters of support to assist with fundraising.

Formats for storytelling and interpretation could be temporary or permanent interpretation including digital, physical, or audio-based tools that are accessible and available as widely as possible. Examples could include walking tours, digital mapping, app-based products, podcasts, interactive, oral histories, murals, pop-up installations, and multi-language content.

This approach will involve coordination across departments and with partners such as the Edmonton Heritage Council or Edmonton Historical Board. Storytelling initiatives could be aligned with other initiatives such as Indigenous naming, cultural recognition, and land-based interpretation where appropriate.

APPROXIMATE TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Meet with community or cultural groups to explore place-based opportunities

Medium-term (2 to 6 years)

- Collaborate on and support community-led Initiatives

Long-term (6+ years) / ongoing

- Monitor projects started and completed

PILLARS ADVANCED

Indigenous Heritage

**2.1** Work with the Indigenous communities, rights holders, the City of Edmonton’s Memorandum of Understanding partners, Elders, and Knowledge Keepers to support Indigenous heritage initiatives through relationship building.

**2.4** Partner with Indigenous communities to identify places of significance and commemorate the tangible and intangible heritage associated with the places.

Community & Cultural Heritage

**3.1** Collaborate with diverse communities to identify places of community or cultural significance and the heritage associated with them.

**3.2** Support place-based, community-led heritage initiatives, including programming, mapping projects, monuments and storytelling.

**3.3** Prioritize placed-based, community-led heritage initiatives that reflect the histories and experiences of 2SLGBTQIA+, Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC), immigrant, newcomer, cultural, disability, and other traditionally underrepresented communities.

**3.4** Encourage historical and cultural commemoration within neighbourhoods, in collaboration with City departments or community partners, through physical interpretive infrastructure such as, but not limited to, applying historical street names, banners, cultural markers, sidewalk or pavement etching.

**3.5** Engage with partners such as the Edmonton Arts Council and the Edmonton Heritage Council to support heritage commemoration through public art.

Built Heritage

**4.7** Investigate areas of historical interest that could be recognized through heritage commemoration tools as opportunities arise and capacity allows.

3

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY:  
INCENTIVES

PURPOSE

The City will continue to support the financial viability and long-term sustainability of heritage conservation using existing and new incentives. The existing incentives reduce financial barriers and may be expanded for additional flexibility. Additional financial and/or regulatory incentives will be considered to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes in heritage conservation and presentation and with other City goals, such as adaptive reuse and affordable housing.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City’s Heritage Conservation Unit will continue to work with heritage property owners and developers to navigate regulatory requirements, funding opportunities, and conservation best practices.

The existing heritage grants will be reviewed (and refined as needed) to fund natural, Indigenous, community and cultural heritage initiatives in addition to built heritage. This may include phased or new grant structures, reallocation of existing resources, or coordination with other City grants to stack heritage funding with other sources and achieve multiple outcomes.

APPROXIMATE TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Explore new or combined incentives

Medium-term (2 to 6 years)

- Pilot new incentives

Long-term (6+ years) / ongoing

- Formalize new incentives and monitor

PILLARS ADVANCED

Built Heritage

**4.3** Review and explore updates to the allocation, disbursement, and administration of existing heritage grants and incentives.

**4.4** Explore new grants or incentives to support heritage designation, rehabilitation and maintenance in support of climate resilience initiatives and energy-related retrofits.

**4.5** Explore new grants or incentives to support heritage designation, rehabilitation and maintenance that support City or council priorities.

**4.13** Explore grants, incentives, or enforcement tools to prevent willful neglect or the potential demolition of properties listed on the Inventory or the Register of Historic Resources.

**4.14** Explore grants, incentives or other tools that support deconstruction over demolition to retain materials, reduce waste, and advance circular economy practices.



4

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY:  
CITY-OWNED HERITAGE STEWARDSHIP & LEADERSHIP

PURPOSE

The City strives to be a leader in the preservation and management of historic resources, including the retention and adaptive re-use of resources it owns. Historic resources are significant to Edmonton’s evolution, important to our sense of identity and place, support the local economy, and encourage residents and the private sector to do the same.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will develop an updated process and prioritization for City-owned heritage resources. This will include additions to the Inventory, designations to the Register, whether City-owned heritage resources should be retained as assets or sold (with the condition of designation), and resources the City acquires for a capital project or on an opportunity basis.

To support the different activities (i.e., additions, designations, retention, disposition, acquisitions), criteria will be developed to help inform the evaluation and prioritization. Potential criteria could include: landmark value, condition assessment, facility costs, funding availability (operation and maintenance), economic benefit, revenue potential (sale or lease), adaptive reuse potential and public use potential.

This approach will involve coordination across departments including the City’s Heritage unit with Urban Planning and Economy, Real Estate within Corporate Services, Integrated Infrastructure Services, Community Services and City Operations who all play a role or are responsible for different aspects related to city-owned heritage.

APPROXIMATE TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Develop updated process and prioritization

Medium-term (2 to 6 years)

- Make recommendations (additions, designations, retention, disposition, etc)

Long-term (6+ years) / ongoing

- Review and follow updated process

PILLARS ADVANCED

Natural Heritage

- 1.1 Develop and maintain a survey of significant natural heritage resources.
- 1.3 Consider, in collaboration with City departments, the inclusion of City-owned natural heritage resources in the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources.

