



**EDMONTON  
HISTORICAL  
BOARD**

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**  
ATTACHMENT 1

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## THE EDMONTON HISTORICAL BOARD'S MANDATE IS ...

TO ADVISE CITY COUNCIL ON MATTERS RELATING TO CITY OF EDMONTON HISTORICAL ISSUES AND CIVIC HERITAGE POLICIES. TO ENCOURAGE, PROMOTE, AND ADVOCATE FOR THE PRESERVATION AND SAFEGUARDING OF HISTORICAL PROPERTIES, RESOURCES, COMMUNITIES, AND DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE.

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Mayor Sohi and Council:

As we conclude our current term, I am pleased to submit the 2021 Annual Report from the Edmonton Historical Board. While we have continued to navigate the challenges of an ongoing global pandemic, we remained focused on the work at-hand and did not lose sight of the long-term benefits of our work in community-building and reflecting on our shared history.

This year also saw changes to the organization of the Board's committees and their areas of focus. This intentional streamlining of work is already realizing success with an enhanced focus on Council's mandate for the Board to provide advice on historical issues and civic heritage.

The Board has also been mindful of the vast diversity of stories and heritage that are woven through thousands of years of history in this place we call home. Over the past several years we have taken several positive steps forward, including engagement with the broader community and experts to provide us with advice and meaningful recommendations on the path forward. However, we are in the early stages of this work and there is still much work to do – work that will continue to take place through all of the Board's committees.

*...continued*

Our new Policy and Planning Committee has brought an intentional focus to our advisory work, including support for the ambitious City Plan that is going to shape our city for many future generations – a plan which includes “Preserve” as one of six guiding values. The alignment of the City Plan’s vision for sustainability and increased density with the preservation, rehabilitation, and reuse of our built heritage is important work, and we all must work together in achieving this vision.

The Historic Plaques Committee has dedicated their work to better telling our city’s stories, including the engagement of a consultant for [EdmontonsArchitecturalHeritage.ca](http://EdmontonsArchitecturalHeritage.ca) to ensure we are properly acknowledging and sharing the history of this place over thousands of years. Early work in revisiting and rewriting previous plaques dating back several decades has also begun, which will, over time, ensure we are telling the full story of our city’s history.

However, there have also been various concerns and challenges, many of which we’ve previously shared and discussed.

A lack of City funding for neighbourhood inventories has significantly impacted the work of our Historic Resources Review Panel. As a result, for the first time since its creation, there has been a reduction in the size of the Inventory of Historic Resources due to the lack of new additions and the pace at which demolitions of buildings currently on the Inventory are taking place. This will, undoubtedly, lead to future issues in ensuring the protection and preservation of significant and important buildings in our city. We need additional support from Administration in completing this work.

And while we were pleased to see plans for a new Historic Resource Management Plan come forward, we are nevertheless concerned about the lengthy timeline proposed by Administration which will not see work completed until halfway through 2024. Given the current plan dates to 2009, we expected greater urgency in this work.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we’ll continue much of this work and increase our advisory work with Council. We know this is a time of exciting change for our city, and we’re pleased to be part of the important community-building work that is being done by countless citizens and organizations across our city.

This year we will also be welcoming our city’s next Historian Laureate, which given the uniqueness of the program is always an exciting time for both the Board and the Edmonton Heritage Council, who is our founding partner in this program.

Our work would not be possible without the support from our partners in the heritage community, including the Heritage Conservation Unit and the City of Edmonton Archives. As always, the entire Board is grateful for the opportunity to serve our city and to directly engage with Council on these important issues.

Respectfully yours,



Dominic Schamuhn  
Chair, Edmonton Historical Board

# 2021-22 TERM HIGHLIGHTS

**12**

Community members  
serving on committees.

**169+**

Volunteer hours

**6**

Municipal Historic  
Resource Designations

**4**

Inventory of Historic  
Resources Additions

**8**

Inventory of Historic  
Resources Demolitions



# COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS

## HISTORIC PLAQUES COMMITTEE

Following an organizational review, the primary focus of the Historic Plaques committee was confirmed to be the review and creation of historic plaques, along with coordination of the *Edmonton's Architectural Heritage* website.

