



MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Fort Edmonton Park named as a finalist for International Award

Fort Edmonton Park – the 2017 recipient of the Alberta Museums Associations (AMA)'s *Robert R. Janes Award for Social Responsibility* – has been recognized internationally for their reconciliation work by being named as a finalist for *The Best in Heritage Awards Projects of Influence 2018*.

The signing of two Memoranda of Understanding with Treaty Six First Nations and the Métis Nation of Alberta in 2015 provided the groundwork for a new relationship and collaborative process of reconciliation, and marked the beginning of a new approach to representing the culture and history of First Nations and Métis people at the Fort. This affirmed Fort Edmonton's commitment to ensure the voices and perspectives of First Nations and Métis communities are included in the development of programming and narratives, and contribute to the long-term vision and direction of the institution. Most tangibly, this process of engagement informed the forthcoming expansion of the Park including the creation of an *Indigenous People's Experience* area, which will feature new and expanded Indigenous interpretation, immersive visitor experiences, and a Youth Indigenous Volunteer Program.

"We congratulate Fort Edmonton Park on this tremendous honour" says Meaghan Patterson, AMA Executive Director / CEO. "It is another example of how our member institutions show courageous and collaborative leadership to truly embrace the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. This honour is particularly noteworthy as it shows that Alberta museums are doing work that is being noticed on a global scale; as one of the finalists, Fort Edmonton Park joins an elite group of twenty museums from across the world that are contributing to engaged communities and a great quality of life."

The Awards will be presented at the 17th Annual *Best in Heritage Awards Projects of Influence* Conference, to be held in Dubrovnik, Croatia from September 26 – 28, 2018.

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Background

The Best in Heritage Awards Projects of Influence is an annual, global conference featuring award-winning museum, heritage, and conservation projects that have been recognized by professional juries over the past year for their outstanding quality. Organized by the European Heritage Association based in Zagreb, Croatia, this international event showcases the best of the best of international achievements in the heritage sector and celebrates professional excellence through the power of example. www.thebestinheritage.com

Fort Edmonton Park is nestled on 158 acres of wooded parkland along Edmonton's River Valley. What began as a Canada Centennial project in 1967 to reconstruct the old Fort Edmonton quickly grew to encompass much more; thanks to the dedicated efforts of the Rotary Club of Edmonton and the Fort Edmonton Foundation, the Park now includes the 1846 Hudson's Bay Fort as well as the Streets of 1885, 1905, and 1920, depicting the evolution of Edmonton's early history. www.fortedmontonpark.ca

The Alberta Museums Association (AMA) – founded in 1971 as a non-profit society through which museum workers could meet for the benefit of Alberta's developing museum community – is active in leading, facilitating, and supporting museums in their vital role with communities. The AMA provides a variety of programs and activities for its membership with the goal of strengthening and promoting museums and museum professionals in Alberta and responds to the needs of its members through strategic advocacy; innovative professional development opportunities and networking events; and effective partnerships. www.museums.ab.ca