# Review of Strathcona County Museum and Archives

Priorities Committee Meeting

October 23, 2018

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Preparing Communities for the Future

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# Acknowledgements

STRATHCONA COUNTY

- Recreation, Parks and Culture Department
- Project Manager, Teresa Koslo
- Senior Management
- Mayor and Council

STRATHCONA COUNTY museum & archives ... a cupful of history

- Heritage Foundation Board
- Museum and Archives Staff

- Project Steering Committee
- Community and Stakeholders

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# Project Objectives and Approach

**To review current museum operations, and help define a vision and future plan for the Museum** moving forward.

**1. Building the Foundation**

**Information Gathering and Research**

**(May-Ongoing throughout the process)**

i. Align the Project with Strathcona County's Strategic Direction

**2. Undertaking the Review and Drafting the Vision**

**Community and Stakeholder Engagement**

**(May-June)**

**(Making Additional Links: July-September)**

ii. Review of Museum Operation

iii. Scope Community Values and Expectations

iv. Identify and Assess Trends, best Practices and Options

**3. Finalizing the Report**

**(Review and Vision) to put into Action**

**(June-September)**

v. Identify Key Insights, Options and Areas of Focus and Priorities

**4. Project Completion**

**Strategic Advice and Catalyzing Next Steps and Initiatives**

**(October-Ongoing)**

vi. Review/Plan Roll-Out

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# What we Heard
## (May 25-June 14)

**Degree of Public Engagement, Time and Resources Increase**

Clear, concise, non-biased information for the public is the basis of all public engagement process.

**INPUT**

Obtain feedback from the public and stakeholders to test ideas or concepts, clarify issues, and identify possible solutions.

**LISTEN AND LEARN**

Create opportunities for County staff, Council, the public and stakeholders to enter into a dialogue together to explore each other's perspectives, goals, plans, concerns, expectations, and possible solutions.

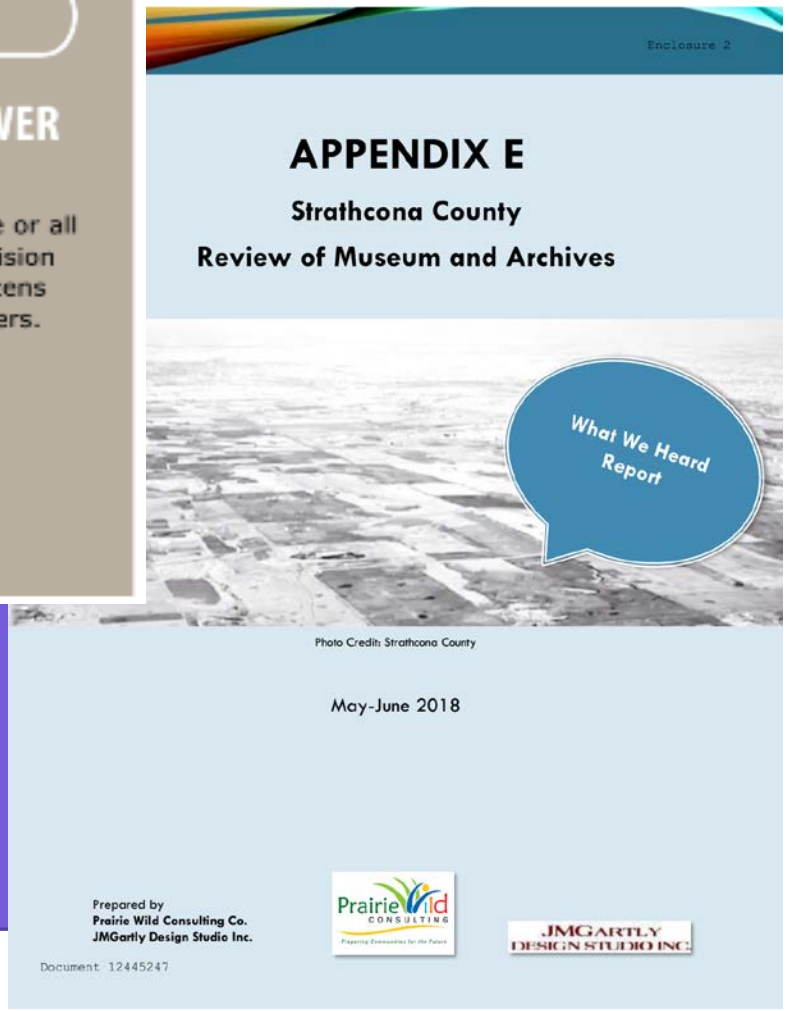
**COLLABORATE**

Partner with citizens and stakeholders in each aspect of the decision, including the development of alternatives, recommendations and preferred solutions.

