



A Cultural City Discussion Paper

our **Niagara
Falls** plan

A cultural city is rich in cultural and built heritage resources and community facilities. Archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes, as well as intangible, ephemeral, or lost heritage sites are critical parts of a city's range of cultural experiences. Cultural experiences happen when the physical elements of the city interact with its symbolic heritage elements and their meanings.



Things to Think About



Protect Heritage Resources

- Update policies about heritage structures and landscapes into conformity with Provincial and Regional documents
- Include a sound policy framework for identifying and protecting cultural heritage properties with new development.
- Alternative approaches to protecting potential heritage properties should be explored
- The Indigenous consultation protocol should be integrated into the Official Plan's policies.
- Financial incentives, such as a deferral of property tax, should be offered to the owners of designated properties
- The remnants of the first Welland Canal are important and should be protected.



Promote & Enhance Heritage Experiences

- Urban design guidelines for historical neighbourhoods help to ensure that infill is appropriately scaled and designed to maintain the character of the area, including significant views.
- Promote and celebrate features that relate to a community's heritage or culture through events, festivals, branding and signage, public art installations, artistic outputs, storytelling, or interpretive programming
- Policies for collaborative property management are needed between the City and key property owners like Ontario Power Generation, Parks Canada, and Metrolinx.
- Consider Queen Victoria Park as a "Cultural Heritage Landscape" instead of its current designation as an "open space."
- Add policies to recognize and enhance physical and visual connections between City lands and Niagara Parks Commission lands with heritage sensitivities.
- Consider the treed moraine along the Queen Victoria Park Cultural Heritage Landscape: a sensitive natural and cultural heritage feature.



The Role of Programming in Enhancing Culture

- Policy can help direct the design of places, spaces, and municipal corporate supports to enable culture in all its forms



Planning for Public Service Facilities

- The City could explore creative approaches to the development of facilities and delivery of services, with the City participating in the co-design and co-delivery of services with other government agencies, the private sector, and/or non-profit organizations.
- Strengthen the policy framework to ensure a high-quality public realm, easy access to public service facilities and an attractive and welcoming community.
- Direct new services and amenities to Downtown, key nodes (however defined) and other community hubs where they are easily accessible to many residents by a range of transportation modes. This supports the vitality of the community and efficient use of infrastructure.
- New public service facilities including hospitals and schools, should be located in areas that are easily accessible by active transportation and transit.

