

River Landing Interpretive Plan

April 14, 2005

Prepared by:

ALDRICHPEARS ASSOCIATES

For:



City of
Saskatoon

Meewasin



Western Economic
Diversification Canada

Diversification de l'économie
de l'Ouest Canada



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ALDRICHPEARS ASSOCIATES

100-1455 West Georgia Street

Vancouver, BC V6G 2T3

TEL (604)669-7044 FAX (604)669-7644

For:



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de l'Ouest Canada

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These groups and individuals have a measure of knowledge and passion for the City of Saskatoon that is a truly valuable resource. It is recommended that throughout the design and implementation of the interpretive components of the project that these people be consulted and included in the process as appropriate.

Core client group:

Susan Lamb, Chief Executive Officer, Meewasin

Barb Sprigings, Heritage Coordinator, City of Saskatoon

Chris Dekker, Manager, Special Projects, Public and Intergovernmental Affairs, City of Saskatoon

Lloyd Isaak, Manager of Design and Development, Meewasin

John J. Penner, Urban Design Coordinator, City of Saskatoon

Rob Crosby, Senior Landscape Architect, Crosby Hanna & Associates

Doug Porteus, Meewasin

Attendees at visioning workshop:

Susan Lamb, Chief Executive Officer, Meewasin

Jason Wall, Interpreter, Meewasin

Andrew Whiting, Interpreter, Meewasin

Jeff O'Brien, Archivist, City of Saskatoon

Barb Sprigings, Heritage Coordinator, City of Saskatoon

Bill Delainey, Chair, Municipal Heritage Advisory Committee

Cliff Smith, River Engineer

Margo Rashley, Saskatoon Heritage Society

Carol Blenkin, Saskatoon Nature Society

Peggy Sarjeant, Saskatoon Heritage Society

Diane Wilson-Meyer, Nutana Community Association

Todd Brandt, President and CEO, Saskatoon Tourism

Butch Amundson, Senior Archaeologist, Stantec Consulting

Tony Kuchapski, General Manager, Whitecap Dakota First Nation

Brenda McDougall, Department of Native Studies, University of Saskatchewan

Rob Crosby, Senior Landscape Architect, Crosby Hanna & Associates

Ron Pears, Principal, AldrichPears Associates, Ltd.

Isaac Marshall, Associate, AldrichPears Associates, Ltd.

Marc Bélanger, Exhibit Designer, AldrichPears Associates, Ltd.

Noelle Chorney, Interpretive Planner, AldrichPears Associates, Ltd.

Design charrette participants:

Rob Crosby, Senior Landscape Architect, Crosby Hanna & Associates

Roger Green, Senior Landscape Architect, Crosby Hanna & Associates

John Penner, Urban Design Coordinator, City of Saskatoon

Béla Barabas, Urban Designer, City of Saskatoon

Cam Patterson, Landscape Design Coordinator, City of Saskatoon

Nola Stein, Designer, Meewasin

Derek Kindrachuk, Principal Architect, Kindrachuk Agrey Architecture

Reports referenced and their authors:

The Meewasin Valley Project, Raymond Moriyama Architects and Planners, 1978

South Downtown Concept Plan, CitySpaces Consulting, Crosby Hanna & Associates, Kindrachuk Agrey Architecture, 2004

Archaeological Investigations at the Clinkskill House Site, FaNp-26, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Kristin Enns-Kavanagh, Stantec Consulting Ltd.

A.L. Cole Pump Assessment Report, Kindrachuk Agrey Architects, Ltd, 1994

Participants in one-on-one interviews:

Ruth Wright Millar, Historian

Terry Scaddan, Executive Director, The Partnership

Phyllis Lodoen, Executive Director, Riversdale Business Improvement District

Tanya Mullis, Executive Director, Broadway Business Improvement District

Art Mark, Community Member

Bob Kowaluk, Community Member

Randy Fernets, Saskatoon Tourism

Todd Brandt, Saskatoon Tourism

Jeff O'Brien, City Archivist

Linda Frank, President, Persephone Theatre

Tibor Feheregyhazi, Artistic Director, Persephone Theatre

Sheldon Born, General Manager, Persephone Theatre

Tony Badger, Stage 3

Don Kerr, Historian

Debbie Claude, Coordinator, Saskatoon Farmers' Market

Rusty Chartier, Founder, Saskatoon Farmers' Market

Kim Newlove, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator, Saskatoon Public School Board

Pat Taylor, Learning Resources Branch, Saskatoon Public School Board

Judy Byers, Project Leader, Online Learning Centre

Jennifer Berthelot, Lead Teacher, Online Learning Centre

George Charpentier, Saskatoon Separate School Board

Cheryl Troupe, Gabriel Dumont Institute

Warren Buffalo, Whitecap Dakota First Nation

Sandra Grismer, Saskatchewan Craft Council

Don Hefner, Artist

Ted Mitchell, Chief Executive Officer, Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority

Kathy Shirkey, Marketing Manager, Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority

Cheryl Brown, Local History Room, Saskatoon Public Library

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Prepared by:

AldrichPears Associates Ltd

for:

The Meewasin Valley Authority

The City of Saskatoon

Executive Summary

1.0 Introduction

The subtle richness of history in Saskatoon's south downtown, in particular on the River Landing site, is often hidden from the casual observer. The River Landing Interpretive Plan aims to reveal the secrets of the site's unique history by providing guiding principles for the development of stories just waiting to be told.

After an initial visioning workshop and careful analysis of the site and local resources, the resulting stories were recorded and potential media explored. The resulting report provides a layer of meaning to the River landing that pays respect to the past while looking to Saskatoon's future. Visitors to the site — including long-time residents of Saskatoon — will experience first-hand that “Saskatoon Shines!”

2.0 Site Access and Circulation

A study of site access and circulation determined the best locations to attract visitors to the site. Vehicle access from the bridges to the north connects the city to the river, while pedestrian traffic is drawn primarily from the south, connecting the river to the city. Major east/west linkages are planned to help unify the site. Underpasses should be made inviting and welcoming.

3.0 Site Functions

A variety of public functions are identified in the plan, including:

- the popular and thriving Farmer's Market
- cultural destinations such a performing arts theatre, interpretive centre and special event facilities along the river
- riverfront leisure activities connecting River Landing to other riverfront parks
- public amenities such as hotels, restaurants, brew pubs and shops.