**EMPOWER**

Delegate some or all aspects of decision making to citizens and stakeholders.

A total of **916++** people engaged through the process


Enclosure 2

APPENDIX E

Strathcona County

Review of Museum and Archives

What We Heard Report

Photo Credit: Strathcona County

May-June 2018

Prepared by
Prairie Wild Consulting Co.
JMGartly Design Studio Inc.

Document: 12445247

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# What we Heard

Local **museums are very important** and **have value to a community.** They **share the stories** and **history of a community and its people**

The Museum and Archives is **accessible** and **used by all**

**Strathcona County is unique and has a story to tell.**

- Indigenous rich history
- It is a specialized municipality
- A mix of rural and urban; agriculture and industry
- A fast growing suburb
- It is the horse capital of Canada

The **Museum will:**

- Be better and larger
- Be located in the Centre of the Park
- Include the archives
- Be financially supported to properly run the operations (building, staff)
- Have more staff
- Have complimentary services e.g. souvenir store, café, restaurant

The **Museum will tell the story of the county through:**

- Artifacts
- Experiential and interactive learning
- Stationary and rotating exhibits
- Programs and activities

There are **opportunities for synergies** and **partnerships** with **other historic** and **cultural sites** and **organizations** in the county and wider area:

- Library
- Art Gallery
- Biosphere Reserve
- Wilderness Centre
- Bremner House and Multi-Purpose Agriculture Facility
- Ukrainian Heritage Village
- Other museums

**84% believe a museum is important or very important to the future of the community.**

**80% shared having a local archives is important or very important.**

**Map source:** Strathcona County - https://www.strathcona.ca/council-county/facts-stats-and-forecasts/maps/

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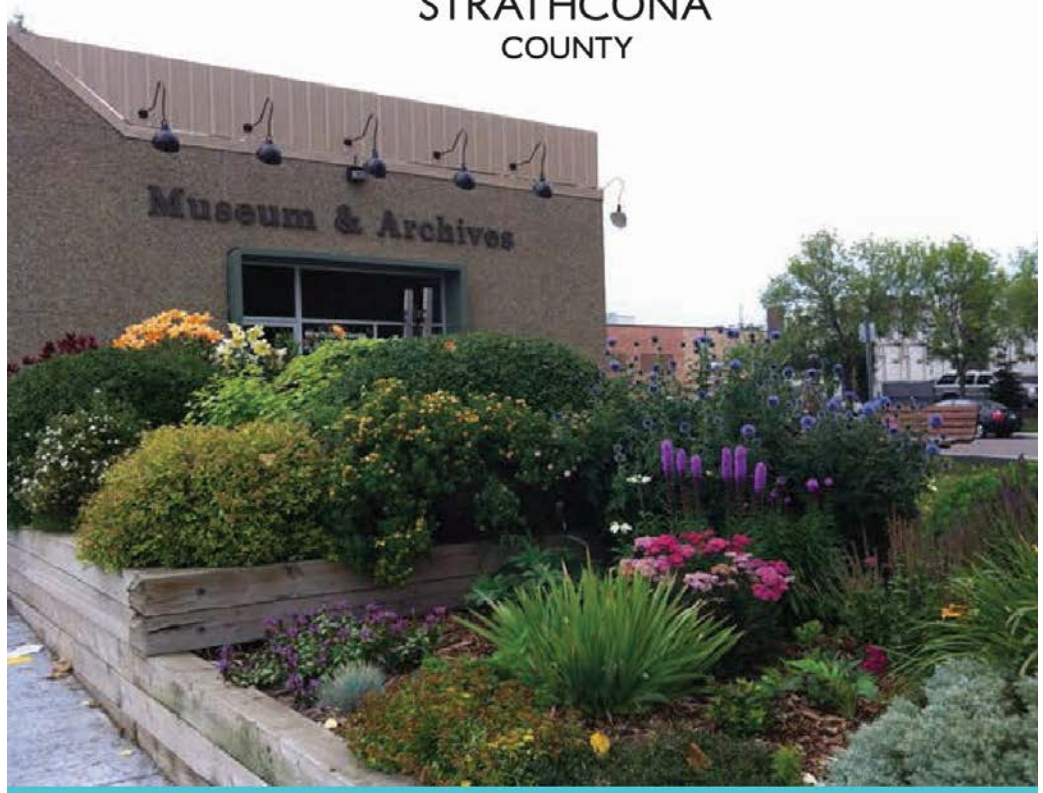
Enclosure 1