Built Heritage

- 4.10 Steward the preservation, management, and celebration of City-owned built heritage resources.

5

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY:  
HERITAGE AWARENESS & PROMOTION

PURPOSE

The City will promote the importance of natural, Indigenous, community, cultural and built heritage, generate awareness about the various benefits of heritage, and continue to outreach with partners, property owners, and the public. Awareness and promotion is key to share why heritage matters and encourage people to learn about the ways they can get involved and the support or grants available.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will share information about heritage, the program, and stories that showcase possibilities and successes. This could include communications about additions to the Register of Historic Resources and completed rehabilitation projects, giving tours or presentations, developing educational materials, and using social or traditional media. The City will collaborate with partners on similar initiatives, events or educational or applied learning opportunities.

Topics may include the role of the City’s Heritage Conservation Unit to assist partners and the public, interpretation or commemoration opportunities, information for property owners about adding resources to the Inventory or Register of Historic Resources, grants, adaptive reuse, conservation standards, information for builders or contractors, documentation requirements before demolition, and more.

APPROXIMATE TIMELINES

Ongoing

- Create opportunities to promote the program
- Collaborate with partners on initiatives, events, or learning opportunities.

PILLARS ADVANCED

Community & Cultural Heritage

**3.6** Collaborate with the Edmonton Historical Board, the Edmonton Heritage Council, and other partners to promote the importance of heritage, to improve the collective work on heritage and to strengthen the overall heritage program.

**3.7** Work with community partners to support historical research, expand the Inventory and Register of Historic Resources, and strengthen place-based heritage initiatives.

Built Heritage

**4.6** Create maintenance guides that reflect heritage conservation best practices, climate resilience considerations, estimated costs, and appropriate material options.

**4.8** Ensure that broader histories and stories associated with Municipal Historic Resources are documented and shared.

**4.9** Continue to improve processes to support property owners and developers through heritage designation, approvals, and technical requirements.

**4.12** Promote heritage as a contributor to economic development, local businesses, and tourism.

6

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITY:  
HERITAGE AREAS & CONTEXT-BASED CONSERVATION

PURPOSE

The City will explore the identification and conservation of heritage at various levels. Heritage areas and context-based conservation recognize elements such as, but not limited to, built form, streetscapes, viewscales, mature trees, river lots, and cultural landscapes. Heritage considerations will be integrated, ensuring that new development responds to the local context.

IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

The City will continue to identify areas of heritage value and the features or elements that create that value. This could be done through studies, topical or geographic inventories and working with communities and property owners. Outcomes may include tools such as, design guidelines, zoning regulations or overlays, context-based controls, and targeted initiatives. Pilot projects to test approaches could be done. Documentation of heritage that is area- or typology-based can inform future interpretation, commemoration strategies, area planning, and inventory studies. Implementation will require coordination and alignment across different City departments.

APPROXIMATE TIMELINES

Short-term (0 to 2 years)

- Monitor opportunities

Medium-term (2 to 6 years)

- Explore possible tools

Long-term (6+ years) / ongoing

- Recommend implementation of tool(s)

PILLARS ADVANCED

Built Heritage

**4.7** Investigate areas of historical interest that could be recognized through heritage commemoration tools as opportunities arise and capacity allows.

**4.16** Support work towards geographical, topical, or theme-based studies to expand the Inventory of Historic Resources where appropriate.

# 6 MOVING FORWARD

# CONCLUSION

\*This section will be finalized following the March/April 2026 Engagement, this is a placeholder\*

DRAFT



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES, PILLARS, AND IMPLEMENTATION CROSS-REFERENCES

LEGEND

- Primary Alignment
- Secondary Alignment

| Implementation Activity                        | PILLARS          |                     |                                 |                | GUIDING PRINCIPLES |            |               |                     |                        |               |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------|
|                                                | Natural Heritage | Indigenous Heritage | Community and Cultural Heritage | Built Heritage | Inclusive          | Integrated | Community-Led | Living and Evolving | Visible and Accessible | Collaborative |
| 1 Indigenous Stewardship & Partnership         | ●                | ○                   | ○                               | ○              | ●                  | ●          | ●             | ●                   | ○                      | ●             |
| 2 Community-Led Storytelling & Interpretation  | ●                | ●                   | ○                               | ○              | ●                  | ○          | ●             | ●                   | ●                      | ●             |
| 3 Incentives                                   | ●                | ○                   | ○                               | ○              | ●                  | ●          | ○             | ●                   | ○                      | ○             |
| 4 City-Owned Heritage Stewardship & Leadership | ●                | ●                   | ○                               | ○              | ○                  | ●          | ○             | ●                   | ●                      | ○             |
| 5 Heritage Awareness & Promotion               | ●                | ●                   | ●                               | ●              | ●                  | ●          | ●             | ●                   | ●                      | ●             |
| 6 Heritage Areas & Context-Based Conservation  | ●                | ●                   | ○                               | ○              | ○                  | ●          | ○             | ●                   | ○                      | ○             |

**G** **GLOSSARY**

# GLOSSARY

## HERITAGE FRAMEWORK & RELATED TERMS

**Adaptive Reuse** – The repurposing of a heritage place for a new use while retaining its heritage value.

**Character Defining Elements** – The materials, forms, spatial relationships, uses, and features that contribute to a place’s heritage value and must be conserved.

