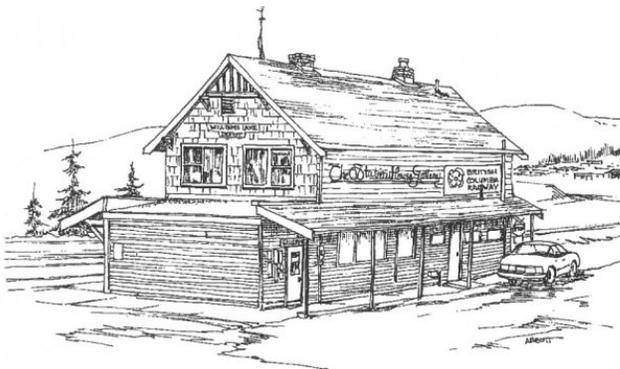


4 – PA- DACH - DISTINCTIVE ARTS, CULTURE, AND HERITAGE

DACH - Background

Arts, Culture, and Heritage refers to shared community values and experiences, as well as creative work drawn from the imagination and talents of our residents. This is expressed in a variety of different ways in our community including museums, public art, art galleries, festivals, music, language, traditions, lifestyles, dance and ecological and geographical identity. Our social well-being depends in part on the pride and strength we gain from cultural identities. Investments in arts, culture, and heritage create a community that is an attractive place to visit and to call home.



Arts and Culture

Increasingly, Williams Lake is being recognized as a growing centre for arts and cultural activities in the Interior. The city is home to a number of local artists and artisans and many renowned artists have come to the area to capture the rugged beauty of the natural landscape. Industrial development continues to drive employment in the region but community arts, culture and heritage provide excellent opportunities to diversify the local economy. More and more communities are realizing the

economic and social benefits to be gained through the support and promotion of vibrant and innovative arts and culture programs.

The City of Williams Lake currently supports, in partnership with the Regional District, the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society (CCACS) whose functions include managing the Central Cariboo Arts Centre and supporting and coordinating the development of arts and culture in the Central Cariboo.



There are a number of high caliber arts and cultural events held each year in the area. A community rich in cultural events encourages tourists to visit the area, and serves to retain and attract people to the city.



Heritage and History

The celebration and promotion of the region's history and heritage is another resource important to our community. A community's heritage resources are the physical elements of the past that make up each city or region's unique characteristics. heritage buildings, structures, sites and landscapes reflect the evolution of Williams Lake and give our community its sense of



identity and pride. Many of the heritage buildings and structures have disappeared through fires and demolition. The City has recently established a heritage registry and Heritage Committee who will identify buildings for registration. This committee has started with identifying the first heritage building to be registered in Williams Lake as the Station House Gallery. In addition to heritage buildings, the downtown of Williams Lake is splattered with colorful heritage murals and plaques related to heritage sites which are remind residents and visitors of the history of the region and town.

The inclusion of heritage in the *Official Community Plan* reflects a commitment to the preservation and promotion of our heritage resources. The city's heritage will also be promoted through the support of cultural events, such as the Williams Lake Stampede. Further, design elements of new developments will incorporate heritage features representing of the past.

DACH - Goals and Objectives

Our diverse arts, cultures and heritages are recognized and celebrated as integral to our community's identity, attracting new residents and visitors to Williams Lake. The distinctive Arts and Culture of Williams Lake represents the people who live in the Community.

From Imagine Our Future ICSP, in 2035, we know we will have achieved this goal when:

...local arts, culture and heritage programs and activities are accessible to all members of the community from youth to families and elders and contribute to community engagement.

...local attendance levels are high at arts, culture and heritage programs and attract visitors from outside the region, supporting the local economy and employment opportunities.

... local diversity is honoured and celebrated through arts culture and heritage programs including our long-standing First Nations history and traditions, our Indo-Canadian community, our pioneering spirit, our ranching history, and the diversity of our cultural backgrounds.

...venues, programs and activities remain accessible, relevant and affordable for residents and visitors of all income levels, abilities and backgrounds.

...the arts community continues to contribute to community planning, economic and tourism development strategies.