STRATHCONA COUNTY




# REVIEW

**Strathcona County Museum and Archives**

**September 2018**

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Document 12443744



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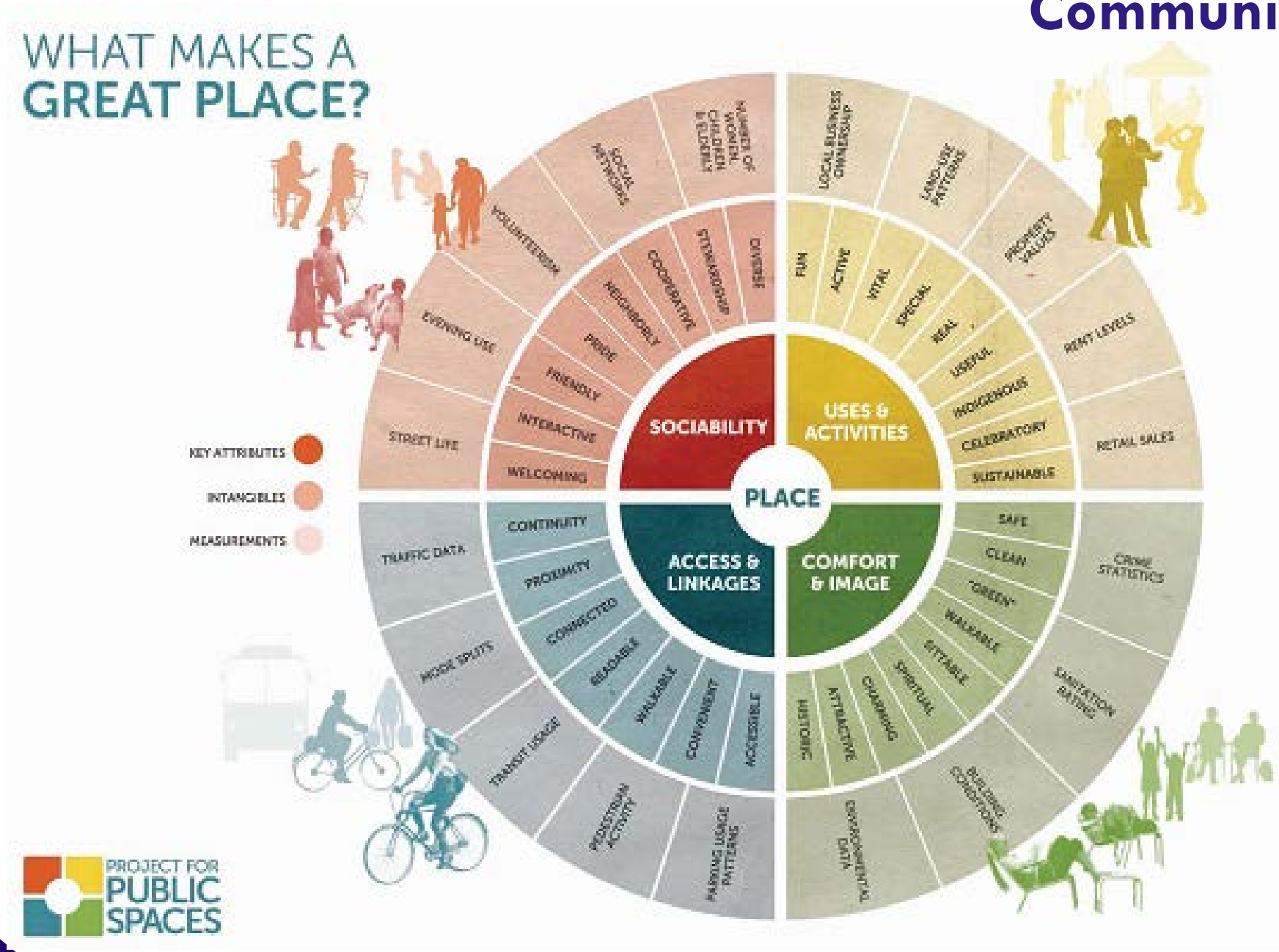
# Community Benefits

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# COMPELLING STORIES AND MUSEUM TRENDS

