



WELCOME

to the

River Crossing
Draft **Heritage**
Interpretive
Plan



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THE OPEN HOUSE?

1

Today we are seeking your input on the draft Heritage Interpretive Plan for the River Crossing Area.



What we mean by “Heritage”

Heritage is about more than history and buildings. It includes everything that societies value and pass on from one generation to the next. It can include:

- Natural heritage
- Tangible cultural heritage (e.g. monuments, art works, buildings, technology)
- Intangible cultural heritage (e.g. stories, knowledge, practices, rituals)

All these facets of heritage are addressed in the Heritage Interpretive Plan.

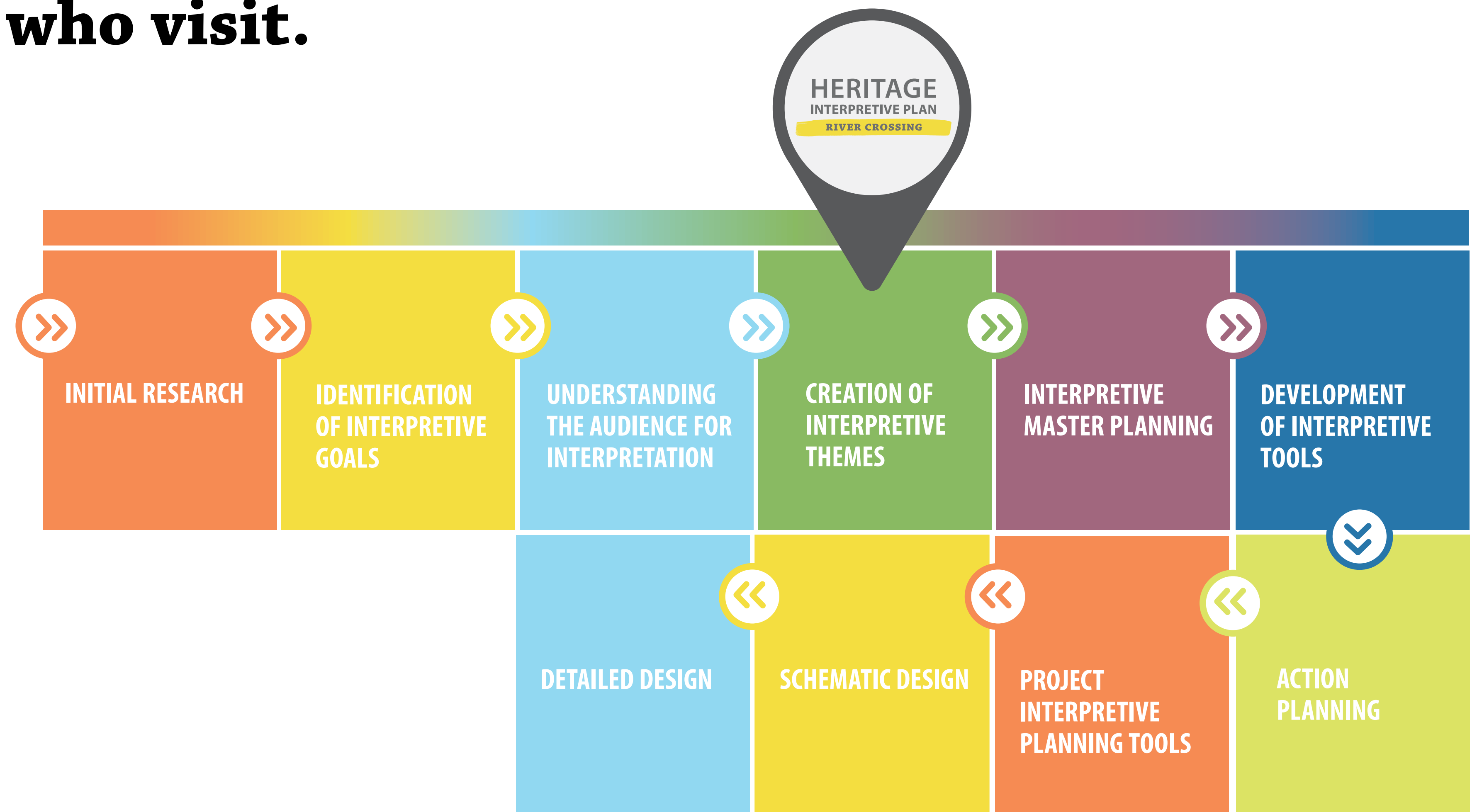


WHAT IS AN INTERPRETIVE PLAN?