**Designation** – The formal legal protection of a heritage place through a municipal bylaw under provincial legislation, recognizing its heritage value and regulating alterations, demolition, and redevelopment.

**Heritage Place** – A site, building, structure, landscape, or area recognized for its heritage value, whether designated, listed, or identified through community processes.

**Heritage Value** – The historical, cultural, architectural, social, spiritual, or associative significance of a place.

**Recognition** – The identification or acknowledgment of a place’s heritage value without legal protection, through listing, inventories, policies, or community-based processes.

**Standards & Guidelines** – The Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada, the national framework guiding heritage conservation: preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic places.

**Statement of Significance** – A formal document that identifies a historic place’s heritage value, character-defining elements, and contextual history.

## ENVIRONMENTAL & ECONOMIC IMPACT TERMS

**Embodied Carbon** – Greenhouse gas emissions associated with the materials and construction of a building.

**Embodied Energy** – The total energy consumed across the lifecycle of a material or building, including raw material extraction, processing, manufacturing, transportation, installation, maintenance, and end-of-life handling. Embodied energy represents the energy “locked into” a built asset.

**Social** – Measures social responsibility in terms of people and community well-being in triple-bottom-line ventures.

**Triple-Bottom-Line Economics** – Mandates that businesses evaluate their social and environmental impact alongside financial performance, rather than focusing solely on profit.

## CITY OF EDMONTON SPECIFIC

**City of Edmonton’s Inventory of Historic Resources** – The Inventory is a list of heritage resources that merit conservation, but are not legally protected.

**City of Edmonton Register of Historic Resources** – The Register is a list of Municipal Historic Resources that are legally protected from demolition or inappropriate alteration through designation by City Council, with heritage protection registered on the land title.

# GLOSSARY

## STRATEGY-SPECIFIC TERMS

**Context-Based Conservation** – An approach that focuses on conserving the overall character, relationships, and patterns of an area rather than isolated heritage assets.

**Heritage Character Area** – An area where heritage value is defined by collective character, context, and landscape rather than by individual buildings alone.

**Heritage Designation** – A legal mechanism under municipal bylaw that provides statutory protection to a historic place.

**Historic Resource Inventory** – A City-maintained list of properties identified as having potential heritage value.

## INDIGENOUS HERITAGE & GOVERNANCE

**Indigenous Stewardship** – Indigenous-led care and responsibility for land, sites, and stories, grounded in Indigenous laws, practices, and relationships.

**Knowledge Keeper** – An individual recognized by an Indigenous community as holding cultural, historical, or spiritual knowledge.

**Living Heritage** – Heritage understood as ongoing cultural practice, knowledge, and relationships, rather than something fixed in the past.

# A APPENDIX



APPENDIX A | PRECEDENT RESEARCH TABLE

| Name                                      | Jurisdiction | Location                     | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Viability* |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| TAX INCENTIVES                            |              |                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |            |
| Tax Exemption                             | Municipal    | Vancouver, BC, Canada        | Up to 10 years of property tax relief for designated heritage buildings undergoing conservation, now including non-profits and arts organizations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes        |
| Tax Incentive Program (TIP)               | Municipal    | Victoria, BC, Canada         | Offsets seismic upgrade costs for residential conversion or non-residential rehabilitation of existing upper storeys.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Yes        |
| Tax Exemption (Pilot)                     | Municipal    | Calgary, AB, Canada          | Two-year pilot offering a 15% reduction on City property taxes for owners of designated Municipal Historic Resources, for tax years 2025 and 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes        |
| Tax credit                                | Municipal    | Brandon, MB, Canada          | 50% of construction work; \$5,000 minimum; 10 years to use                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes        |
| Tax credit                                | Municipal    | Peterborough, ON, Canada     | 40% for municipal and school taxes on residential properties; 20% for commercial or multi-residential.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes        |
| Tax credit                                | Municipal    | Regina, SK, Canada           | 50% of eligible work, \$150k lump sum (\$250K for downtown), or total property taxes for 5 years, whichever is least, for conservation of designated heritage properties.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes        |
| Tax credit                                | Municipal    | Winnipeg, MB, Canada         | 50% of conservation work rebated; 10 years to use; Minimum of \$10k                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes        |
| Tax freeze                                | Municipal    | Charlottetown, PEI, Canada   | Suspension of new municipal property taxes for up to 5 years due to assessment increases from rehabilitation work.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Cornwall, ON, Canada         | 40% refund on taxes for municipal or school purposes; 5 year maximum                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Kingston, ON, Canada         | 40% tax refund; \$5,000 maximum or total or total cost of maintenance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Kitchener, ON, Canada        | 40% tax reduction (home owners)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Markham, ON, Canada          | 30% tax reduction (residential, commercial, industrial, farm, etc.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Nanaimo, BC, Canada          | 35% tax exemption for improvement work;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Newmarket, ON, Canada        | 40% tax refund (based on municipal and school taxes)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Oshawa, ON, Canada           | 40% tax refund (based on municipal and school taxes)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Owen Sound, ON, Canada       | 40% tax refund (based on municipal and school taxes)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Saskatoon, SK, Canada        | 50% rebate on proposed conservation that generates an increase to existing property taxes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Sault Ste. Marie, ON, Canada | 40% refund on municipal and school taxes for properties designated under the Heritage Act with a conservation easement.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Surrey, BC, Canada           | 100% exemption for municipal taxes on protected heritage properties                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Whitby, ON, Canada           | 40% rebate                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                | Municipal    | Windsor, ON, Canada          | 30% property tax reduction per year. If eligible work exceeds 30%, excess is rebated for two additional years.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Yes        |
| Small Retailer Property Tax Relief Credit | Municipal    | Washington, DC, USA          | A refundable franchise tax credit for small retail businesses, based on real property taxes or rent. Eligible businesses can receive up to \$5,000, capped at their property tax amount or 10% of rent. To qualify, businesses must have under \$2.5M in annual gross receipts, be engaged in retail sales, have a sales tax account with the Office of Tax and Revenue, file District sales tax returns, and be current on all local tax obligations. | Yes        |
| Tax Increment Financing (TIF)             | National     | Across USA                   | A TIF area is to capture the value increase after redevelopment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Yes        |

