

HERITAGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN

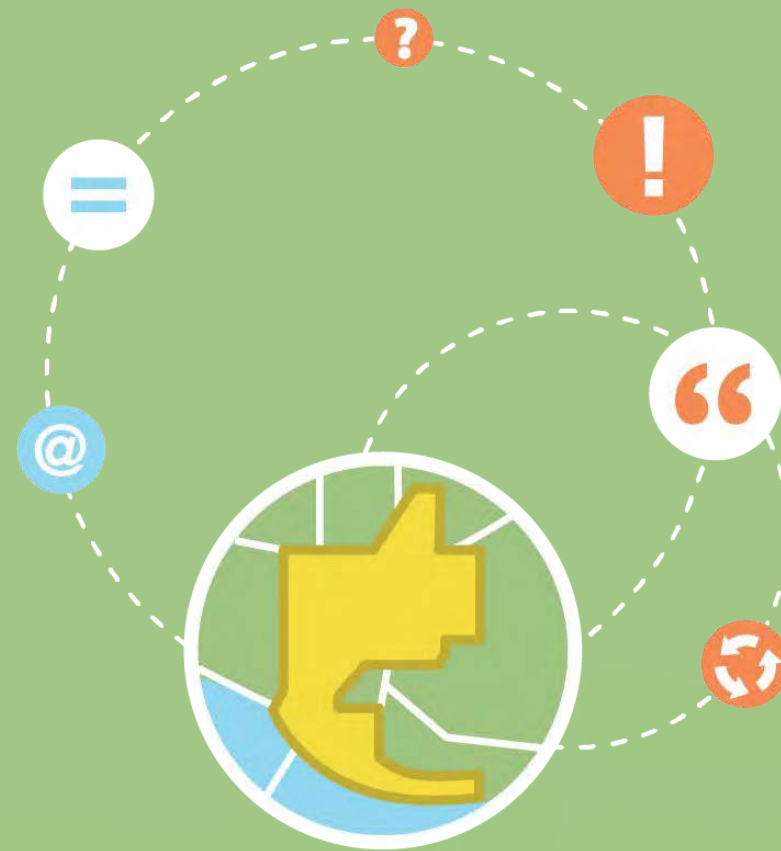
RIVER CROSSING

Edmonton

NOVEMBER 9, 2016

THEMATIC FRAMEWORK VALIDATION WORKSHOP

Organizing stories
into themes



Objective: building a
structure for *organizing* a
multitude of *stories*

RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT.



RESEARCH:

- Reviewing existing studies and documents
- Studying comparable sites

ENGAGEMENT:

- Public, Indigenous communities and related organizations, heritage organizations, institutions
- Workshops, site visits, meetings since early 2016
- Online survey
- Informing people in Edmonton and beyond about the project (web site, newsletters, social media)

Last workshop we asked:

What should people understand about the heritage and culture of the area after they visit River Crossing?

We asked people to contribute
what *they* thought was
important.