4.0 Resources

This interpretive plan takes into account resources in the City of Saskatoon whose existence aid the development of a meaningful interpretive experience. They include:

- previous studies, such as the Moriyama Plan 1977 and the South Downtown Concept Plan 2004 and several archaeological studies of site features, such as the Clinkskill Foundation, the Gathercole building, and the A.L. Cole Pumphouse.
- potential image sources include the Saskatoon Public Library, City of Saskatoon and the University of Saskatchewan Archives.
- stories provided by professional and amateur historians and long-term residents of the city.
- talents of the local arts community that should be tapped for both enriching the interpretive experience and beautifying sites and buildings.
- existing site features, which provide a pleasing combination of natural and urban environments, and new and historic features.
- Meewasin's earlier interpretive concept provides an excellent springboard for developing the River Landing.

5.0 Interpretive Goals and Objectives

Within the goal of creating a premier destination in the south downtown for residents of Saskatchewan, it is essential to reach two other important goals:

1. Provide a sense of place by creating an emotional connection to the area's history and legends as well as its landscape and natural history.
2. Connect visitors to the city and the region by interpreting site-specific features which focus on topics that are significant to the region.

Where appropriate, interpretation may direct visitors to areas that more appropriately tell stories in detail, such as the Western Development Museum or Wanuskewin Heritage Park and the University of Saskatchewan. There are limitations to outdoor interpretation, particularly in Saskatoon's extreme climate. Media choices and the depth of interpretation in outdoor locations should reflect that. Stories that require deeper exploration are best treated in indoor locations.

6.0 Interpretive Approach

Based on proven principles of interpretive design and visitor experiences derived from a visioning session with stakeholders, the interpretive team identified three themed 'pathways' across the site which relate to the river, the culture of the area and the market environment.

Interpretation in these areas will speak to the common overarching theme, *River Landing: Discover a Sense of Place*. Stories will focus on such 'big ideas' as: “A People Place”, “Cultural Connections”, “The Nature of the River”, and “Celebrate the Past, Look to the Future”.

Specific stories on the site are placed in the most appropriate location with the most appropriate media. Stories can be told indoors or outdoors, as text on interpretive panels, through sculptural or artistic elements, and on murals and banners. Specific stories and media options can be reviewed in detail in the interpretive content matrix in Section 5 of the document.

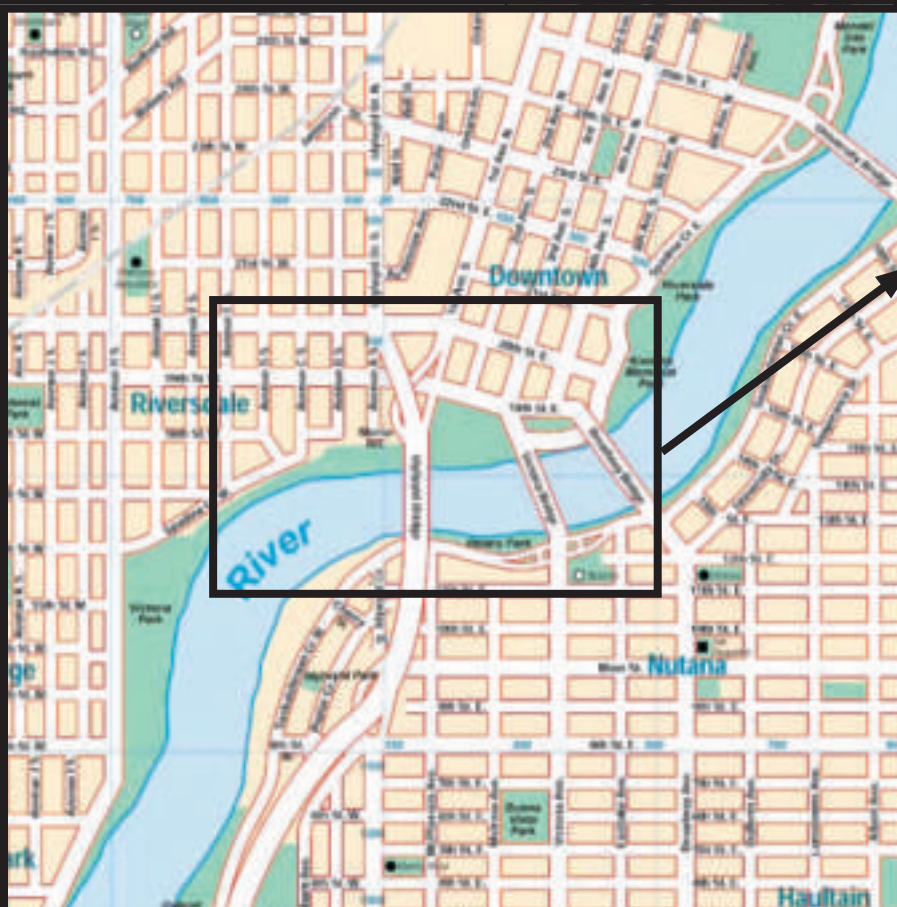
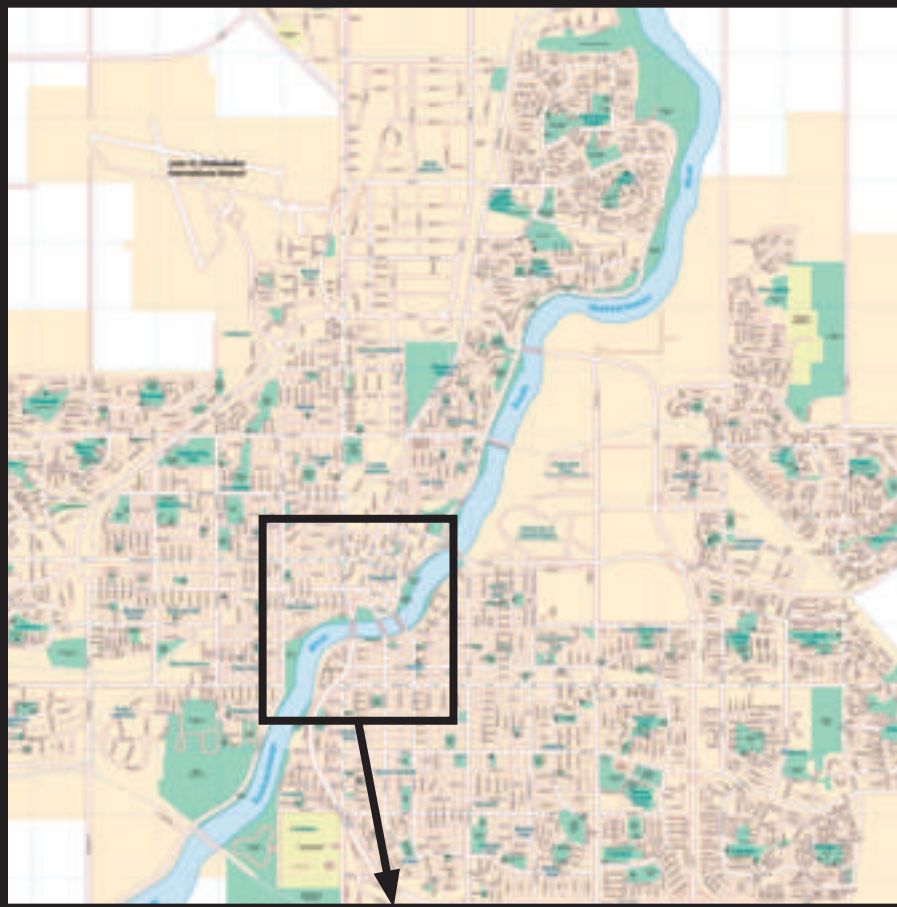
7.0 Next Steps

he contents of this plan can be used immediately as a reference for planners abd designers who are looking to add meaning to any River Landing development, from commercial to cultural.