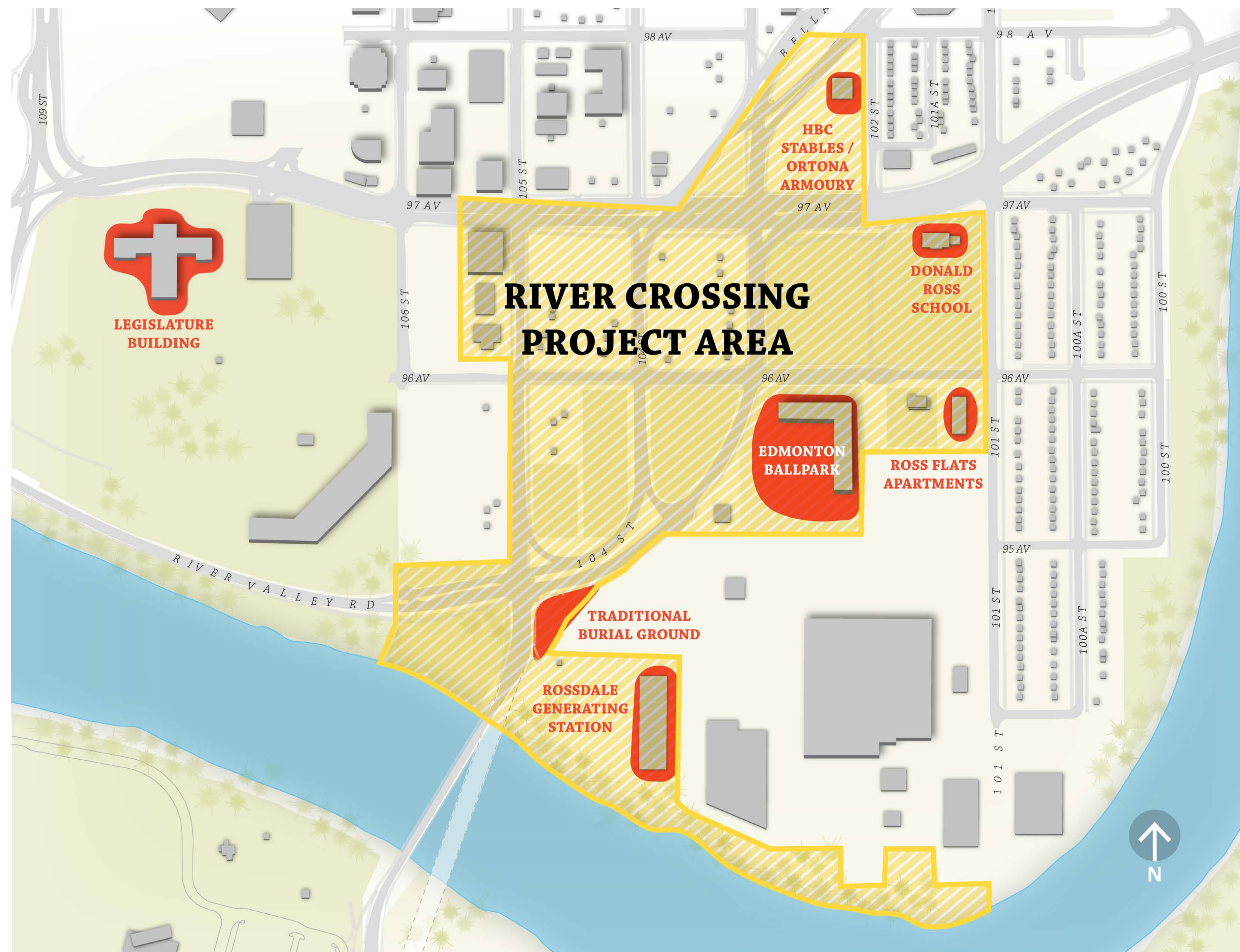
Interpretive planning is the process of understanding and deciding what kinds of stories a place can tell to those who visit.