Medelta Museum
Medicine Hat, AB

Fort Museum
Fort MacLeod, AB

Esplanade
Medicine Hat, AB

**Museums are:**

a. **Agents of social change**

b. **Forums for cultural diversity, peace and community development**

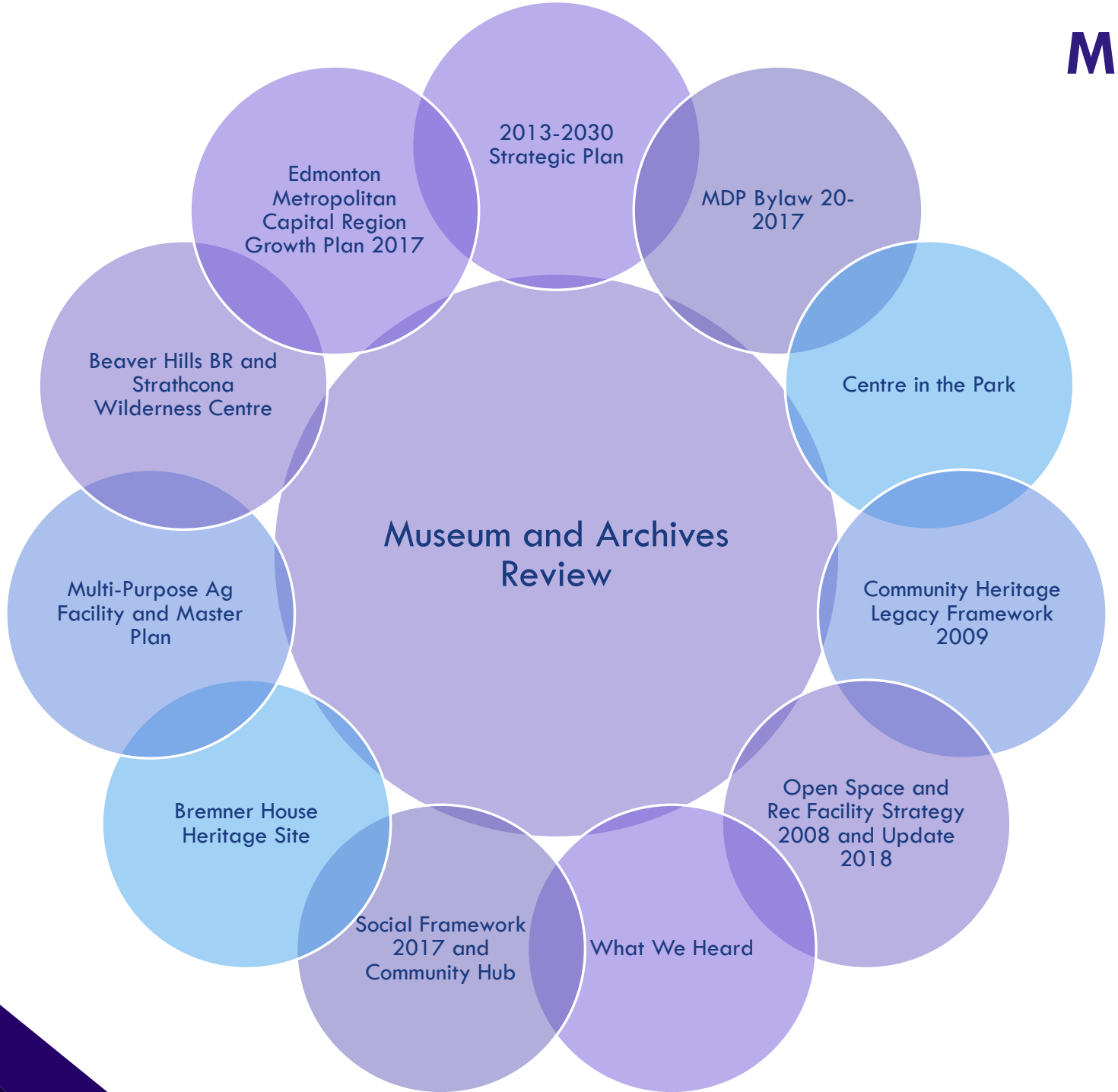
c. **Centres of formal and informal education**

d. **Economic drivers (generating employment, tourism, etc.)**

e. **Entities that add value**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the importance of museums and collections across the world.

# MAKING THE LINKS

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STRATHCONA COUNTY
museum
& archives
... a cupful of history

# REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

**Vision:** *To provide an ongoing, vibrant, valued and educational service for the public.*

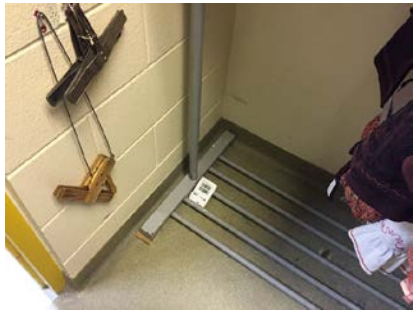
**Mission**: *To collect, preserve, promote and display the history and heritage of Strathcona County.*

