

HamiltonCivicMuseums.ca

A new digital storytelling platform at the City of Hamilton

Presenters:

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Outline

1. About
2. Background
3. Details
4. Future



About

The Hamilton Civic Museums

The Heritage Resource Management Section of the Tourism and Culture Division operates 9 civic museums.

Historic houses:

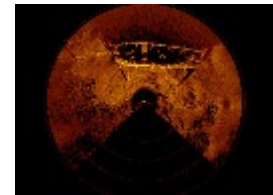
1. Dundurn National Historic Site
2. Fieldcote Memorial Park and Museum
3. Battlefield House Museum & Park National Historic Site
4. Whitehern Historic House and Garden National Historic Site
5. Griffin House National Historic Site

Gallery-style museums:

6. The Hamilton Military Museum
7. The Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology National Historic Site
8. Hamilton Children's Museum

Underwater archaeology site:

9. Hamilton and Scourge National Historic Site



Hamilton Civic Museum Strategy (2021)

- The Hamilton Civic Museums will become museums of, by and for the city rather than just museums which are operated by the City.
- To do this they will preserve and present the many untold stories of Hamilton and Hamiltonians in a sustainable, accessible, inclusive and engaging manner.
- The city itself, including its peoples, streetscapes, parks, theatres, neighborhoods, buildings and public spaces, will be treated as a museum that embodies its collective history.



Hamilton Civic Museum Strategy (cont.)

And...

The Hamilton Civic Museums will become equal parts
physical, mobile and virtual.



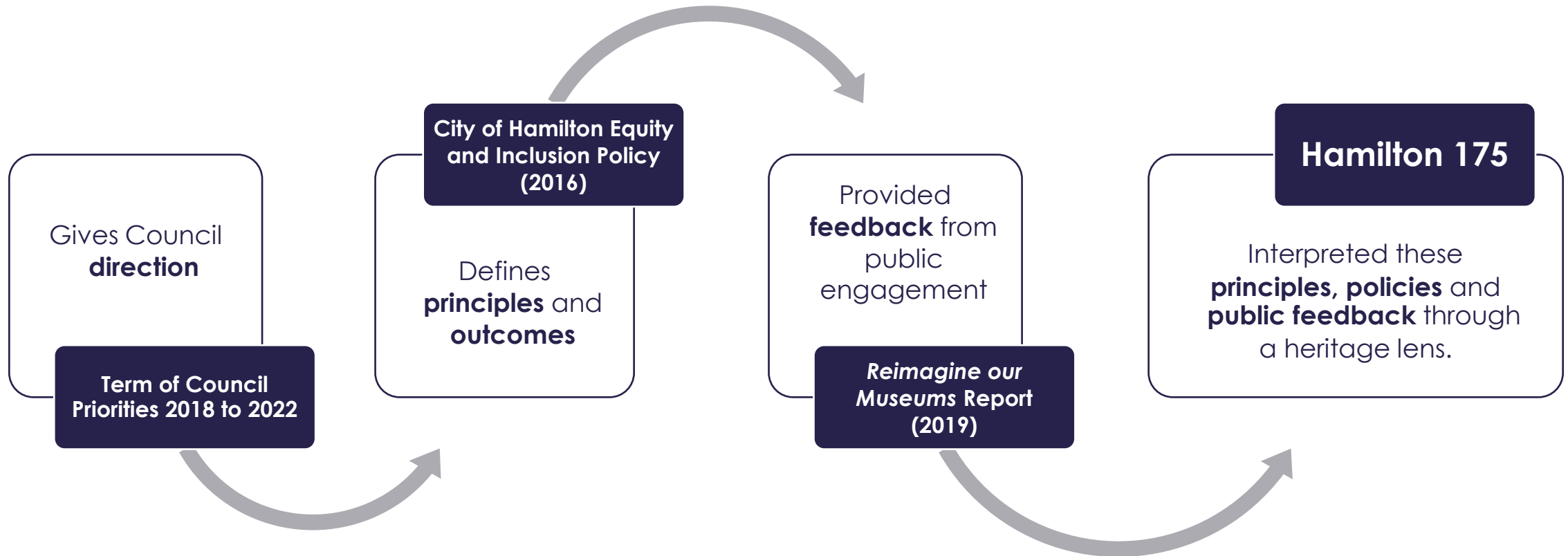
A co-created platform empowering Hamilton communities to preserve and share their heritage, histories and narratives through digital storytelling.

The website launched on November 30, 2021, as part of **Hamilton 175**, a digital commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the city's founding.