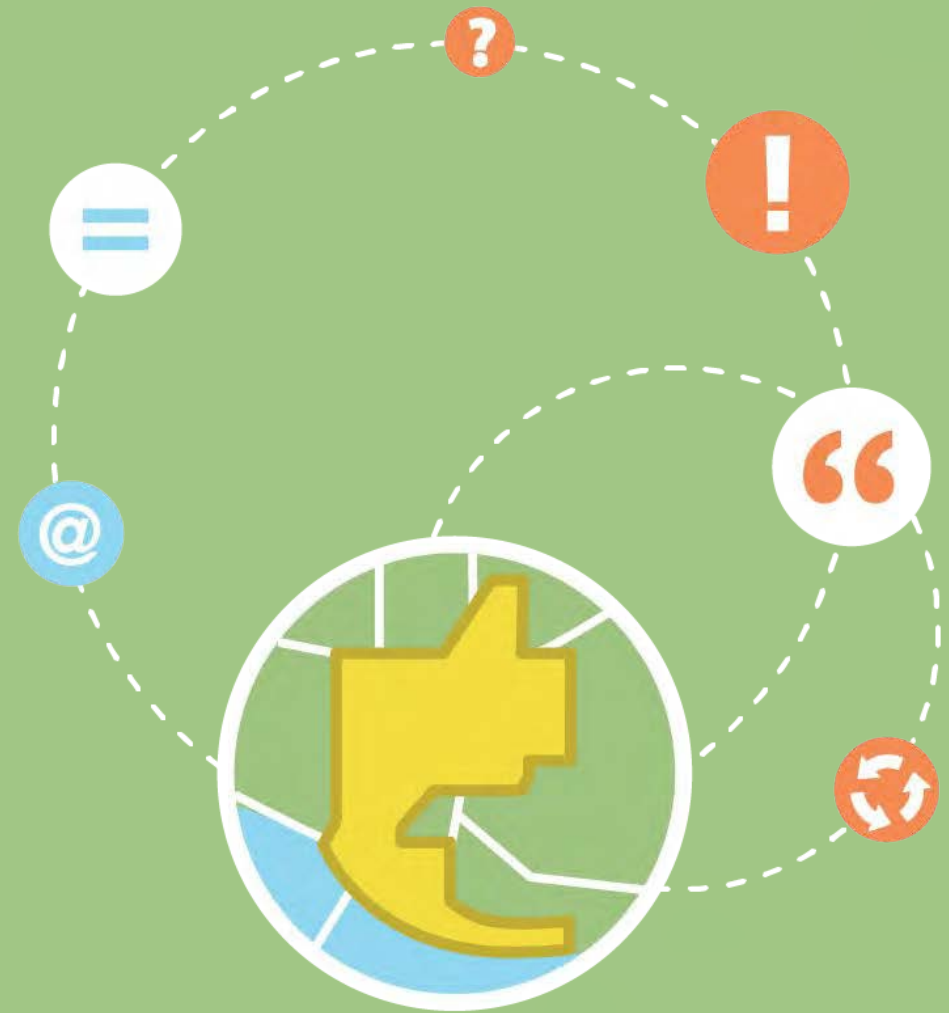
We heard hundreds of stories
and topics.

So, what did we do next?

WE :
LISTENED
LOOKED
READ
SYNTHESIZED
SORTED
TO CREATE THEMES
THAT WORK TOGETHER



WHAT
DOES A
THEME
DO?



Interpretive themes help answer three questions:

- What do we want people to **learn**?
- What do we want people to **feel**?
- What do we want people to **do**?

About Thematic Frameworks

A good interpretive theme helps implementers understand a narrative of a complex place, and helps designers and program developers create great experiences.

DRAFT THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

TERRITORY AND LAND

This place is within the territories of many Indigenous Nations. Edmonton emerged from this place, which people have used for millennia.

CONNECTED TO THE RIVER FOR MILLENNIA

TRADING AND MAKING

Creating, harvesting, building, and commerce across First Nations, Métis, French-Canadian and many other cultures.

CONNECTING AND UNDERSTANDING

A place to pause and think about our past, present and future, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, both joyful and painful.

GATHERING AND COMMUNITY

A place to live, where Indigenous and non-Indigenous traditions are sustained and new relationships are built.

RECREATION AND CELEBRATION

Where people of all cultures continue to come together to play and celebrate.

The river is the thread that links five themes together. Each theme is connected to the river, across a period of thousands of years.

Now, let's look at the five draft themes individually.



TERRITORY AND LAND

This place is within the territories of many Indigenous Nations. Edmonton emerged from this place, which people have used for millennia.

This theme is where topics about land, and changes in who has access to it, are treated.

TERRITORY AND LAND

- **Area is within the traditional territories of many Indigenous Nations. Many Indigenous Nations and people remain in the area to this day.**
- **Circumstances pushed many First Nation people, such as Papaschase, to take Métis Scrip and give up rights to land.**
- **A sundance was held by the Blackfoot Confederacy near Fort Edmonton V to remind people this is part of their territory.**
- **Province of Alberta buys land from the City for the Legislature Grounds (1906).**
- **Papaschase people lose reserve lands south of the river (1888).**



TRADING AND MAKING

Creating, harvesting, building, and commerce across First Nations, Métis, French-Canadian and many other cultures.

Trading and making refers to any economic activity, from hunting and gathering to the fur trade to industry.