The full table presents a wide-ranging survey of tools and tactics implemented by municipalities across Canada and beyond to incentivize heritage conservation. It offers a comprehensive look at precedent strategies, policies, and programs, highlighting the diversity of approaches taken in different jurisdictions. This broader view serves as a knowledge base, showcasing what has been tried, tested, and adapted elsewhere.

\* Viability refers to the potential for this to work in the City of Edmonton

APPENDIX A | PRECEDENT RESEARCH TABLE

| Name                                                              | Jurisdiction | Location             | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Viability* |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Rehabilitation Tax Freeze                                         | Municipal    | San Antonio, TX, USA | Local landmarks and buildings in historic districts qualify for a city tax incentive if rehabilitation costs exceed 30% of the assessed value. Homeowners can either freeze city property taxes at pre-rehab levels for 10 years or pay no city taxes for 5 years. Commercial properties owe no city taxes for 5 years, then 50% of post-rehab assessed value for the next 5 years. These incentives transfer with ownership. | Yes        |
| Historic Tax Credit for Historic Rehabilitations and Restorations | Municipal    | Blatimore, MD, USA   | Baltimore has offered a historic tax credit since 1996 to encourage substantial rehabilitation projects. The 10-year program grants a tax credit on the increased property value from qualifying renovations. The credit remains fixed based on pre- and post-rehab appraisals. Over 5,000 projects have used the program, generating over \$1 billion in historic preservation investments.                                  | Yes        |
| Tax rebate                                                        | Municipal    | Goderich, ON         | For provincially designated properties in conservation districts (Ontario Heritage Act). Covers 50% of restoration costs, up to \$15k, with a minimum 10% refund of eligible property taxes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | No         |
| Tax Credit                                                        | National     | USA                  | Federal Historic Tax Credit (via National Parks Service) available for certified historic rehabilitations. Federal tax deductions apply for charitable contributions of partial interests in certified historic properties.                                                                                                                                                                                                   | No         |

| GRANT PROGRAM                                              |                    |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |     |
|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| NSW Heritage Green Energy Grants (Expanded)                | Provincial (State) | NSW, Australia         | Funding to implement energy-efficient solutions tailored to the unique challenges of heritage buildings. For the owners and custodians of properties listed on local environmental plans or the State Heritage Register in New South Wales.                                                          | Yes |
| Heritage Council of Victoria Grants                        | Provincial (State) | Australia              | Offers matching funds for conservation and restoration projects on legally protected heritage buildings; up to 50% of project costs, with a maximum of \$100k per building over 10 years.                                                                                                            | Yes |
| Adaptive Reuse Grant                                       | National           | Singapore              | Supports private owners and non-profits in repurposing heritage buildings while maintaining their historical significance. Provides funding for conservation, design adaptation, and compliance with modern regulations.                                                                             | Yes |
| Cultural Property Grant                                    | National           | Japan                  | Offers financial assistance for the preservation and restoration of nationally designated cultural properties, including historic buildings, artworks, and archaeological sites. Available to municipalities, religious organizations, and private owners to ensure long-term heritage conservation. | Yes |
| Heritage Façade Rehabilitation Program                     | Municipal          | Vancouver, BC, Canada  | Up to \$50k for façade rehabilitation and seismic stabilization of registered heritage buildings, including storefront conservation, structural stabilization, and preservation of key architectural elements.                                                                                       | Yes |
| Heritage House Conservation Grants                         | Municipal          | Vancouver, BC, Canada  | Supports conservation of privately owned wood-framed homes, small apartments, and multi-family conversions. Managed by Vancouver Heritage Foundation.                                                                                                                                                | Yes |
| Grant for Heritage Buildings - Houses                      |                    | Victoria, BC, Canada   | Administered by the Victoria Heritage Foundation (VHF) assists owners with the costs of restoration and repair; funding varies.                                                                                                                                                                      | Yes |
| Grant for Heritage Buildings - Commercial or Institutional | Municipal          | Victoria, BC, Canada   | Administered by the Victoria Civic Heritage Trust; funding varies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Yes |
| Heritage Properties Grant                                  | Municipal          | Calgary, AB, Canada    | 50% of costs up to 15% of property's assessed value, once every 15 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Yes |
| Heritage Properties Grant                                  | Municipal          | Burlington, ON, Canada | \$15k, property must be designated under Ontario Heritage Act                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Yes |