The committee coordinated the creation of eleven plaques for designated buildings and locations, which includes the replacement of existing plaques to better reflect the stories and history being shared with Edmontonians and visitors to our city.

The Board worked with an external consultant to complete an audit of the *Edmonton's Architectural Heritage* website as a first step towards ensuring the content can more accurately reflect the thousands of years of Indigenous history and heritage in the community we now know as Edmonton. Initial updates to the website were completed this year, with additional work to take place in the coming years.

For 46 years, the Edmonton Historical Board has organized a Plaques and Awards event. With a renewed focus on historic plaques, the Board has ended the annual event and is instead exploring meaningful opportunities for engagement with the community and property owners in the presentation of these plaques. Additionally, the Board has ended its awards program and is in ongoing discussions with City Administration on the appropriate avenue of transition to ensure recognition of the many dedicated and long-standing volunteers working to encourage, promote, and advocate for Edmonton's built and documentary heritage.



EdmontonsArchitecturalHeritage.ca landing page

## POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

The 2021-22 term was the first for the new Policy and Planning Committee. The primary focus of the Committee is to assist the Board in coordinating and conducting research, synthesizing and articulating a proactive policy agenda and platform of recommendations on heritage policy and planning matters.

Over its first term, the Committee has developed a policy agenda to review and recommend improvements to heritage-related policies, such as the City Plan, Connections and Exchanges, the Climate Heritage Network, and the Historic Resource Management Plan. The Committee has been monitoring upcoming rezoning applications for any that could impact built heritage and prepared briefings to Council outlining the Board's position on those that would have an adverse impact on built heritage.

A database of Edmonton's historic bridges has been developed by the Committee to monitor planned work and to ensure the Board is aware of projects that would impact the bridges' historic significance.

The Committee's research this term has resulted in the following recommendations to bolster the City of Edmonton's heritage preservation efforts:

- A selection of board members join “Working Group Three: Making the Case for Building Reuse through Better Metrics for Avoided Operational and Embodied Carbon” in order to gain knowledge and skills as well as share ideas and progress contributing to the global effort of the Climate Heritage Network.
- Consideration of communications and engagement opportunities related to the *Climate Resilient Edmonton: Adaptation*

*Strategy and Action Plan*, particularly when advocating for preservation of built heritage. This approach will strengthen efforts with science-based evidence to show that preserving historic buildings can help the City achieve its climate goals while also preserving its sense of place and saving on new construction costs.

- Increase staff support for the Heritage Conservation Unit to increase the number of buildings recommended for the Inventory of Historic Resources as well as process more applications to amend the Inventory. Currently, there are only two Principal Heritage Planners at the City to manage the entire Heritage Planning portfolio. An increase in resourcing would also allow greater support for Edmontonians seeking information and assistance in preserving additional homes, buildings, and important locations in our city.

Committee work planned for the 2022 - 2023 EHB term includes continuing to monitor rezoning applications and preparing Council briefings when necessary, managing the historic bridges database, providing recommendations on a new Historic Resource Management Plan and heritage preservation framework and continuing to find ways to reverse the erosion of the Inventory of Historic Resources.

## HISTORIC RESOURCES REVIEW PANEL (HRRP)

The Historic Resources Review Panel actively identified potentially viable properties for review and recommendation onto the Inventory of Historic Resources. Aiding in this process is a dedicated and diverse body of individuals, chiefly City of Edmonton Heritage Planners David Johnston, and Scott Ashe, alongside graduate planner Sydney Gross. City Archivist Kathryn Ivany provides invaluable support, as do other staff members at the Archives, members of the Board, community members at large, historians, architects, and advisors from the Province. These volunteers and professionals provide us with a wide breadth of expertise, opinion, and experience that allow us to make informed recommendations.