A typical interpretive planning process follows a series of steps (see right) that have the end goal of developing some interpretive media, like panels, a museum, mobile app or a sculpture.

The River Crossing Heritage Interpretive Plan is a bit different. It is a starting point that seeks to understand the heritage of the area and sets up future work that will see the expression of heritage on the ground in different ways.



PROJECT OVERVIEW & LOCATION



Project Mandate

In 2015, City Council endorsed a vision for the River Crossing area. This vision includes a vibrant and revitalized West Rosedale neighbourhood, the new Walterdale Bridge, the Touch the Water Promenade, a repurposed Rosedale Generating Station and a celebration of the rich history of the Rosedale flats.

To bring this vision to life, Council directed City Administration to prepare a Heritage Interpretive Plan as well as a Business Plan to guide redevelopment.

The Heritage Interpretive Plan is the focus of our current work.



WHAT DOES THE HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN DO?

The overarching aim of this project is to express the rich, layered, and complex history of the River Crossing area through the built environment (public spaces/parks, urban design, art, buildings, etc.) and programming (activities and events) as the area evolves over time.

The Heritage Interpretive Plan is a high-level guide that:

- Helps to understand why this place is important.
- Provides guidance and ideas for how to tell the stories of this place.
- Instructs people who are not familiar with interpretive planning and who may be involved in future work.



HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN PROCESS

5

Start-Up and Background

- Historical research
- Early outreach

Understanding

- Visioning workshop
- Public survey
- Engagement with Indigenous communities
- Shareback of what we heard

Validating Themes

- Draft themes
- Open house for theme validation
- Workshops for theme validation
- Shareback of what we heard

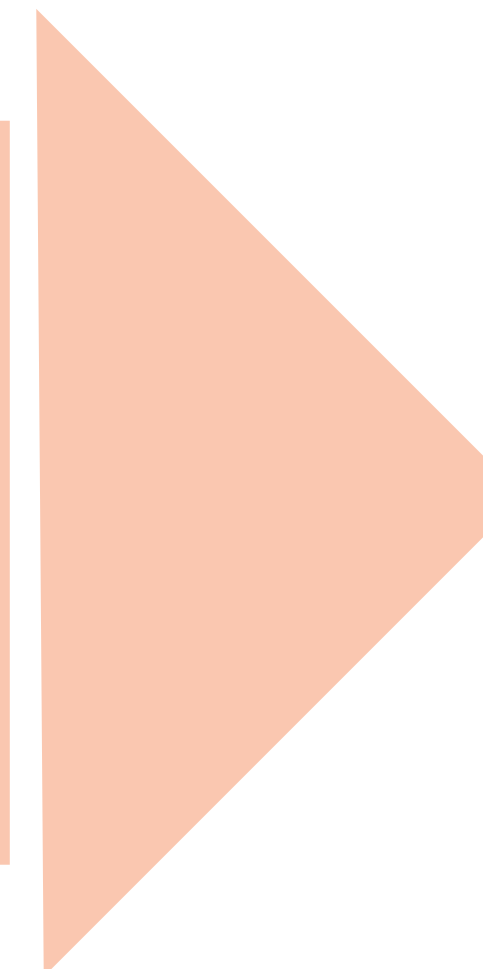
Drafting/Refining the Plan

- Draft plan
- Public review of draft
- Open house for draft plan
- Refine plan based on input
- Final Heritage Interpretive Plan