APPENDIX A | PRECEDENT RESEARCH TABLE

| Name                      | Jurisdiction | Location                        | Description                                                                                                                                                                | Viability* |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Charlottetown, PEI, Canada      | 30% costs, max \$5k (major renovations); \$1k for general maintenance                                                                                                      | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Delta, BC, Canada               | 50% costs, max \$15k, property must be on Delta's Heritage Register                                                                                                        | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Hamilton, ON, Canada            | 50% costs, max \$20k                                                                                                                                                       | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Kelowna, BC, Canada             | Up to \$12.5k (heritage designation) or \$7.5k (Heritage Register), covering 50% of costs over a 3-year period.                                                            | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Provincial   | Manitoba (provincial), Canada   | Up to \$35k (50% costs) for designated provincial or municipal sites; typical grants: \$8k, \$3k for single-family homes.                                                  | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Markham, ON, Canada             | \$15k max, must be in one of four heritage districts                                                                                                                       | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Mississauga, ON, Canada         | \$5k max for general conservation; \$10k max for restoration of structural elements                                                                                        | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Niagara on the Lake, ON, Canada | Up to \$15k (50% costs) for industrial/commercial/institutional properties; up to \$2k (50% costs) for a Heritage Design Study.                                            | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Oak Bay, BC, Canada             | 10% of costs, up to \$1k for Oak Bay Heritage Register buildings; 25% of costs, up to \$10k for designated buildings.                                                      | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Richmond Hill, ON, Canada       | 50% costs, max \$5k                                                                                                                                                        | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Saskatoon, SK, Canada           | 50% costs, max \$150k taxable where conservation does not increase existing property taxes                                                                                 | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Vernon, BC, Canada              | 50% costs, max \$5k                                                                                                                                                        | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Whitby, ON, Canada              | 50% costs, max \$5k, one-time, buildings in Community Improvement areas                                                                                                    | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Whitehorse, YT, Canada          | 50% costs, max \$20k                                                                                                                                                       | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Adelaide, Australia             | 75% of costs, max \$10k (advice/documentation); 50% of costs, max \$20Kk (minor projects); 50% of costs, max \$100k + 25% of remaining costs, max \$150k (major projects). | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Brisbane, Australia             | \$3k (small projects); \$10k (large projects); \$15k (non-profit organizations)                                                                                            | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Christchurch, New Zealand       | 50% of work, paid retrospectively, can include fees for architects                                                                                                         | Yes        |
| Heritage Properties Grant | Municipal    | Perth, Australia                | 10% costs, max \$20k per year                                                                                                                                              | Yes        |

APPENDIX A | PRECEDENT RESEARCH TABLE

| Name                                   | Jurisdiction       | Location              | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Viability* |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Heritage Properties Grant              | Municipal          | Phoenix, AZ, USA      | Arizona’s Proposition 207, like Alberta’s compensation laws, requires governments to reimburse property owners for land use laws that lower property values, limiting new historic designations. To work around this, Phoenix’s Historic Preservation Office offers grants through programs like the Exterior Rehabilitation Program and Warehouse and Threatened Building Program. In exchange for funding (\$10,000-\$400,000), property owners grant the city a conservation easement lasting 15-40 years to preserve exterior character. | Yes        |
| Small Business Lease Grant             | Provincial (State) | New Jersey, USA       | This grant helps small businesses and nonprofits by covering part of their lease costs, supporting business growth and reducing commercial vacancies. It’s funded by the \$10 million Main Street Recovery Finance Program under the NJ Economic Recovery Act.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes        |
| Heritage Incentive Program             | Municipal          | Vancouver, BC, Canada | Up to \$4M for heritage conservation and seismic upgrades of privately owned, legally protected buildings on the Vancouver Heritage Register.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No         |
| Conservation Innovation Grant          | National           | USA                   | National competition for early-stage projects developing conservation tools, practices, or technologies on private lands - natural resources.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No         |
| Small Business Advantage Grant Program | Provincial (State) | Pennsylvania, USA     | Supports small businesses (≤100 employees) in energy efficiency, pollution prevention, or natural resource protection projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | No         |

LOAN PROGRAM

|                          |           |                        |                                                                                                                                   |     |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Heritage Properties Loan | Municipal | Burlington, ON, Canada | Covers 50% of project costs, max \$15K; no interest under \$5K, half of prime rate over \$5K; for registered heritage properties. | Yes |
| Heritage Properties Loan | Municipal | Hamilton, ON, Canada   | 100% project costs, max \$50K, 0% interest, 10-year term; supports rejuvenation of designated heritage properties.                | Yes |