Background

Hamilton 175 & HamiltonCivicMuseums.ca

Background to the Approach



Details

The Hamilton Civic Museums Digital Storytelling Platform

**The website
launched with
seven co-created
exhibitions**



The Brightside Neighbourhood

Explores the stories, voices and legacies of Brightside, a vital neighbourhood of workers and immigrants that once thrived in the heart of Hamilton's industrial district.



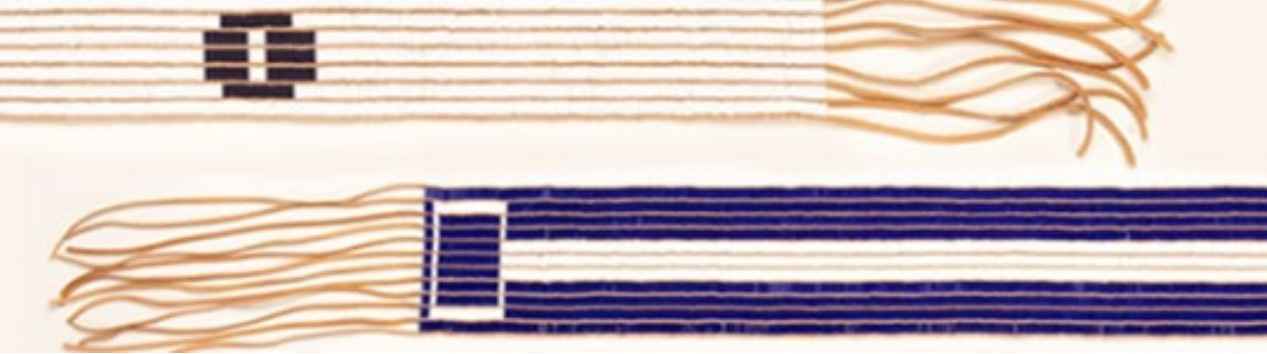
Points of Pride

A place-based resource designed to reveal and celebrate sites of 2SLGBTQ+ heritage in Hamilton. This expanding and evolving archive exhibits and connects often invisible or erased visual, oral and spatial narratives across time and space.



Struggle and Survival

Epidemics and Pandemics have devastated the city at various times and, in each case, changed Hamilton. This exhibition surveys the impact of three historic disease outbreaks: the 1854 cholera epidemic, tuberculosis at the turn of the 20th Century, and the 1918 Influenza.



Talking About Treaties

The exhibition is a virtual space to present multimedia and interactive content explorations about treaties and topics related to Indigenous territories covering both the city of Hamilton area and the province of Ontario.



“...and still I rise” African Canadian Workers in Ontario, 1900 – 2000

The exhibition traces the story of the Black community in the 20th century, highlighting the contributions of Black Canadian workers to Ontario and to the Canadian struggle for human rights.



Stories of Migration and Belonging

The exhibition provides insight into peoples' journeys to Hamilton through video storytelling, showcasing the diversity of contemporary immigration while at the same time underscoring the common humanity that binds us all.

Hamilton's History Timeline

The land we now call Hamilton has a multifaceted history extending beyond 175 years. In this infinitely expandable timeline interface, we highlight Hamilton's past, present and future with content crowdsourced from the community.

Accessibility

Request to Web Developers

Launch a fully responsive, AODA and WCAG 2.0-compliant* website delivering a compelling user experience focused on ease of navigation, optimal functionality, design consistency and content quality.

* Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG)

Outcome

The website is deemed compliant through various web accessibility checkers.

It also meets WCAG Level AA success criteria with allowable exceptions for:

- [1.2.4 \(live captions\)](#)
- [1.2.5 \(pre-recorded audio descriptions\)](#)

Our commitment is to move beyond compliance and into best practices for the user experience as we continue to grow and evolve the site.

Accessibility: Review

Existing features (highlights)

- Defined content hierarchy and order predictability
- Alt text for images and graphics
- Colour contrast
- Text legibility (16px by default)
- Time coded video captions
- Audio transcripts
- No auto-play or time-based experiences

Known gaps

- Videos from third parties
- Embedded content
- Social media plug-ins
- ASL interpretation for videos
- Downloadable documents

Future

The Hamilton Civic Museums Digital Storytelling Platform

What's next...

- Enhance and improve the accessibility features based on user feedback
- Support community-based digital storytelling projects
- Expand and diversify the content through partnerships
- Add new features to improve the overall user experience
- Open to learning and prototyping with this new digital environment
- Develop a digital strategy.

Thank you!

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