### Reviewed Submissions

As funding constraints did not provide an opportunity to conduct a neighbourhood inventory to identify potential properties of

interest, this year the Panel relied solely on submissions from interested owners. The heritage planners worked closely with building owners to explain the process of research, application, review and eventual designation. We were gratified to see continued interest in the program from the community, with several applications from the community received and reviewed, including a submission from a community league. The properties were diverse not only in their types and ages, but also in their utilization, condition and architectural styles.

In addition, the Panel has taken measures to review and compile a list of places of interest to enhance the quantity of potential properties to be included on the inventory.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### HISTORIC PLAQUES COMMITTEE

- Elizabeth Cytko (*EHB, Chair*)
- Tyrel Brochu (*EHB*)
- Carrie-Ann Lunde (*EHB*)
- Neil Cramer (*Community Member*)
- Anna Gibson-Hollow (*Community Member*)
- Cole Hawkins (*Community Member*)

### POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

- Harrison Sheremeta (*EHB, Chair*)
- Elyse Abma-Bouma (*EHB*)
- Nancy MacDonald (*EHB*)
- Shalene Williams (*EHB*)
- Jared Althouse (*Community Member*)

### HISTORIC RESOURCES REVIEW PANEL

- James McTague (*EHB, Chair*)
- Alison McGavigan (*EHB*)
- Stephen Rees (*EHB*)
- Harrison Sheremeta (*EHB*)
- Akhila Palat (*Community Member*)
- Dane Ryksen (*Historian*)
- David Murray (*Architect*)
- Dorothy Field (*Historic Places Stewardship Section Representative*)
- Ian Morgan (*Architect*)
- Joe Friedel (*Community Member*)
- Ken Tingley (*Historian*)
- Richard Wood (*Community Member*)



# 2022-23 WORK PLAN

## ONGOING INITIATIVES

- Review of Inventory applications
- Committee monthly meetings
- Plaques creation
- Historian Laureate support

## MAY/JUNE 2022

The Board's new Chair and Executive will liaise with Council and our Council Liaison.

The addition of four new Board Members will require new member orientation and an organizational meeting, including committee assignments, at the May 2022 Board meeting.

Committees will continue their initiatives from the previous term, with committee organizational meetings taking place in June 2022.

## JULY/AUGUST 2022

Plaque recipients will be notified of their nomination.

The Board will continue its engagement with City Council.

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022

Strategic planning will begin for the 2023-2024 term, including preparation for member recruitment and orientation, and initial preparation of reporting on the 2022-2023 term.

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023

The Board will finalize the Annual Report to be submitted to Council. Additionally, transition work will begin for potential new Executive, Board, and committee members.

## MARCH/APRIL 2023

The Board will finalize plans for the 2023-2024 term, including preparation for new members and potential transition to a new Chair and/or Executive members.

# Edmonton Historical Board 2021-22 Members

## **DOMINIC SCHAMUHN (Chair) | First Appointed: 2016**

Dominic is the Manager of Advocacy with the Alberta Motor Association, and previously worked in Edmonton's philanthropic sector with United Way of the Alberta Capital Region and the University Hospital Foundation.

He entered the philanthropic sector after more than five years working in provincial politics, including time working for an opposition leader and the Chief Opposition Whip at the Alberta Legislature.

## **ALISON MCGAVIGAN (Vice Chair) | First Appointed: 2020**

Alison McGavigan has been a proud Edmontonian since she moved to the city in 2010. She is a U of A alumni, having completed both an undergraduate Science Degree and Masters in Business Administration. Alison is a commercial real estate appraiser and provides real estate appraisal and consulting services for clients across Western Canada. Alison has always been interested in the built form history of Edmonton and architecturally significant properties that help tell the story of our City. In her spare time, Alison enjoys spending time with her husband and two dogs, traveling, reading, and staying active through running and cycling.

## **ELYSE ABMA-BOUMA | First Appointed: 2021**

Elyse is Senior Research and Writing with On This Spot creating digital walking tours for cities across Canada. She came to Edmonton to study history at The King's University and briefly left to pursue an MA in Public History at the University of Victoria. Elyse has lived in Edmonton for ten years and has worked on many different heritage projects throughout the city including oral histories and climate conservation projects within the heritage sector.