Over the long term, the concepts outlined here will provide the framework for the content, look and feel of outdoor interpretive signage and clarify the vision for indoor spaces and the cultural centre.

The expected result of using this document as a reference for the River Landing development is the creation of a thoughtful, unified and coherent experience that sings with that 'sense of place' in which visitors will delight for years to come.

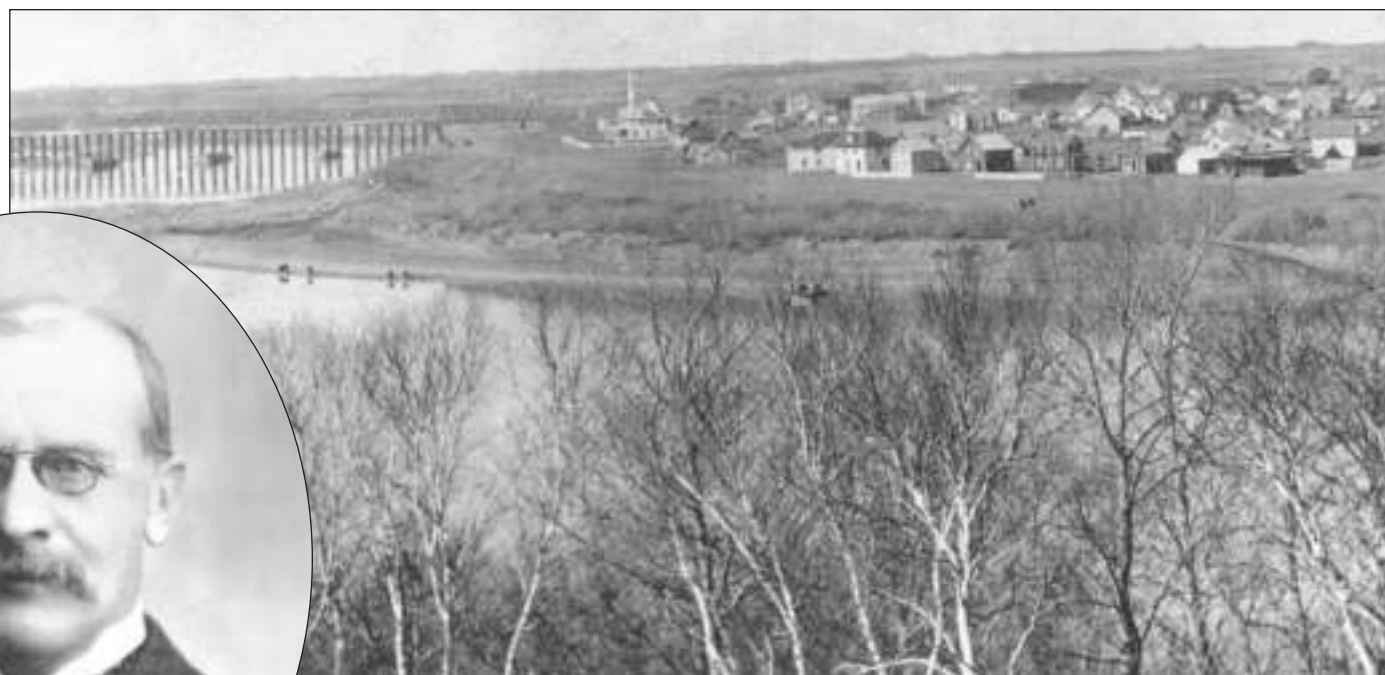
City of Saskatoon



Saskatoon South Downtown

River Landing Site





River Landing Interpretive Plan

April 14, 2005

1.0 Introduction

The River Landing is a historically significant site in Saskatoon but its stories are hidden from the casual observer. This Interpretive Plan aims to reveal the secrets of the site's unique history by providing guiding principles for the development of interpretation. A careful analysis of the site and local resources has been conducted. The resulting stories and media captured in this report provide a layer of meaning to the South Downtown that pays respect to the past while looking at Saskatoon's future. Visitors to the site — including long-time residents of Saskatoon — will experience first-hand that "Saskatoon Shines!"

1.1 History of Site

Saskatoon's River Landing has played a key role in the city's history while the shape and function of the site have changed radically.

From Wild Land to Early Settlement (pre-1905)

Before settlement, the riverbanks of the South Saskatchewan were a rest stop for wildlife as well as bison hunting parties following the herds on their yearly migration.

After settlement early settlers could watch the buildings of the Saskatoon Temperance Colony being erected on the other side of the river. A tent city sprang up south of 19th Street when the Barr Colonists rested here before dispersing across the province. Immigration Hall was the first federal building in Saskatoon. Railroads replaced wagon trails. A railroad bridge was built.

Booming Town, Fledgling City (1905–1940)

False-fronted wood buildings sprang up, housing livery stables, auto retail stores, bicycle shops and boarding houses. James Clinkskill built a grand house at the base of the new traffic bridge. The new power plant brought the promise of technology and modern convenience. Saskatoon experienced a great boom and then an equally dramatic bust.

Chinese immigrants opened shops. 19th Street near Avenues C and D, became Chinatown, complete with grocers, services and the Chinese Nationalist League. The city purchased the land bit by bit, and eventually approved the construction of Saskatoon's Technical College, soon followed by the Saskatoon Arena.

Coming of Age (1940–2005)

The buildings on the site, from the mid- to late-20th century, changed hands several times, and many were demolished. Clinkskill's house remains as a buried foundation. Remnants of Saskatoon's Technical College, renamed the Gathercole building, have been saved and await reuse in upcoming developments. Immigration Hall is nothing but a shadow in an old photograph, and all that is left of the A.L. Cole generating station is the decommissioned pump house and a buried foundation, which still holds a commanding view of the river. The old railyards are gone—the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge and Midtown Plaza have taken their place.