Presentation to Urban Planning Committee summer 2017

Implementation



Late 2015

Early 2016

Mid 2016

Late 2016

Early 2017

Mid 2017

Late 2017

2018 +

**We
are
here**

River Crossing
**Draft Heritage
Interpretive
Plan**



PUBLIC, STAKEHOLDER & INDIGENOUS ENGAGEMENT

The purpose of earlier engagement was to share project information, discuss the heritage of the area, understand what future visitors should know about this heritage, and validate draft interpretive themes.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

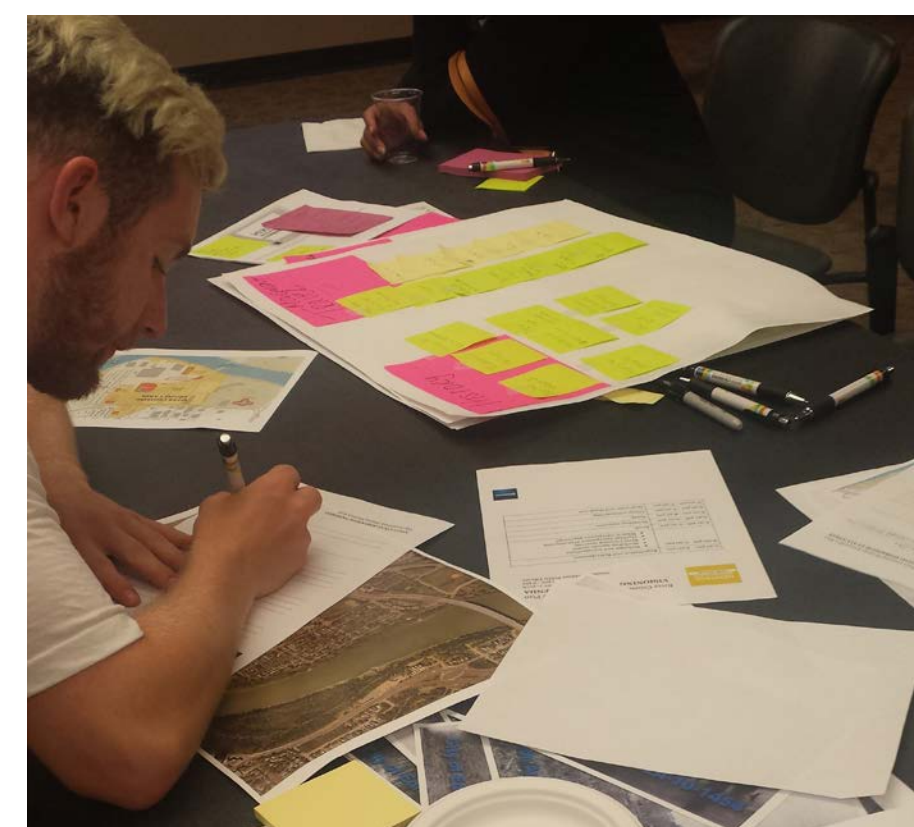
To engage with a wide range of Edmontonians and stakeholders, the project team held:

- Conversations with key partners and stakeholders
- Visioning workshops
- Public survey
- Validation workshops
- Open house

First Nations and Métis Engagement

The project team reached out to 29 Indigenous communities, including First Nations, the Métis Nation, and related organizations. With interested communities, the project team held:

- Meetings
- Site visits
- Workshops



WHAT THE HIP CONTAINS: SITE INVENTORY ANALYSIS

7



Understanding the context of an area and its history is the first step of interpretive planning. Below are some key points:

- The North Saskatchewan River, its valley, topography, natural resources, and ecosystem have physically defined the Rossdale flats and how Indigenous people have used the area since time immemorial.
- The area is located within Treaty No. 6 territory, the traditional territories of many First Nations, and the homeland of the Métis.
- The area was the site of fur trading and related activities associated with the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company forts, over a century of economic, recreational, industrial, and community activity involving people from many cultures, and the inauguration of the Province.
- There are two recorded archaeological sites in the area. One shows evidence of a small campsite that was used approximately 2,000 years ago. The other contains evidence of butchered animal bone that is approximately 4,500 years ago, as well as fur trade early settlement and industrial components.
- Historic resources that are visible in the area include the Traditional Burial Grounds and Fort Edmonton Cemetery, Rossdale Generating Station complex, Donald Ross School, Ross Flats Apartments and Ortona Armoury.