OTHER FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

|                                                  |               |                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |     |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Permit Fee Waiver                                | International | Surrey, BC, Canada     | Owners of designated heritage properties are exempt from fees such as landfill tipping, development permits, building permits, and zoning amendments. Upon designation, property owners can apply for fee waivers when undertaking approved conservation or restoration work.                              | Yes |
| Historic Preservation Building Permit Fee Waiver | Municipal     | Loveland, CO, USA      | The City of Loveland waives building permit fees for historic landmark properties to encourage maintenance and restoration. The waiver applies only to exterior work requiring a permit and must align with restoration, preservation, or rehabilitation as defined by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. | Yes |
| Permit Refund Program                            | Municipal     | Saskatoon, SK, Canada  | 50% of permit costs may be refunded for permits related to conservation or heritage preservation                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes |
| Permit Waiver                                    | Municipal     | Whitehorse, YT, Canada | Exempts owners of designated heritage resources from landfill tipping, development permit, building permit, and zoning amendment fees.                                                                                                                                                                     | Yes |
| Horizon Europe & Cultural Heritage               | International | Europe (EU specific)   | Horizon Europe (Cluster 2): EU funding program (2021–2027) supporting research in cultural heritage, protection, and job creation in cultural sectors. Organizations submit proposals for funding.                                                                                                         | Yes |

APPENDIX A | PRECEDENT RESEARCH TABLE

| Name                                                                                                              | Jurisdiction       | Location             | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Viability* |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Community Revitalization Levy (CRL)                                                                               | Municipal          | Calgary, AB, Canada  | The Calgary Municipal Land Corporation (CMLC) uses a CRL to channel increased property tax revenue from redevelopment in Calgary’s Rivers District into a dedicated fund for infrastructure improvements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Yes        |
| Retrofit Chicago and Energy Analysis Program                                                                      | Municipal          | Chicago, IL, USA     | Chicago provides technical assistance, rebates, and grants for energy-saving retrofits in vintage buildings. The City partners with local utilities, the Community Investment Corporation, and the Chicago Bungalow Association to support retrofits for structures ranging from single-family homes to large commercial buildings.                                                                                                 | Yes        |
| New European Bauhaus                                                                                              | International      | Europe (EU specific) | EU initiative promoting sustainable, inclusive, and aesthetically designed public spaces through funding, design challenges, and collaborative projects.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Yes        |
| Seismic Retrofit Incentives Programs                                                                              | Provincial (State) | California, USA      | A 1994 FEMA guide highlights best practices from California municipalities that developed seismic retrofit incentive programs in response to the Unreinforced Masonry Building Law.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No         |
| Commercial Rent Subsidy (Step Up) Program                                                                         | Municipal          | Dwight, IL, USA      | The Dwight Rent Subsidy Program operates as a step-up lease, gradually increasing the tenant’s rent share over a year while reimbursing the Village based on gross sales. The first three months require no rent payment, with 25% increases every three months. By the second year, tenants pay full rent. This program benefits business owners, landlords, and the city by supporting new ventures and activating vacant spaces. | No         |
| Lease Guarantee Program, Small Business Administration (SBA)                                                      | National           | United States        | The Lease Guarantee Program, established under Title IV of the Small Business Investment Act of 1965, allows the Small Business Administration (SBA) to guarantee rental payments for small businesses leasing commercial or industrial properties. It has since merged with the Surety Bond Guarantee program and is funded through a dedicated revolving fund.                                                                    | No         |
| Competitiveness of Enterprises & Small & Medium Enterprises (COSME) Loan Guarantee Fund, European Investment Fund |                    | Europe (EU specific) | Provides guarantees and counter-guarantees to banks and leasing firms, enabling them to offer more financing to small and medium enterprises while expanding their support for diverse transactions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | No         |

| DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES                                                     |           |                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Density Transfer Program                                                   | Municipal | Calgary, AB, Canada   | Transfer of unused density to other sites for owners of historic resources                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Yes |
| Transfer of Density                                                        | Municipal | Vancouver, BC, Canada | Allows eligible heritage sites (Density Bank) to transfer up to 10% of their base zoning to non-heritage rezoning sites, subject to Development Permit Board approval. If no density is available, developers can purchase Heritage Amenity Shares instead.                                                                                                                                                                              | Yes |
| Density Transfer Policy for Heritage Buildings with Significant Open Space | Municipal | Toronto, ON           | Applies to three landmark sites—Metropolitan United Church, St. James Cathedral, and Campbell House—allowing them to transfer unused floor area while preserving their open spaces. Transferred non-residential space cannot exceed zoning caps at receiving sites, while residential floor area has bonus limits based on zoning (e.g., FAR 0.75 in Medium Density Mixed Commercial-Residential and FAR 2.0 in the Financial District). | Yes |



