

SHARING
**OUR
STORIES**

Supporting Culture
and Heritage in the
HALIFAX Region

March 2021



Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan

- Explored the **role of HRM** in supporting culture and how HALIFAX is currently operating.
- Priorities Plans give direction to regulations, programs, or partnerships associated with budgetary requirements.
- Coordination of cultural initiatives across departments that will inform the Regional Plan.
- Targeted engagement process
- Met with HRM Accessibility Advisory Committee – want to expand outreach

Project Pillars/Values

STEWARDSHIP

CONNECTION

CELEBRATION

ACCESS

HRM's Role/Goals

Express Culture through Place

Developing Cultural Capacity

Value Creativity

WHAT WE HEARD (so far)

Diverse Voices & Celebrations

- Recognize and profile under-represented communities
- Partner with communities for celebrations & Events
- Culturally relevant programming
- Diversify engagement, adopt a cultural lens

Access

- Accessible, affordable and inclusive activities
- Equitable and sustainable grants and funding
- Digital transformation to enhance access to culture
- Improve transportation infrastructure

Cultural Promotion

- Establish cultural hubs and creative spaces at municipal facilities
- Broaden HRM's role in cultural tourism
- Promote cross-cultural interaction

Nova Scotia Accessibility Act

- In 2015, NS government public consultations on the creation of a Nova Scotia Persons with Disabilities Act
- In 2017, the legislation passed becoming the Accessibility Act
- Two prescriptions:
 1. Creation of an Accessibility Advisory Committee
 2. Accessibility plan per city/municipality



Built Environment



Employment



Public Transportation & Infrastructure



Information & Communication



Goods & Services



Education

BUILT ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1.1 Develop an **interpretation framework and commemoration program** to guide the Municipality's role in supporting the placement and maintenance of commemorative signage, markers and monuments
- 1.8: Develop **conservation management plans for all Municipally owned heritage properties** and assets to ensure appropriate levels of conservation and maintenance
- 1.13 Amend the Regional Plan and applicable secondary planning strategies to encourage the adaptive re-use of registered heritage sites and culturally significant buildings.

BUILT ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE

- 1.17 In consultation with Africville stakeholders, explore means to **improve interpretation and public access to Africville** through park master planning and transportation planning initiatives, including the consideration of an Africville lookoff
- 1.20: Implement the Municipal public art Administrative Order to better support **the integration of public art with Municipal capital projects, the inclusion of public art within private developments, and community-based requests.**
- 2.11 Develop a Regional Museum Strategy and operational model, based on the recommendations of the Phase 1 Regional Museum Strategy. Specific measures to consider include
 - **Explore planning and building exhibit infrastructure in new HRM facilities** to display related artifacts and interpretation

GOODS & SERVICES

- **1.7 Heritage Assessment guidelines**, to guide the identification and evaluation of culture and heritage assets during the background study phase of master planning exercises .
- **2.13** When reviewing and evaluating HRM organized events, consider the goals and values of this plan, including:
 - **Ensure accessibility to HRM events** by working with HRM Diversity & Inclusion and Accessibility
 - Commit to providing **diverse and representative artists and activities**
 - Work with HRM Youth programming and the Youth Committee to explore the **expansion of opportunities for at events that are directed to youth** i.e. Hopscotch
 - **Utilize HRM parks and spaces** such as Argyle Street, the Commons and the Oval to enhance HRM events.

GOODS & SERVICES

- 2.14 Maintain partnership with and support Events Nova Scotia and Discover Halifax in **the attraction and hosting of major events in the region that are cultural drivers for the region.**
- 2.15: **Increase the number of community celebrations** supported by Municipal programs that highlight the diversity of the municipality. (e.g. African Heritage Month, Asian Heritage Month, Mi'kmaq History Month, Halifax Pride Festival, Access Awareness Week, and other cultural acknowledgements).
- 2.17: Review the current-state of programming being delivered in various HRM facilities, including libraries, recreation facilities , and parks, to **ensure culturally relevant and sensitive programming is being delivered to communities.**
- 3.12 Enhance the procurement of diverse suppliers for food, craft, or entertainment for in the Halifax Region

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

- **1.10 Expand the Municipal online heritage registry and web presence** to provide more information about heritage conservation, Municipal supports, and individual registered heritage properties
- **2.4: Make the inventory of culture and heritage assets** collected to inform the development of this Plan **freely available to the public** through HRM's Open Data Catalogue.
- **2.9: Improve Municipal recognition and promotion of the Region's rich cultural resources and Municipal supports by:**
 - **Developing a centralized and easy to navigate arts and culture web presence** to promote cultural events, completed public art projects, and available Municipal supports and programs

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION

- 3.2 Reduce barriers to applying for and accessing available Municipal heritage, culture and arts grants by:
 - **Developing a centralized web portal for all grant programs**, including clear descriptions of funding opportunities, application processes, deadlines and reporting requirements
 - Work with diversity and inclusion office to **understand barriers for underrepresented groups**, and, as needed, adjusting application requirements;
 - Exploring opportunities to **train front line staff at community centres, libraries, and/or other HRM facilities** to support people or groups to apply for available grant opportunities

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In general, what should HRM take into consideration when it comes to accessibility in the built environment, such as heritage buildings and commemoration signage?
2. In general, what should HRM take into consideration when it comes to planning cultural events that are inclusive and accessible?
3. How do you want to be engaged going forward?