TRADING AND MAKING

- **Berries and traditional plants harvested by First Nations.**
- **Fur trade forts in Rossdale: Fort Augustus/Edmonton House II (1799-1810), IV (1813-1830), V (1830-1906).**
- **Fishing and hunting in the North Saskatchewan River valley.**
- **Many businesses opened in Rossdale (e.g. ice plant, saw mill, coal mine).**
- **Campsite dated to over 2,000 years ago with evidence of cooking and stone tool making.**



GATHERING AND COMMUNITY

A place to live, where
Indigenous and
non-Indigenous traditions
are sustained and new
relationships are built.

Gathering and community is when people come together for a purpose, expressing traditions, or creating relationships. These may change over time.

GATHERING AND COMMUNITY

- **Indigenous people camp on the flats for thousands of years.**
- **First Nation people hold powwows, sundances, and tea dances near the fort.**
- **The City plans to clear Rossdale for river valley park, but is stopped by community action (1970s-80s).**
- **John Walter's ferry (1876) and, later, the Walterdale Bridge (1915) connect the flats to the south side.**
- **The community of Rossdale grows rapidly (1880s) - most early residents work in the area.**



RECREATION AND CELEBRATION

Where people of all cultures continue to come together to play and celebrate.

This theme emphasizes the enjoyable, leisure uses of the area, from organized sports to relaxation to celebrating significant events.

RECREATION AND CELEBRATION

- **Edmontonians take riverboats on picnic excursions to Big Island (1890s/1900s).**
- **HBC sells land to the Industrial Exhibition Association to create Exhibition Grounds (1899). This land is sold to the City a year later.**
- **Edmonton Exhibition held annually (1899-1909). Planned attractions include balloon rides, tight-rope walking, acrobatics and contortionists (1901).**
- **Indigenous people travel to the Exhibition Grounds to race horses and walk in the parade.**



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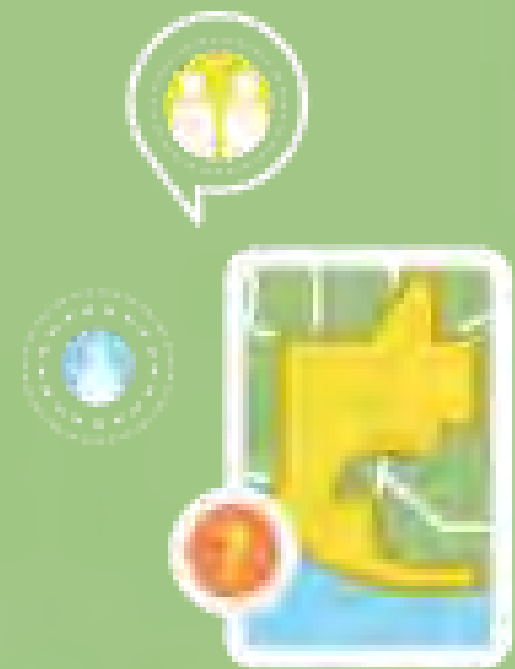
This theme is centered on the commemorative, seeing opportunities for quiet reflection on important stories, spanning the full range from joyful to painful.

CONNECTING AND UNDERSTANDING

- **The river is life to First Nations. Water is sacred.**
- **First Nations have rich cultures, with their own languages, laws, traditions, teachings and roles. These cultures are alive and well.**
- **The Métis have a rich and distinct culture. Key cultural elements include language, music and dance.**
- **First Nations, Métis, francophones, and many other people have contributed to the founding and development of the city. Métis and francophones are some of the first river lot owners.**
- **The Traditional Burial Ground/Fort Edmonton Cemetery needs to be respected - it has not always been. Ancestors of many First Nations, Métis and non-Indigenous people are buried there.**

Validation

- Do these themes reflect what **stories we want to tell?**
- Do they express what we want to **visitor to experience?**



DISCUSSION #1

Does this framework make sense as a grouping or way to talk about history and culture?

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ACTIVITY # 1

How would you find homes for stories in this framework?

ACTIVITY #2

How might you tell these stories?















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Review and Next Steps

- Sharing back a summary of comments from workshops
- Inviting people to review and comment on the draft plan in 2017

Thank you.