Looking to the Future (2005–)

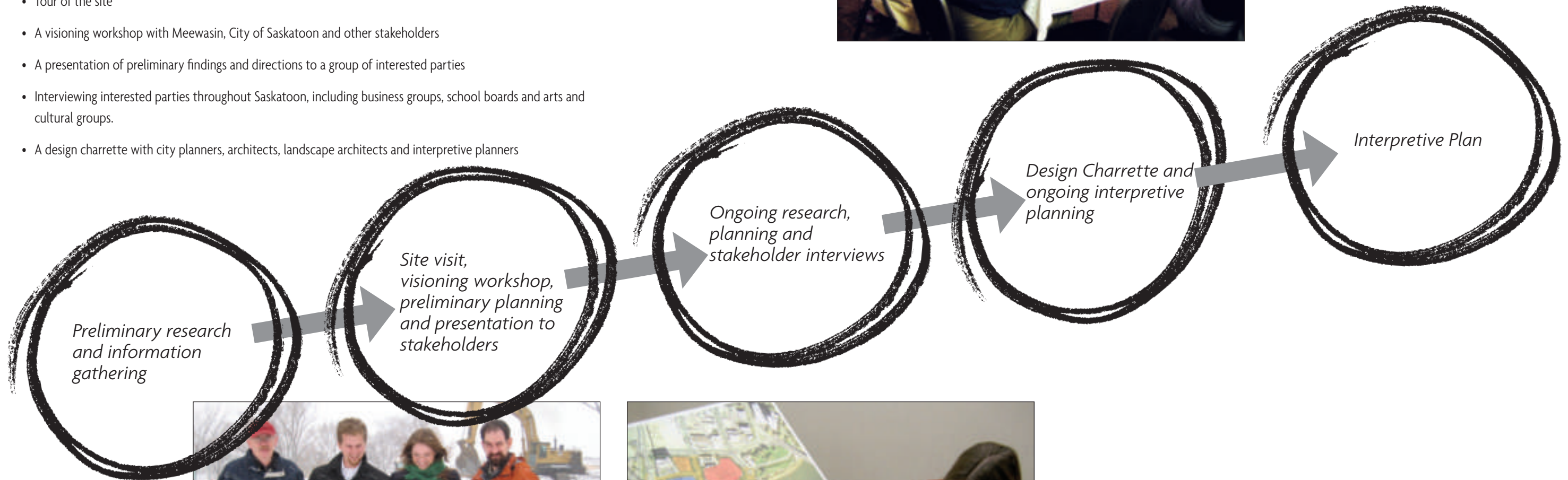
This evolution is far from over. Saskatoon is a young city with many changes still to come. The new River Landing development is an opportunity to recognize all that came before and to shape the contribution of the site to the city in the future.

1.2 Process

An interpretive plan is needed to inform the ongoing work of the City of Saskatoon's streetscape development and Meewasin's work on the riverfront, both of which are key public areas of the River Landing development. Long-term and holistic interpretive planning is also required for the entire site, which is at varying stages of design and development. The purpose of this document is to provide a list of recommendations that will be of use to the Meewasin Valley Authority and the City of Saskatoon, as well as landowners and tenants that develop individual areas of the site. Adhering to recommendations will ultimately create a cohesive feel to a site that will inevitably have multiple owners.

To prepare this interpretive plan, the team has undertaken several tasks:

- Initial gathering of materials and preparatory research
- Tour of the site
- A visioning workshop with Meewasin, City of Saskatoon and other stakeholders
- A presentation of preliminary findings and directions to a group of interested parties
- Interviewing interested parties throughout Saskatoon, including business groups, school boards and arts and cultural groups.
- A design charrette with city planners, architects, landscape architects and interpretive planners



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for:

The Meewasin Valley Authority

The City of Saskatoon

2.0 Situation Analysis

2.1 Site

The site has been carefully analysed over the past 25 years. This report builds on several earlier planning reports that remain relevant to the current situation of the River Landing site. Two key reports directly inform this work: The Moriyama Plan and the South Downtown Concept Plan.

The Moriyama Plan 1977

Raymond Moriyama's Meewasin Valley Project 100 Year Conceptual Master Plan (1977) produced a sound basis for all future development and resulted in the creation of the Meewasin Valley Authority. Some key elements of the Moriyama plan:

- The intent is enrichment of life
- The spine is the river
- The base is the natural system
- The broad concept is health and fit
- The principle is access to and along the river
- The theme is linkage
- The operational model is one of links and nodes
- The parts are the dreams and realities passed down by the pioneers and the forefathers
- The perceived and stated needs of the people today are the observed needs and experiences of the project team
- The key is balance
- The process links the creativity of people and the dynamics of time to the long-range potentials and options.

The Saskatoon City Core Link, our area of study, was identified as having the following nodes: conservation, education, cultural arts, recreation and commerce. These are important concepts to keep in mind when developing an interpretive plan that recognizes uniqueness of the site.

South Downtown Concept Plan 2004

The South Downtown Concept Plan, prepared by CitySpaces Consulting Ltd, identifies several other studies that provided information and technical work that contributed to the 2004 plan. For interpretive planning purposes, the synthesis of these reports in the 2004 Concept Plan is sufficient.

The Concept Plan establishes several important planning principles to consider during any planning exercise, including interpretive planning, to varying degrees of relevance. The principles that directly affect the interpretive planning process have been highlighted below and will be addressed in detail through an analysis of interpretive planning principles in the next section of this document. The principles of the South Downtown Concept Plan 2004 are:

1. Support and strengthen Downtown and Riversdale
2. Plan A.L. Cole and Gathercole sites together

3. Create a distinct identity and sense of place

4. Design to be a destination

5. Design for development viability
6. Appropriate density and building heights

7. Remember the past

8. Provide for special events

9. Ensure barrier-free access

10. Plan for all day and all season use

11. Ensure a mix of land uses
12. Plan for safety and security

It is widely recognized that public spaces benefit the health of urban communities. These are places for communities to gather for a variety of cultural, recreational and commercial activities, places that are walkable and comfortable and on a human scale. A place with many levels of meaning will be busy and vibrant for years to come.

Interpretive planning specific to the River Landing site should recognize the strengthening of a 'cultural corridor' between Broadway, Downtown and Riversdale Districts, ensuring a flow of experiences, stories and people between those three historically and culturally relevant and diverse communities. As well, experiences along the River Landing should draw Saskatoon to the river, and bring the river to Saskatoon.