**Philosophy**: *Honesty, integrity, professionalism, innovation, diligence, community collaboration, excellence and education.*

## Review of:

- Museum Standards and Guidelines
- Stewardship and Governance
- Collections
- Research
- Education
- Partnerships and Community
- Human Resources
- Staff Job Descriptions
- Facility

| Function | Current (sf) |
|---|---|
| **Public Facilities**<br>Lobby | 500 |
| **Program Facilities**<br>Learning Centre | 380 |
| **Boardroom**<br>(including meeting rooms, rentals) | 400 |
| **Exhibit Galleries** | |
| Permanent Museum | 5,000 |
| Archives Gallery, Library and Research Room | 330 |
| **Offices** | 560 |
| **Staff Room with Kitchen** | 400 |
| **Exhibit Production Workshop** | 350 |
| **Collections Facility**<br>Compact Storage Rooms – for Archives and Museum | 2,800 |
| **Building Support** | 460 |
| **Building Systems & Circulation** | 220 |
| **Total square feet** | **11,400** |



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# A VISION FORWARD

Operations

Governance Models

Visions

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# A VISION FORWARD: OPERATIONS

## Scenario 1

- Continue to support the SCMA through an operating agreement, providing incremental funding of $200,000, for a total estimated annual funding of $361,650, plus inflation.

## Scenario 2

- Take on the governance and operation of the SCMA. This would impact the budget and workload of eight County departments; a preliminary cost estimate is $500,000.

## Scenario 3

- Close the Strathcona County Museum and Archives. The cost would be $161,650 in 2019 and reduced to $0 in subsequent years.

## Scenario 4

- Hybrid of Scenarios 1 and 2. Costs would be $361,650 annually for 3 years and would increase in years 4 through 7.

# A VISION FORWARD: GOVERNANCE

- Municipally Owned
- Commission
- Non-Profit
- Privately Owned

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# VISION FORWARD SCENARIOS

## Scenario 1

- Plan for a new Strathcona County Museum and Archives in Centre in the Park

## Scenario 2

- Plan for a new Museum outside of Centre in the Park

## Scenario 3

- Keep the Strathcona Count Museum and Archives where it is

## Scenario 4

- Close the Museum

# RECOMMENDATION AND NEXT STEPS

Centre in the Park, Strathcona County
http://www.sherwoodparknews.com/2014/03/17/county-on-best-places-to-live-list

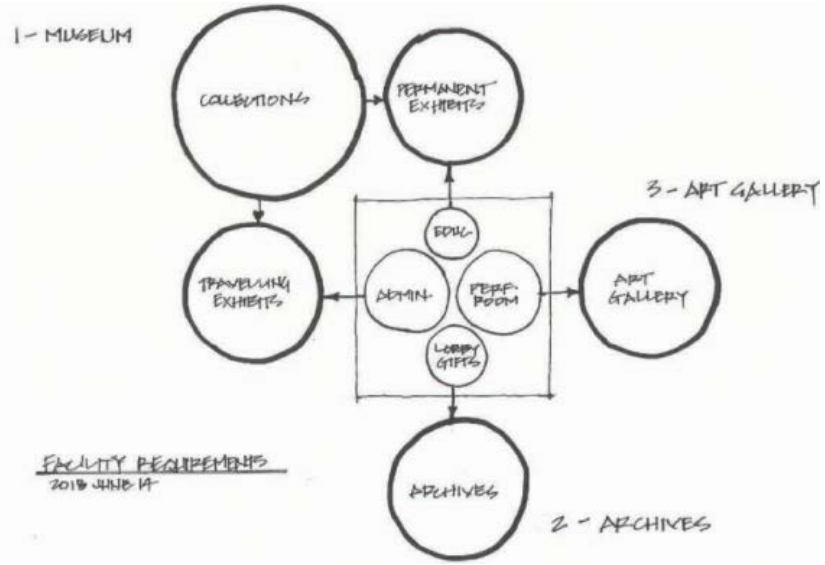
Alex Janvier's Spiral Staircase, Strathcona County Hall

1. That Strathcona County provide **additional support for the operations of the SCMA.**

2. That Strathcona County Council **support in principle Visioning Scenario 1 – a new museum and archives within Centre in the Park** – as the best community museum option. This location will position the Strathcona County Museum and Archives to become a cultural heritage amenity of excellence within an existing Cultural Hub.

That Strathcona County:

1. Assist the SCMA in **upgrading their information technology infrastructure and software programs** to ensure compatibility with Strathcona County's information technology systems.
2. **Immediate funding was provided in 2018** to offset critical issues.




***"First make it right. Then make it good."***
***– Jack Diamond***

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# Thank You!

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