THEMATIC FRAMEWORK IS THE HEART OF THE PLAN



The framework was developed based on research, public and indigenous engagement, and interpretive planning principles.

It consists of four linked, overarching themes and associated goals that will guide interpretation in the River Crossing area. The framework is intended to be flexible enough to address a wide range of stories and topics, while presenting them coherently.

The following four boards present an overview of each theme and a sample of the stories that could be told through each theme, as well as some ideas for interpretation. More detail is presented in the draft plan.

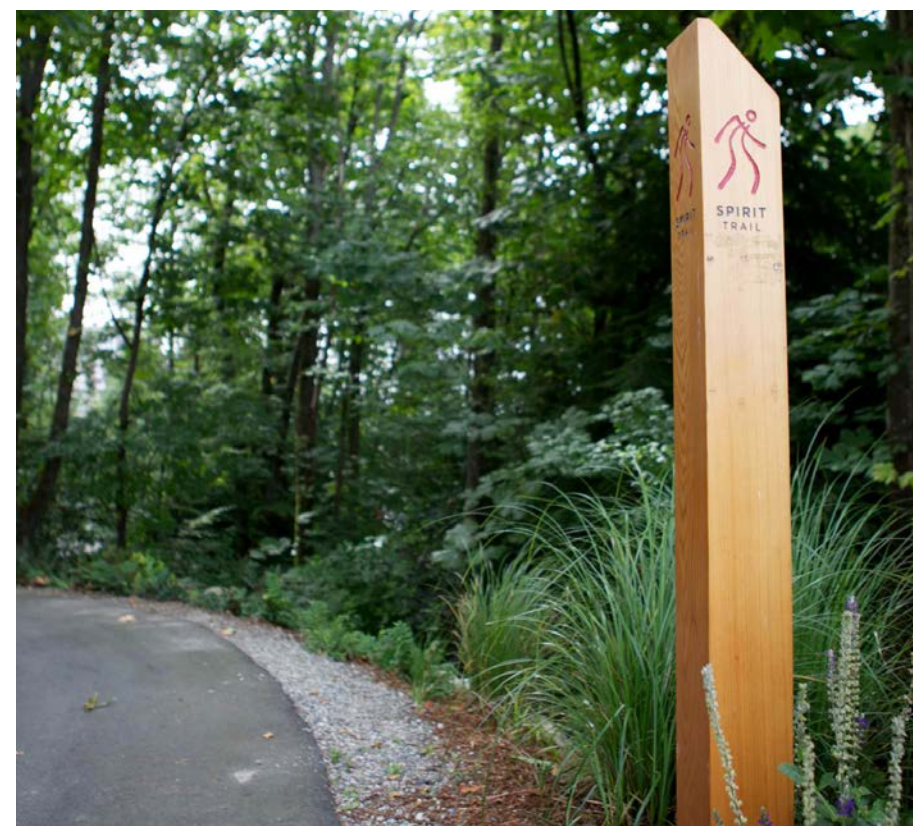


THEME: TERRITORY & LAND

TERRITORY & LAND

Cultures are shaped by the territory they occupy and the land they live on. Many groups have inhabited the River Crossing area; here we make the complexities of land and territory clear and visible to show the various identities of this place evolving and overlapping.