2.1.1 Site Access

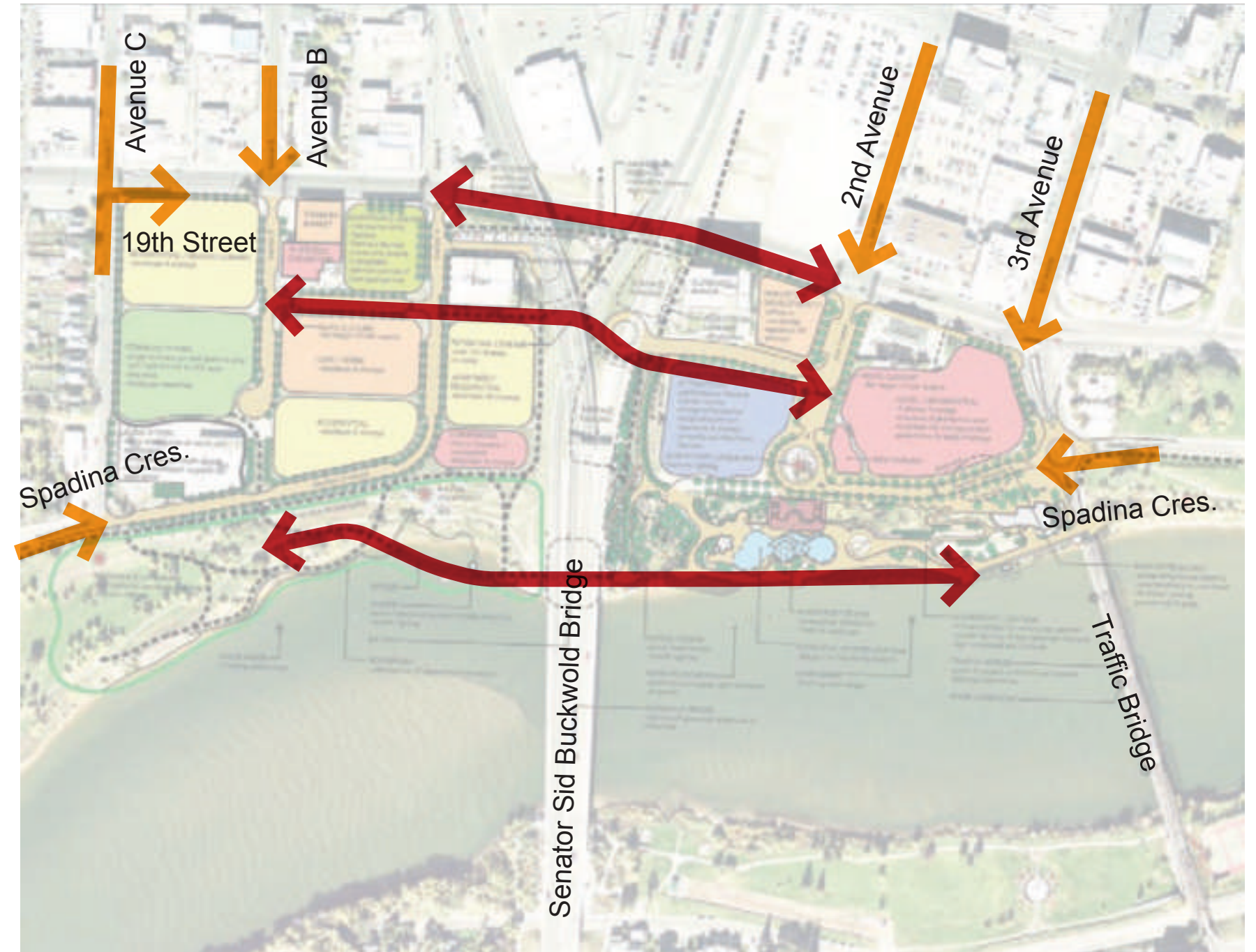
The site is accessible primarily from the north and secondarily from the east and west. Northbound traffic on the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge will have direct views onto the site but will have to turn around to approach the site from the north. Direct vehicular access to the river may be available at a possible boat launch west of the Buckwold Bridge.

Currently the riverfront is popular for recreational activities like walking, cycling, jogging, and roller blading. These activities will be encouraged in the proposed redevelopment as well as providing opportunities for staging and viewing events.

Visitors will be drawn from the city to the river (vehicular traffic) and from the river to the city (pedestrian access).

2.1.2 East/West Circulation

The Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge and associated on and off ramps run through the site. Major east/west linkages are planned which are intended to help unify the site. Major consideration will be given to making the underpasses inviting and welcoming. Interpretation and site signage can be used to encourage visitors to venture from one side of the site to another.



Base plan courtesy of CitySpaces Consulting

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for:

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The City of Saskatoon

2.1.3 Site Functions




The site will be developed to include the various functions and features illustrated below as part of the South Downtown Concept Plan.

In addition to public amenities such as a restaurant, hotel and pub, the main functions of the public spaces are:

- market square
- cultural destinations and special events
 - theatre, interpretive centre, river-based events, street events
- appreciation of the riverfront
 - parks and recreation
 - provision for parking



Base plan courtesy of CitySpaces Consulting

-  Market Square
-  Cultural Destinations and Special Events
-  Appreciation of the Riverfront
-  Amenities – Hotel, Restaurant, Brew Pub

2.2 Resources

2.2.1 Archaeological Survey Results and Existing Site Elements

Several on-site archaeological studies have been completed for the South Downtown site as well as other locations in Saskatoon. Artifacts at the River Landing site are primarily urban, although they do represent multiple uses of the site. No pre-contact artifacts from the site could be dated, but it is likely that they're from a similar time period as artifacts found in other locations and dated at 6,000 years before present.

Some artifacts speak directly to certain time periods and businesses in the region. A Bowman Brothers bicycle tire patch, for example, is a remnant of the bicycle and motorcycle repair business on the site between 1908 and 1917. Remains of the Saskatoon Bottleworks and other businesses were also found.

Artifacts could be used in interpretive displays or in public programming events as examples of what archaeologists can find and what they learn from them.



The Gathercole Building

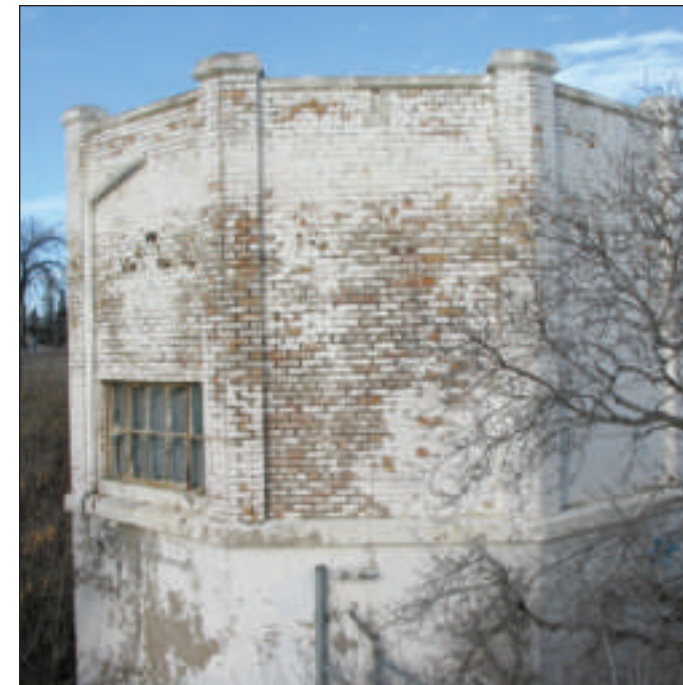
Before the Gathercole building was dismantled, an archaeological survey was completed which identified historically relevant and visually arresting pieces that could be salvaged and used in other buildings or elsewhere on the River Landing site. The relevant pieces include the Gathercole Arches, which could be best placed in a prominent and honourable location on the River Landing site.