APPENDIX A | PRECEDENT RESEARCH TABLE

| Name                                                                  | Jurisdiction       | Location                  | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Viability* |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| REGULATORY                                                            |                    |                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |            |
| Land Swap for Heritage Conservation                                   | Municipal          | Hong Kong, PRC            | Hong Kong’s land exchange policy enables the government to swap land with private owners of Monuments and Grade 1 historic buildings. A notable 2018 case involved the Grade 1 historic building at No. 23 Coombe Road, which was exchanged for a nearby parcel of equal size. The government then restored the historic property for public use while allowing private residential development on the exchanged site.                                                             | Yes        |
| Downtown Adaptive Reuse Ordinance                                     | Municipal          | Los Angeles, CA, USA      | Los Angeles’ Adaptive Reuse Ordinance encourages the conversion of older or historic buildings into apartments, live/work spaces, or visitor-serving facilities by providing regulatory relief. It eases zoning restrictions such as site plan reviews, parking, and loading requirements. Eligible buildings must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, or the Los Angeles List of Historic-Cultural Monuments. | Yes        |
| Zoning Code Relief                                                    | Municipal          | Seattle, WA, USA          | Allows otherwise prohibited uses; waives/modifies standards for open space, setbacks, width/depth limits, landscaping, and parking.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes        |
| California Historical Building Code (CHBC)                            | Provincial (State) | California, USA           | The CHBC, enacted in 2016, aims to protect historic structures by addressing the unique construction challenges associated with their preservation and adaptive reuse. It provides alternative building regulations for permitting repairs, alterations, additions, relocation, change of use, and continued use of qualified historical buildings or structures while ensuring their conservation.                                                                                | No         |
| INDIGENOUS HERITAGE                                                   |                    |                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |            |
| Indigenous Heritage Action Plan                                       | Municipal          | Vancouver, BC, Canada     | Vancouver is developing an Indigenous-led framework to recognize and protect Indigenous heritage, including cultural sites, languages, and knowledge systems. Example: ʕxʷłəṇəq Xwtl’ə7énk Square (formerly Vancouver Art Gallery North Plaza) was renamed in collaboration with Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.                                                                                                                                                   | Yes        |
| Indigenous Heritage Tools                                             | Municipal          | Winnipeg, MB, Canada      | Winnipeg’s Heritage Conservation program includes Indigenous heritage recognition and protection measures. They work with local Indigenous communities to integrate traditional knowledge into urban planning. Example: The Manitou a Bii daziigae (formerly Merchant’s Corner) is a historic building adapted as an Indigenous cultural and education hub.                                                                                                                        | Yes        |
| Auckland Unitary Plan – Māori Cultural Heritage Overlay               | Municipal          | Auckland, New Zealand     | Identifies and protects over 360 sites of significance to Māori, ensuring development projects consider cultural heritage impacts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Yes        |
| Wellington City Council - Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Heritage Strategy | Municipal          | Wellington, New Zealand   | Recognizes and protects Māori sites in urban areas, incorporating te reo Māori (language) and traditional narratives into place names and urban planning. Example: The renaming of Pukeahu National War Memorial Park acknowledges its significance as a former pā (fortified village).                                                                                                                                                                                            | Yes        |
| Christchurch - Mahaanui Iwi Management Plan                           | Municipal          | Christchurch, New Zealand | A collaboration between local Māori groups and the city council to protect cultural landscapes, traditional fishing grounds, and significant sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Yes        |
| Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) in the United States     |                    | United States             | The National Park Service's Tribal Historic Preservation Program assists Indian tribes in preserving their historic properties and cultural traditions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | No         |
| Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps                                    |                    | United States             | Engages Indigenous youth and young adults in conservation service programs that reconnect participants to the land, their cultural heritage, and their traditions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No         |

APPENDIX A | PRECEDENT RESEARCH TABLE

| Name                                                                       | Jurisdiction | Location        | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Viability* |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Stewarding Native Lands Program by the First Nations Development Institute |              | United States   | Provides financial and technical assistance to support Native ecological stewardship and improve Native control of and access to ancestral lands and resources to ensure the sustainable, economic, spiritual, and cultural well-being of Native communities.                                                                                                              | No         |
| International Indigenous Peoples Forum for World Heritage                  |              | UNESCO          | Established by the World Heritage Committee to elevate the role of Indigenous communities in the identification, conservation, and management of World Heritage properties.                                                                                                                                                                                                | No         |
| National Indigenous Heritage Program                                       |              | Canada          | Parks Canada works with Indigenous communities to protect cultural landscapes, sacred sites, and traditional knowledge. Initiatives include co-management of National Historic Sites, Indigenous Guardians programs, and funding for Indigenous-led conservation projects. Example: Thaidene Néné National Park Reserve, co-managed with the Łutsël K'é Dene First Nation. | No         |
| Indigenous Cultural Heritage Program                                       | Provincial   | BC, Canada      | Provides funding to Indigenous communities to identify, document, and protect heritage sites, oral histories, and cultural landscapes. Example: Stó:lō Nation's Indigenous mapping projects to record sacred sites and traditional land use.                                                                                                                               | No         |
| Ontario Heritage Act & Indigenous Conservation                             | Provincial   | Ontario, Canada | Ontario allows Indigenous communities to designate cultural heritage landscapes under the Act. Some municipalities have worked with First Nations to protect sacred sites and burial grounds. Example: Mohawk Institute Residential School designated as a National Historic Site with Indigenous leadership.                                                              | No         |
| Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (2014)                             | National     | New Zealand     | This law protects archaeological sites, including wāhi tapu (sacred sites) and other places of significance to Māori. It requires consultation with iwi (tribes) and allows for site designation to ensure long-term preservation. Example: The recognition of Ōtuataua Stonefields, an ancient Māori gardening site near Auckland, as a protected heritage place.         | No         |
| Te Ture Whenua Māori Act (1993) & Māori Land Court                         | National     | New Zealand     | Provides legal mechanisms for Māori communities to protect and manage their ancestral lands, including heritage sites, marae (meeting houses), and urupā (burial grounds).                                                                                                                                                                                                 | No         |
| Cultural Redress in Treaty Settlements                                     | National     | New Zealand     | Many Treaty of Waitangi settlements include provisions for Māori to co-manage or reclaim heritage sites. Example: The Tūhoe settlement included Te Urewera National Park being removed from Crown ownership and returned to Tūhoe governance.                                                                                                                              | No         |

