

Strathcona County Museum and Archives Functional Plan Update

Recreation, Parks and Culture

Priorities Committee Meeting
June 22, 2021

History

- Feb 27, 2018 Council approved a motion for funds to offset one-time investment for emergent issues at Strathcona County Museum and Archives (SCMA) and fund consultant costs to develop options for sustainability of the museum.
- Oct 23, 2018 Priorities Committee received the SCMA Review report.
- Dec 6, 2018 Funding in the amount of \$200,000 to complete a Functional Plan and a Feasibility Study was approved by Council through the 2019 annual budget process.
- Feb 11, 2020 Provided Council an update on the SCMA functional plan process.
- COVID-19 impacts and staff changes in 2020 caused some delays.

Strategic Priorities

- 2019 Prairie Wild Consulting Inc. was contracted to complete a Functional Plan for a new Strathcona County Museum and Archives (SCMA).
- The plan is aligned with Strathcona County's strategic priorities:
 - Goal 1** - Build strong communities to support the diverse needs of residents.
 - Goal 6** - Provide facilities and services that are available and accessible to residents.
 - Goal 7** - Provide opportunities for public engagement and communication.
- A museum and archives is identified within the Strathcona County Recreation and Culture Strategy.

Considerations

The Functional Plan addressed the following considerations:



What We Heard

- Targeted interviews conducted through 2020-21 with 41 participants across all sectors.
- Respondents identified key common elements of importance:
 - Tell the unique story of Strathcona County
 - Provide interactive, hands-on, and tactile programming
 - Build an archive of excellence
 - Partnerships
 - Ensure universal design and accessibility for all visitors
 - Ensure bus access, parking and public transit service
 - Incorporate flexible space
 - Cluster the museum and archive with other cultural institutions in Centre in the Park (CITP), while maintaining strong connections to rural infrastructure

Recommendations

New Strathcona County Museum and Archives (SCMA)

1. Enhance and focus on Strathcona County's stories.
Incorporate Indigenous worldviews and multiple diverse perspectives.
2. Examine and refine the scope of the programming and services.
3. Design the SCMA, including the enhancement of the archives, to a regional "archive of excellence".
4. Examine and refine technological needs to determine program and services, including both digital archives and interactive technology.
5. Design "for adaptation to technology as it changes" rather than design the building for current technology.

Recommendations

New SCMA

6. Ensure accessibility through consultation with Strathcona County Standing Committees.
7. Universal design objective and principles and contemporary perspective.
8. Prioritize form and function over the aesthetics of the building.
9. Incorporate environmentally sound building practices and promote awareness of local natural history and environmental issues.
10. The audience, usage, and accessibility of the SCMA in the CITP should be included in a regional transit strategy.
11. Comprehensive parking strategy for the CITP to include the SCMA's needs for parking and an accessible drop-off for vehicles and buses.

Recommendations

Operating, Governance, and Human Resources

12. Evaluate within the Feasibility Study to determine the most efficient, sustainable, and advantageous operating and governance model.
13. Establish a transition team.
14. Evaluate and establish the resource requirements for a larger program and facility.
15. Strathcona County to help facilitate a strategic plan process with the Strathcona County Heritage Foundation (SCHF) Board to contribute to the feasibility study's review and recommendations on operating, governance and human resources considerations.

Recommendations

New SCMA Site

16. Study the feasibility of the recommended building sites.

Financial and Partnerships

17. Prepare a financial order of magnitude cost estimate and an economic impact assessment.
18. Project and develop future operating budgets.
19. Engage and dialogue with potential partners regarding synergies and funding opportunities.
20. Build relationships with Western Economic Diversification Canada, federal and provincial governments and “sponsor capital”.

Recommendations

Risk Assessment

21. Identify the risks and risk mitigation strategies.

At this time, the following risks have been identified:

- Timeframe to get approval and complete the Feasibility Study to address the Functional Plan recommendations and better understand the risks of proceeding with a new SCMA.
- Strathcona County Cultural Services staff and resource changes.
- SCMA staff and resources and SCHF Board changes.
- Unknown impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in relationship to the Strathcona County's economic situation, tourism and local accessibility in 2021.

Timeline and Proposed Gates*

Gate 1	Functional Plan Presentation	June 22, 2021
Gate 2	Feasibility Study	2022-23
	Transition planning	2025
Gate 3	Site selection	2027
Gate 4	Concept/Design	2027-28
Gate 5	Project budget approval	2028
	Facility transition	2029-30
	Proposed construction	2029-30

All subject to review. These timelines and gates will be reviewed and refined as the Feasibility Study progresses

Next Steps

- Provide the plan to all departments impacted by the project so it can be properly evaluated.
- Continued liaison with Strathcona County Heritage Foundation Board and Strathcona County Museum and Archives staff members.
- Undertake a feasibility study to help determine the vision, scope, and when a new museum and archives can be realized in Strathcona County.

Feasibility Study

The feasibility study would include, but not be limited to:

- Review of programs, services, accessibility, technology and environmental opportunities to determine the functional size, and design requirements.
- Evaluation of site location.
- Analysis and recommendation of the operating, governance, transition, and financial model for implementation.
- Preparation of a capital estimate of the project.
- Financial partnership potential.
- Risk assessment and management strategies.

Questions?



Thank You