Other, smaller items, such as doors, frames, plaster carvings and window and door hardware, could be used in new buildings on the site and interpreted, or potentially treated in an artistic fashion. Tiling and brickwork patterns could also inspire or contribute to new building design.



The Clinkskill Foundation

The foundation of the home of the first mayor of the city of Saskatoon, James Clinkskill, is one of two remnants of historical buildings on the River Landing site. He occupied the home from 1906-1913. It then became the armoury for the 29th Saskatchewan Light Horse Regimental Headquarters and the 105th Fusiliers Division. The foundation is buried, but intact.



The A.L. Cole Pumphouse

The only intact historical building on the site, the A.L. Cole Pumphouse is a robust industrial relic of early life in Saskatoon. Built in 1911 to provide cooling water to the power plant, it was decommissioned along with the power plant in 1983. The brick octagonal construction of the pumphouse makes it an industrial structure "unique in the prairies" according to the A.L. Cole Pump House Assessment Report prepared by Kindrachuk Agrey Architects in 1994.

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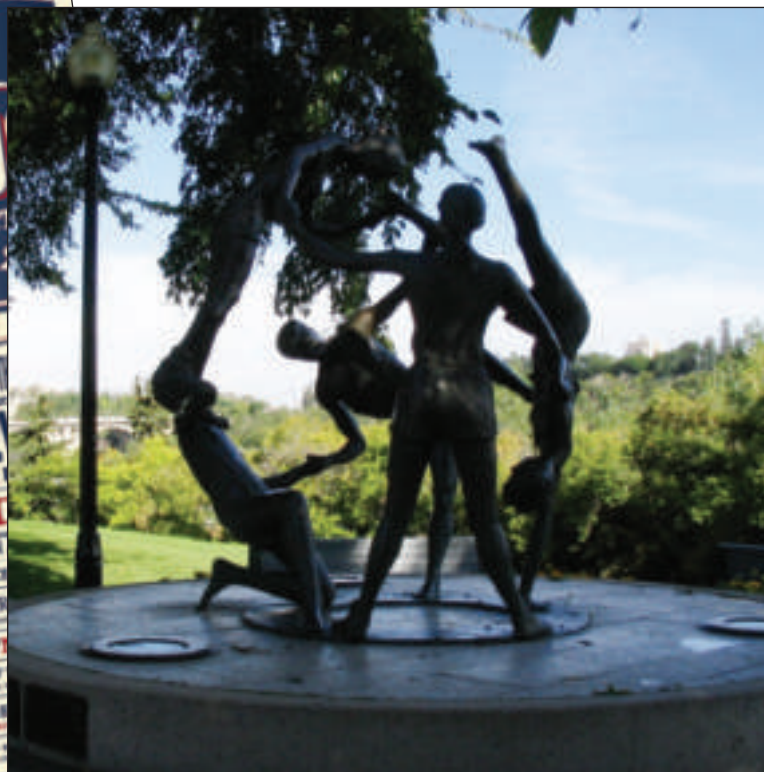
for:

The Meewasin Valley Authority

The City of Saskatoon

Local Information

The StarPhoenix



River Landing Interpretive Plan
April 14, 2005

2.2.2 Image Resources

The Local History Room at the Saskatoon Public Library is a key source of historical images. The City of Saskatoon Archives can provide fire insurance maps and the Henderson Directories. The two resources are invaluable for locating past buildings and businesses in Saskatoon's downtown. Further historical images may be available from the University of Saskatchewan Archives.

More images are available from existing facilities or groups that may end up using the site, such as the Saskatoon Farmers' Market.

2.2.3 Story Resources

An important published resource is the Saskatoon History Review. However, one of the most important resources for stories and other information on the River Landing site and the city of Saskatoon is the people who have taken an interest in Saskatoon's history. Bob Kowaluk has been scanning historic Star Phoenix articles since he was young and has taken it upon himself to educate Saskatoonians on little-known facts about his city. Don Kerr and Ruth Wright Millar have published several valuable books on Saskatoon's history, and are individual goldmines of information.

These are only a few of the many people who have shared their stories for the benefit of the River Landing interpretive plan. It would be helpful as design and development continues to include them as fact checkers and ongoing references. Their collections of information, created from years of research, are extremely valuable.

2.2.4 The Arts Community

Saskatoon has no shortage of local talent. Local artists should be commissioned to provide sculptures, murals and other works of art on the site.

Local performance artists representing local theatre companies will contribute immeasurably as well. Outdoor performances by local theatre companies would serve to both enrich the site experience and provide marketing opportunities and heightened awareness of live theatre in the city. Wherever possible, it is recommended that opportunities be considered for live programming, to take advantage of the skills available.

2.2.5 Site Features

The River

The South Saskatchewan River provides the southern boundary to the site. On its own it is beautiful. From an interpretive point of view, it provides several opportunities, from stories of its hydrology and surrounding natural habitats, to efforts at navigation, to how people interact with it today. Upgrades to the riverfront, including stabilization of banks, soil reclamation on the A.L. Cole site, and habitat enhancement all provide further opportunities.

The Clinkskill Foundation

The Clinkskill foundation offers an opportunity to interpret archaeology, the early history of Saskatoon, and how places change over time.

A.L. Cole Pumphouse

The pumphouse offers excellent views of the river and could be retrofitted to serve as a landmark or to provide an overview plaza on its roof. It could also be retrofitted into an interpretive display area.

The features to be built as part of the redevelopment

Site improvements of riverfront areas offer several interpretive opportunities, including:

- Artistic treatments along the trails
- Interpretive nodes and interactives at pedestrian stopping/gathering areas
- Heritage and contemporary stories at the historic landing near the Traffic Bridge



2.2.6 Meewasin Interpretive Program

The existing Meewasin Valley Interpretive Concept has provided the framework for establishing the Meewasin Valley Interpretive Centre and Beaver Creek Conservation Area as well as several other interpretive nodes throughout the valley. Its Mission Statement, “to ensure a healthy and vibrant river valley, with a balance between human use and conservation; and to preserve the natural and heritage resources of the valley,” fits snugly with the goals of the River Landing Interpretive Plan.