| EDUCATION & AWARENESS                                                     |           |                            |                                                                                                                                                                                 |     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| National Trust for Canada - Launch Pad Coaching Grants (expanded in 2023) |           | Canada                     | Provides expert coaching for communities, non-profits, and Indigenous groups on heritage projects, with a focus on adaptive reuse and climate resilience.                       | Yes |
| Calgary Heritage Initiative's Heritage Inspires YYC                       | Municipal | Calgary, AB, Canada        | Through the Heritage Inspires YYC campaign, educates the public on heritage values via tours, signage, events, publications, and social media engagement.                       | Yes |
| Historic Germantown's Good Neighbor Program                               | Municipal | Nashville, TN, USA         | HGNA collaborates with developers to align projects with community values through its Good Neighbor Program, ensuring compliance, sustainable practices, and responsible design | Yes |
| Historic Preservation Training Center (HTPC): National Park Service       |           | National Park Service, USA | Delivers hands-on training in architecture, carpentry, masonry, project management, and woodcrafting, emphasizing real-world problem-solving in preservation projects.          | Yes |

APPENDIX A | PRECEDENT RESEARCH TABLE

| Name                                                                                                                           | Jurisdiction | Location                | Description                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Viability* |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Association for Preservation Technology International (APT)                                                                    | Municipal    | Toronto, ON             | A multidisciplinary organization that offers training and hands-on courses to professionals in heritage conservation, focusing on advanced technologies and best practices.                                                                                                                                         | Yes        |
| Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings (SPAB)                                                                       |              | United Kingdom          | Train new generations of architectural professionals and building craftspeople via workshops, masterclasses, seminars, lectures, webinars, and short courses across the UK and overseas. Also offers Scholarship, Fellowship, and apprenticeship schools (trades), as well as school programming and career advice. | Yes        |
| Algonquin Heritage Institute, College Heritage Institute                                                                       | Municipal    | Ottawa, ON              | Provide students with the skills and knowledge related to the preservation, renovation, and restoration of historical architecture. Graduates leave prepared to work in heritage carpentry (and other).                                                                                                             | Yes        |
| Traditional Trades Apprenticeship Program (TTAP)                                                                               |              | USA                     | A 20-week, hands-on training program in historic preservation trades. Participants gain experience in carpentry, masonry, metalwork, and window restoration while working alongside NPS professionals.                                                                                                              | Yes        |
| Living Heritage Trades Academy, San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation                                                    | Municipal    | San Antonio, Texas, USA | Run by the Office of Historic Preservation, trains apprentices in traditional building crafts and pre-1960 construction techniques through hands-on instruction and classes.                                                                                                                                        | Yes        |
| Housing Provider Ombudsman                                                                                                     | Municipal    | Washington, DC, USA     | Helps small housing providers navigate DC's housing laws, offering guidance on HRA notices, rent control, and TOPA processes through technical assistance and outreach.                                                                                                                                             | No         |
| Europa Nostra - 7 Most Endangered Programme                                                                                    |              | Europe                  | Europa Nostra and the European Investment Bank Institute identify and support endangered heritage sites in Europe through awareness, expert evaluation, and technical assistance. Seven sites are selected annually.                                                                                                | No         |
| National Preservation Institute                                                                                                |              | United States           | Offers training in cultural heritage management through online courses, webinars, and in-person seminars for professionals in preservation and resource stewardship.                                                                                                                                                | No         |
| Historic England                                                                                                               |              | United Kingdom          | Provides education in heritage conservation, including traditional building skills, professional certifications, and apprenticeships to strengthen the preservation workforce.                                                                                                                                      | No         |
| Historic Building Inspectors' Association                                                                                      |              | USA                     | US-based membership group for licensed inspectors, providing resources to enhance their expertise in historic preservation.                                                                                                                                                                                         | No         |
| Small Developers Trainings, Incremental Development Alliance                                                                   |              | USA                     | A nonprofit, trains small developers and community leaders to strengthen neighborhoods. They offer lectures, workshops, and seminars on incremental development strategies.                                                                                                                                         | No         |
| Historic Real Estate Finance Certification, Main Street America Institute in partnership with the National Development Council |              | USA                     | A two-course program on real estate finance and development for commercial revitalization. Participants learn financial strategies, Historic Tax Credits, and incentives to influence development.                                                                                                                  | No         |
| National Preservation Institute (NPI), Historic Property Management course                                                     |              | United Kingdom          | Trains professionals in maintaining historic buildings, balancing preservation with user needs. The course covers building diagnostics, mechanical systems, pest management, and when to hire specialists.                                                                                                          | No         |

CITY OF EDMONTON  
HERITAGE PLACES STRATEGY