KEY INTERPRETIVE GOAL	POSSIBLE TOPICS TO EXPLORE	POSSIBLE SPACES/SITES TO LEVERAGE	POSSIBLE WAYS TO INTERPRET THROUGH LANDSCAPE, BUILT ENVIRONMENT & PROGRAMMING
Visitors understand the complex perspectives and relationships toward territory and land.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous and non-Indigenous understandings and relationships with land and territory Traditional territories, Treaty 6, Rupert's Land, proclamation of Alberta Forms of inhabitation in the area: encampments, forts, river lots, settlement Natural and human changes to the landscape of the flats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public spaces/parks Streets/recreational trails/routes Entry points to the area Archaeological sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight view planes, landscape features and archaeological sites Signposts to signal old trails and distances to other territories, forts, communities Naming that honours original and early occupants Embed outline of Fort Edmonton in ground Interpretive walks or canoe trips Events to mark Treaty 6 adhesion, "Fort" days, Alberta's birthday Indigenous cultural and historical talks /workshops Archaeology talks Augmented reality to show how lands have changed



THEME: MAKING & TRADING

MAKING & TRADING

From its first inhabitation to the modern era, making and trading have been part of the River Crossing area. Here we consider the ways people have used the area for creation and exchange of all types, and the cultural impacts of these activities.

KEY INTERPRETIVE GOAL

Visitors understand the central importance of making and trading to the interactions between peoples in the area, and the influence that making and trading in Rossdale had in shaping the city and region.

POSSIBLE TOPICS TO EXPLORE

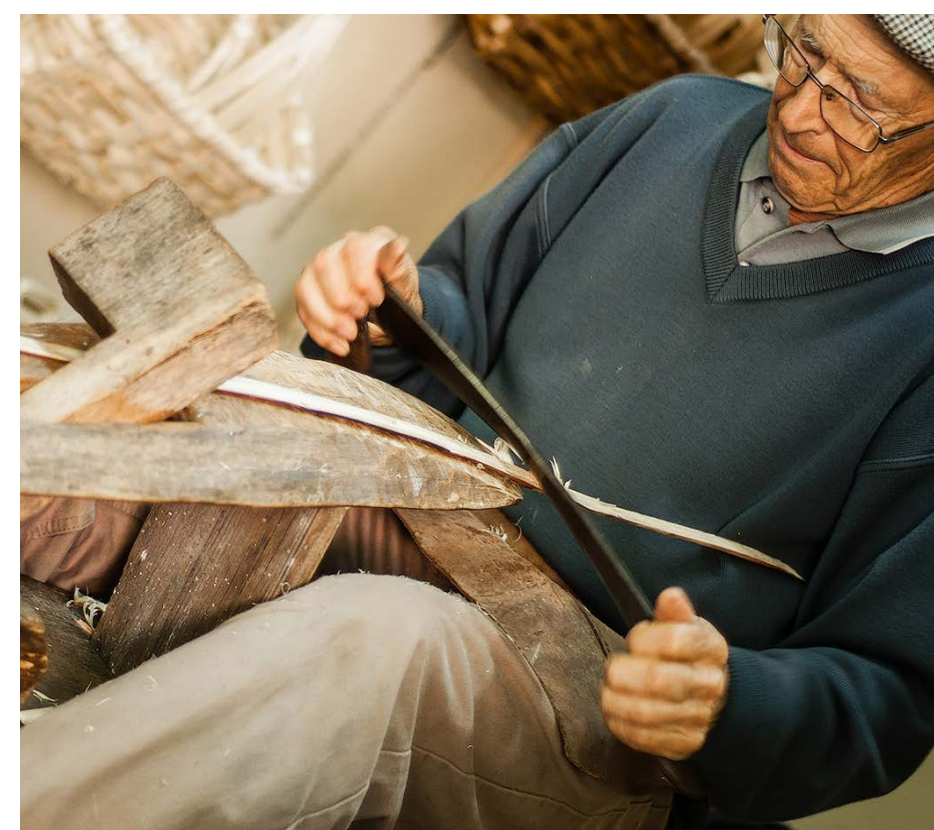
- Natural resources available in the area and how they were used by First peoples and others
- The fur trade
- Modes of transportation used in trade
- Items that were made or traded by different groups at different times
- Power generation and industrial activity on the flats

POSSIBLE SPACES/SITES TO LEVERAGE

- Rossdale Generating Station
- Near power and water infrastructure
- Busier places such as pathways and commercial nodes

POSSIBLE WAYS TO INTERPRET THROUGH LANDSCAPE, BUILT ENVIRONMENT & PROGRAMMING

- Motifs that reflect historical industrial uses in infrastructure and street furniture
- Create garden plots and use heirloom plant varieties
- Represent traditionally important resources, such as bison or sturgeon, in landscape and architecture
- Markets and events related to the theme of trading and making
- Opportunities to learn traditional crafts, food preparation, and skills



THEME: LIVED EXPERIENCE

LIVED EXPERIENCE

Through this theme we experience everyday life in the River Crossing area through the eyes of the individuals, families, and communities who have made their lives there, from its earliest inhabitants to the present.