## **TYREL BROCHU | First Appointed: 2021**

Tyrel (he/him) was born and raised in Treaty 8 territory in northern Alberta. Since 2002 he has called Edmonton/Amiskwacyiwaskhikan home. He has over 15 years experience working in fundraising and administration and currently serves as the Director in the Office of the Chancellor and Senate at the University of Alberta. He is also a part-time student in the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning at the UofA. Recognizing that built heritage can enrich Edmonton's civic identity and tell stories about our past, he is driven to explore the use of heritage planning and policies to protect and preserve communities that have been (and are) pushed to the margins through discriminatory practices. He lives in the neighbourhood currently known as Oliver, one of the city's earliest communities.

## **ELIZABETH CYTKO | First Appointed: 2021**

Passionate about learning, Elizabeth has a Masters of Information and a Masters of Museum Studies from the University of Toronto. She is intensely curious about the history of Edmonton and how the stories we tell influence how we understand the city today. Elizabeth spends her time engaging with Edmontonians through creating pop-up exhibitions, volunteering for the Tomorrow Foundation for a Sustainable Future, and writing fiction based in the city.

**CARRIE-ANN LUNDE | First Appointed: 2020**

Originally from Edmonton, Carrie has a BA in English & Ancient/Medieval History, MA in Public History, and GCert in Professional Communications Management. Specializing in marketing & communications, digital, and brand management strategies, she has actively worked in furthering the arts, culture, heritage and non-profit sectors for over ten years. She is currently Director of Product, Marketing & Brand at United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, and an Associate at Hatlie Group, a Canadian Museum Consulting firm. An avid world traveler, Carrie is an active volunteer and has sat on numerous boards and committees for a variety of organizations including museums, tourism, and community groups.

**NANCY MacDONALD | First Appointed: 2020**

Nancy is passionate about sharing the stories, experiences and locations that Albertans treasure. She is currently the Director of Partnership and Development for Alberta Parks. Nancy has a MA in Political Science from Queen's University and a BA in Political Science from the University of Calgary.

**JAMES McTAGUE | First Appointed: 2019**

James is a lifelong resident of the Edmonton area. He holds a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Science, and a Juris Doctor, all from the University of Alberta.

He has a passion for history, the restoration of historic structures, and the preservation of the unique impact historic structures have on our community. James works as a civil lawyer with a firm that has been part of the Edmonton community for over a century. James values the integration of historic resources into our City and appreciated the notable impact such structure have on our sense of community and connection with the past.

**STEPHEN REES | First Appointed: 2021**

Steve is a proud born and raised Edmontonian. He has worked in Healthcare Engineering for over 40 years. He recently retired from the Chief Program Officer of Capital Management position at Alberta Health Services (AHS). Steve continues to work at AHS as a Special Advisor in Corporate Services. He also serves as Vice President of the International Federation of Healthcare Engineering (IFHE). Steve has a true passion for the history of Edmonton and the protection of our heritage infrastructure.

**HARRISON SHEREMETA | First Appointed: 2021**

Born in Edmonton but raised in Athabasca, Harrison holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies in Honours Planning from the University of Waterloo. He is passionate about built heritage and is an advocate for the preservation of architecturally-significant buildings in Edmonton. Harrison works as a principal planner at the City of Edmonton where supports the development of affordable housing and surplus civic land. He lives in Alberta Avenue with his wife and dog and can often be seen on foot or bike exploring Edmonton's historic neighbourhoods

**SHALENE WILLIAMS | First Appointed: 2021**

Shalene grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia, and since moving to Edmonton in 2015, she has developed a strong interest in the history of Edmonton and its built heritage. Particularly, in how built heritage shapes our identities, relationship to spaces and understanding of the past. She looks forward to contributing to the development of a policy agenda on heritage and planning matters and working with stakeholders. Shalene currently works for the Government of Alberta and holds a bachelor's degree in history and a Masters of Archival Studies degree from the University of British Columbia.



**EDMONTON  
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**PRINCE OF WALES ARMOURIES**

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