Specific Objectives for the arts, culture and heritage from previous plans and policies that are consistent with the input from the Imagine Our Future process include:

1. Promoting and supporting arts and culture programs within the City of Williams Lake;
2. Encouraging continued heritage awareness; and
3. Continue the preservation of the unique heritage resources and landscape vistas in the City of Williams Lake.



DACH - Specific Policy Directions

Arts, Culture and heritage policies have been grouped into two policy directions being:

- **Arts and Culture;** and
- **Heritage and History.**



Photo: Williams Lake Museum

In addition to the specific policies later in this section that are related to the two specific policy directions, the following general policies are applicable:

- DACH.1** Contribute to the creation of a vision for arts, culture, and heritage in the region, including a special focus on the role of cultural tourism.
- DACH.2** Integrate the Arts, Culture, and Heritage Strategic Priority Area of the ICSP into other relevant strategies, plans and policies, such as the city's economic development strategy.
- DACH.3** Promote program initiatives that support arts, culture, and heritage organizations with capacity building, marketing, communications, and coordination.

DACH -Arts and Culture

- DACH.4** Work with the arts community to incorporate additional art in public spaces and community facilities.
- DACH.5** Assist with communications to increase the number of patrons at events, facilities and attractions.
- DACH.6** Support the development of art facilities and events which celebrate the diverse range of cultures in Williams Lake and surrounding areas.

- DACH.7** Partner with community groups, in particular our First Nation partners, to increase awareness of cultural opportunities, locally, regionally, and beyond.
- DACH.8** Work with the local First Nations communities to preserve, protect and celebrate local First Nations art.
- DACH.9** Support the Central Cariboo Arts and Culture Society and assist where possible in addressing key challenges.
- DACH.10** Promote the Central Cariboo Arts Centre, Museum and Station House Gallery as the focal points of Williams Lake’s “cultural district”, with close proximity to the Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex and Boitano Park where there are organized performances and farmers markets.
- DACH.11** Support community arts groups in the development of a plan for a multi-use facility to house artists, art, dedicated space for performing arts, and other cultural events in the downtown area.
- DACH.12** Enhance the area surrounding the Central Cariboo Arts Centre through initiatives such as street beautification and public art.
- DACH.13** Support partnerships to promote arts and culture programming and activities for youth to develop and display their artistic talents.

DACH - Heritage and History




Station House – Statement of Significance

Description
 The Station House is a two storey weatherboard building located adjacent to the railway tracks on the corner of Oliver Street and Mackenzie Avenue in Williams Lake, British Columbia. It has a gable roof with covered porches extending the length of the building on both sides and a single storey addition to the southern end of the building.

Heritage Value
 Constructed in 1920, the station house is valued as one of only two first generation Pacific Great Eastern Railway Stations remaining in the Cariboo. The building is believed to be the oldest surviving building in Williams Lake. It has been the focal point of business and social activities in Williams Lake since the City was incorporated. In the 1980's, the community united to transform the Station House into an art gallery, retaining some features of its original function as a railway station, including parts of the original interior layout; this use reflects the continuing importance of the building as a source of community pride and a focus of cultural and social activity for Williams Lake residents.

Character Defining Elements

- Remaining original exterior features and materials, including chimneys, decorative brackets and trim on the façade, wood shingle cladding on upper storey, wood boarding on lower storey and flagpole.
- Original hardwood flooring.
- The original furnace located in the basement.
- Remaining evidence of original interior spatial configuration.
- The porches extending the length of both sides of the building.
- Original rail way related signage displayed on the building.
- Shingle roof.

- DACH.14** Promote and encourage the success and growth of the City’s heritage committee and heritage registry for important buildings and sites.
- DACH.15** Encourage the use of heritage protection tools, such as Heritage Conservation Covenants, to promote the preservation of our heritage resources.
- DACH.16** Work with local First Nations to preserve and protect important archeological sites.
- DACH.17** Develop and apply heritage preservation and enhancement policies and seek to incorporate heritage features into new development where appropriate, particularly in the downtown.
- DACH.18** In partnership with the local First Nations bands, support the development of a traditional arbour in the Stampede Grounds.