KEY INTERPRETIVE GOAL	POSSIBLE TOPICS TO EXPLORE	POSSIBLE SPACES/SITES TO LEVERAGE	POSSIBLE WAYS TO INTERPRET THROUGH LANDSCAPE, BUILT ENVIRONMENT & PROGRAMMING
<p>Visitors appreciate the everyday life of the people who lived in the River Crossing area and those who passed through it, and connect empathetically to past inhabitants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The lives of known historical figures, e.g. Marie-Anne Gaboury, chiefs Lapotac and Papaschase, Father Lacombe, Donald Ross, Sir Wilfrid Laurier • Stories of other people who were here, beyond the noted historical figures • Ideas of home and family life • Participation in sports, horse-racing, the exhibition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ortona Armoury, Ross Flats Apartments, Donald Ross School • New development/ public spaces • Sport and recreation facilities/trails • The old river landing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Markers of previous dwellings and businesses • Inscriptions, audio, murals or sculpture with small reminders of everyday life • Mobile media that shows the area through the eyes of others • Sculptural and visual elements of play for children • Storytelling, workshops, performances, celebrations, display, markets • Oral history projects facilitated through live events, video booths • Games and sports from other eras and different cultures



THEME: CONNECTING & UNDERSTANDING

CONNECTING & UNDERSTANDING

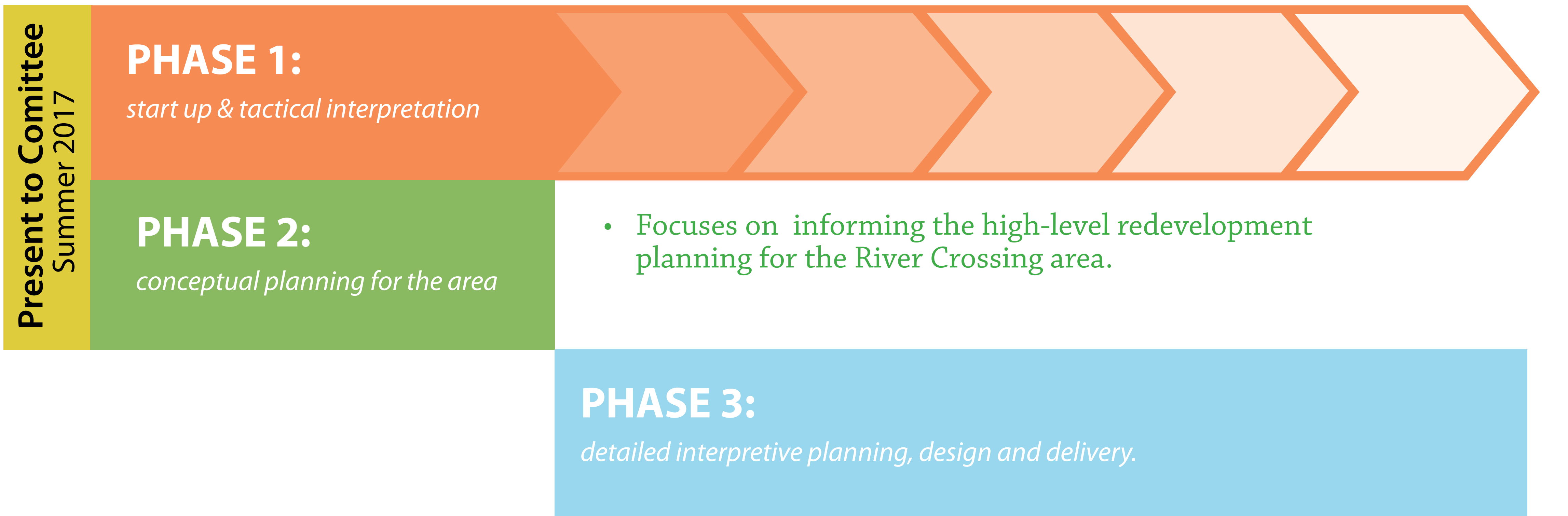
Here we invite Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to learn, share, heal, and to come together. By acknowledging conflicts that have marked Canada's colonial heritage, we can begin to make genuine connections between cultures and foster understanding.