A future interpretive centre on the River Landing site should, as part of its mandate, incorporate the interpretive centre’s existing program goal “to promote public awareness and appreciation, as well as understanding and enjoyment of Saskatoon through interpreting its settlement in the past, present and future.”

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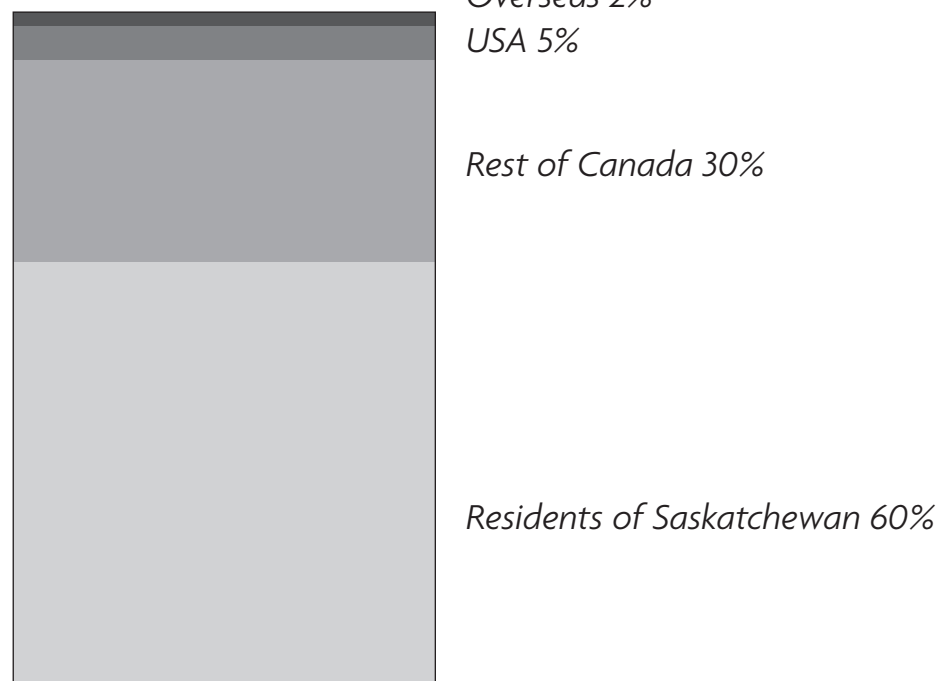
The City of Saskatoon

2.3 Audience

A summary of tourism in Saskatoon by Saskatoon Tourism identified over two million visits to Saskatoon annually, including over one million overnight visits. Over 60% of those visits were from within the province, with another 30% coming from neighboring provinces and the rest of Canada, 5% from the United States and 2% from overseas.

These statistics clearly show the audience is primarily local. With 60% of the market coming from within Saskatchewan the interpretive program should appeal to the local demographic — a mix of families, school groups, recreational users and seniors.

Current Market Composition

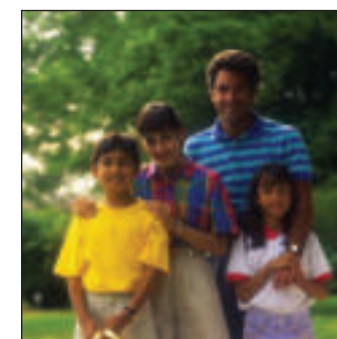


Source: Saskatoon Tourism



School Groups

School trips from Saskatoon and surrounding areas comprise a potential audience. Interpretive treatments and exhibits should take into account curriculum requirements.



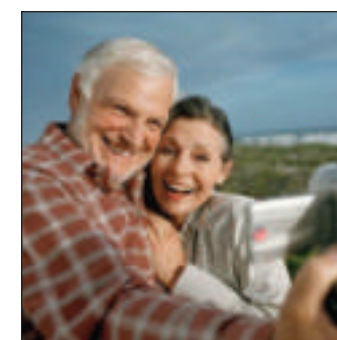
Families

There is interest in the city for a centre for children. By making the exhibits appeal to families, from the youngest child to the wisest grandparent, the River Landing will attract a wide demographic and become a destination for families.



Recreational Users

The Meewasin Trail is already used year-round by joggers, cyclists and commuters. The interpretive program should take into consideration the nature of their use of the site. They will be cruising through the site, not necessarily coming for its stories.



Seniors

Interpretive treatments and other features of the site must appeal both to Saskatoon and Saskatchewan residents of all ages. Appealing to the needs of seniors will ensure they return again and again.

3.0 Interpretive Goals and Objectives

The main goal for the site is to create a **premiere destination in the South Downtown** for residents of Saskatchewan. The South Downtown Concept Plan 2004 recognizes interpretation — specifically heritage and environmental interpretation — as an important part of the successful completion of the project. The interpretive goals should contribute to the overall goal.

To this end there are two primary goals for the River Landing Interpretive Plan:

1. Provide a sense of place

2. Make connections to the city and the region

Achieving these goals will make the River Landing worth a visit. Visitors may come with a specific destination in mind (a restaurant, pub or boardwalk) but **feeling the spirit of the place and making a connection with the site will be their unexpected reward.**

3.1 Sense of Place

A sense of place emerges through an emotional connection to the history, geography and geology of an area, its flora and fauna and the legends of a place. Specific topics and stories are included in the matrix in Section 5 of this document but the main objectives towards achieving the goal of providing a sense of place are as follows:

- Describe that which makes River Landing unique.
- Interpret the significance of the River.
- Examine the natural history of the area.
- Detail the lives of the people of the valley.
- Draw attention to notable places on the site.

Ultimately the River Landing needs to be imbued with a spirit that captures the overall feeling of the place. This is not just another real estate development, rather it is a place with special meaning to residents of Saskatoon — whether they know it yet or not!

The recommendation in the South Downtown Marketing Strategy developed by Tap Communications is to brand the site as River Landing. This is a very strong step in the right direction. The historic significance of the site is communicated (the place where crossings have always been made) and the key feature of the site (the river) are captured wonderfully. The interpretive program must reinforce this idea through the voice of the text, the imagery selected and the physical design of displays.

3.2 Connect with the City and the Region

River Landing exists as it does for a reason. It has served many purposes over the years that have shaped the site, the city and, in turn, the province. In the future, how should the River Landing contribute to the social fabric of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan? The answer to this question lies in the connections that can be made to the region as a whole. At the site visitors will have limited access to natural and cultural history — topics that can best be handled by other facilities in the region. **The interpretation on the site should be limited to that which is truly of the site but focus given to that which is of significance to the region.** Objectives towards achieving this goal are as follows:

- Provide notable insights into the regional impacts of industry, immigration and transportation historically based in the River Landing.
- Encourage visitors to visit other facilities in the region that best interpret the natural and cultural history of Saskatchewan. e.g. Wanuskewin, the Western Development Museum and Beaver Creek Conservation Area.