KEY INTERPRETIVE GOAL	POSSIBLE TOPICS TO EXPLORE	POSSIBLE SPACES/SITES TO LEVERAGE	POSSIBLE WAYS TO INTERPRET THROUGH LANDSCAPE, BUILT ENVIRONMENT & PROGRAMMING
Visitors recognize the contributions of Indigenous and non-Indigenous cultures to Edmonton and reflect on a sometimes difficult past, moving towards fostering genuine connections and understanding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The contributions of First Nation, Métis, francophone and other communities to this place• The rich, living and distinct First Nations and Métis cultures• Treaty as a living document• Circumstances that have led us to seek reconciliation• Acknowledgment and respect for the Traditional Burial Ground and Fort Edmonton Cemetery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plaza/small performance space• Quiet park spaces/ paths and connection points• Vistas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Message boards• Spaces for informal memorials/signage• Inclusion of art, language, songs, stories, poems of many cultures incorporated into the built environment• Quiet spaces that encourage thought, e.g. parks, gardens, walking paths• Storytelling, theatre, film, arts• Collecting and sharing oral histories• Learning and teaching opportunities connected to the themes



WHAT THE HIP CONTAINS: IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

Future work to advance the Heritage Interpretive Plan will follow three phases.



- Exploratory phase, starting in the short-term.
- Focuses on low resource, temporary installations, activities and media requiring little infrastructure.
- Requires strong partner involvement and community participation.

- Focuses on informing the high-level redevelopment planning for the River Crossing area.

- Builds off earlier phases and directs detailed interpretation through public spaces, infrastructure, landscape and buildings, events, activities and media.
- Coincides with the redevelopment of the River Crossing area, which is expected to take many years.





Using spaces to tell stories



Use key views to deliver interpretation and orient



Use spaces to tell stories



Make heritage relatable

Guiding principles will inform future work and interpretation. The principles included in this plan need to respond to the unique context for this work and are based on good urban and interpretive planning practice. They are:

- Involve communities
- Base interpretation on solid research and knowledge
- Respect the Traditional Burial Ground and Fort Edmonton Cemetery
- Leverage heritage for place-making
- Integrate interpretation into the landscape and built environment
- Create spaces that support programming
- Avoid overloading spaces with media (e.g. signage, symbols, activities, installations)
- Use materials to support themes



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON OUR COMMENT WALL

15



Share your thoughts on a post-it note or tell us in person at our “Chat Corner”.

- 1) Do you think the themes and interpretive goals are appropriate?
- 2) Do you have other ideas for interpreting the themes through landscape, public art and architecture? How about through activities and events?
- 3) If you previously provided input, do you feel we understood the input you shared, the way you intended for us to?
- 4) Is there anything else you want to share with us?



NEXT STEPS: AFTER THE OPEN HOUSE

16

The project team will:

- Share back a summary of input from engagement
- Use input to help refine and finalize the Heritage Interpretive Plan, and make it available online
- Present the final plan to Urban Planning Committee (summer 2017)

Thank you for participating in the open house!

Please remember to fill out our feedback and evaluation forms.



Stay connected!



Sign up for our newsletter or check our website for updates.

rivercrossing@edmonton.ca

www.edmonton.ca/HeritageInterpretivePlan



River Crossing
Draft **Heritage
Interpretive
Plan**