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for:

The Meewasin Valley Authority

The City of Saskatoon

3.3 Implications

There are numerous opportunities for interpretation on the site. A key challenge will be to convey meaningful stories in an appropriate manner where it makes sense to do so. There are limitations to interpretation in an outdoor, urban environment. The weather, particularly in winter, and the risk of vandalism in an unsupervised environment are key challenges. Indoor situations offer more flexibility. Themes and stories can be fully explored. A greater variety of media, including delicate artifacts and theatrical environments, can be used.

The winter weather is an extreme limitation to what can be meaningfully interpreted outdoors. Outdoor interpretation should be limited to that which can be seen directly on the site and the media employed should be appropriate for extreme fluctuations in climate. Stories that require a more subtle approach or require deeper interpretation should be dealt with indoors at the visitor centre or in other indoor public spaces.



 Indoor opportunities for interpretation



River Landing Interpretive Plan
April 14, 2005

Base plan courtesy of CitySpaces Consulting

4.0 Interpretive Approach

An interpretive approach connects important themes and stories with experiences that will make those stories meaningful and memorable to visitors. Following solid principles of interpretive design, the approach synthesizes the desired visitor experience (identified during the stakeholder workshop), a thematic approach to storytelling, and specific stories outlined in the interpretive matrix to create an interpretive experience that is rich in both content and context.

4.1 Principles of Interpretive Design

There are basic guiding principles to creating meaningful interpretive experiences. These principles are proven to be effective in creating an environment that promotes understanding and enjoyment.



Principle 1: Begin with the visitor

- We must never forget that all exhibitions are a form of informal education and that the audience will be willing to learn only to the extent that they are willing to participate and become involved in the experience.
- An “audience” is a collection of individuals. These individuals are not all the same and come with their own personal context:
 - in levels of knowledge about the subject
 - in attitudes regarding the subject
 - in their preconceptions and biases about the subject
 - in their emotional state
 - in the social situation they bring with them (alone or not)
 - in their personal physical: age, intelligence, capabilities
- Many have only a vague idea of what experience they might have during their visit and are basically unprepared.
- We must also remember that all visitors have basic human needs for creature comforts and a safe and anxiety-free experience. This is part of thinking of the visitor experience as seamless and that everything counts, from the parking lot to the galleries and programs to the restrooms.

Principle 2: Provide cues to content and theme

- Visitors should not have to work hard to figure out what the basic story is. One way to achieve a smooth and pleasant experience, and help with the affective part of learning, is to provide cues to the content and theme of each exhibit section in the layout, design, materials and colours. This will help orient the visitor and inform him/her of the coming experience and prepare them.
- One method to achieve this is to take the overarching theme for the exhibition or component section and give the whole job a particular look and feel that conveys the story in a general and atmospheric sense. Key artifacts can be very useful in supporting this approach, as can the exhibit structures.
- Icons, symbols, graphics, architecture, key artifacts can all be used to define subsections within a gallery or exhibition.

Principle 3: Develop a variety of experiences

- Visitors come with different interests and abilities and not all parts of an exhibit can or should necessarily be of interest to everybody. Do not worry about making something that is targeted to a particular subgroup, if that suits the overall purpose of making an exhibition with maximum effectiveness. For example, children often need a special approach, as do highly educated experts.
- Provide something for everybody, within reason, of course.
- Use a wide range of media and technique. Individuals have different approaches to learning and like some media more than others do.
- Provide for a variety of pacing; some quick, some slow.
- Use humour but avoid cuteness or being overly clever.
- Use immersive techniques if appropriate. Envelop the visitor in a complete environment. Use many senses. Break down the position of detached observation, the one-way flow of sensory input. Use theatrical or other techniques to create sensory magic to allow the visitor to imagine being there.
- Use the human sense of curiosity: people like to follow up on ideas, seek out the unusual, and discover things for themselves.
- Also, use surprise! This can be manifested in many ways — visually, acoustically, theatrically, and so on.

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Principle 4: Make real world connections

- Any exhibit will be more attractive and more meaningful to visitors if they can make a personal connection to it. This could mean personal and conversational text writing, or it can use physical props or physical or verbal analogies that use examples of something from the visitors' home or work life to help connect visitors to the story.
- Show how an object was made; show people making it; Involve the visitor in a bit of real experience and allow some way to touch and experiment.
- Make connections to the community. Connect the story to activities in the current community. Provide ways to get more information or be involved in some way, maybe through work, school, play or volunteer activities. Give people something to do outside their visit.
- Use the artifacts and other content resources (images, words, AV) to illustrate a narrative, rather than displaying an object and then explaining why it is important.
- Abstractions, while necessary, should not be presented in a way that supposes a lot of preknowledge or requires a very large investment in the visitor's energy and time. This does not mean you should dumb it down but rather explain simply and clearly.

River Landing Interpretive Plan

April 14, 2005



Principle 5: Encourage creative participation

- There is a tendency to consider "interactivity" a good thing. Not always so. You want interactive visitors, not necessarily interactive exhibits. We want visitor involvement and participation, and this can take many forms, including passive.
- Creative participation
 - can be as simple as handling an interesting object
 - can be performing an experiment
 - can be some whole body activity, including virtual reality
 - can be role playing
 - can be working collaborative interactives
 - can be interacting with an interpreter
- Open-ended exploration is the best
 - try to avoid canned interactive
 - strive for a larger arc of experience
 - try to be as real and concrete as possible
- What it cannot be is mechanical, pre-determined, and boring. Right and wrong answers are not usually the right conclusion to creative participation.

Principle 6: Develop spaces for social interaction

- Human beings are social animals. Successful exhibits accommodate this and even exploit it.
- All studies show that most visitors come in groups:
 - small family groups or small groups of friends
 - larger organized tours and school groups
- Part of the solution is good architectural or space planning: adequate clearances and small places off the major circulation stream.
- More than that it is creating exhibits that allow people, at least at a number of places in the exhibition, to experience something as a group. Some theatres can even serve this purpose.
- Interpreters, animators, street theatre performers, demonstrators, can all serve as facilitators of social activity.
- Create places for families: look for things that a parent and child might both enjoy; co-opt parents into the teaching role.

4.2 Visitor Experiences

During the visioning workshop, six categories of visitor experiences were identified as ways to meet the overarching goal of creating a unique destination. We have ensured that opportunities for these types of visitor experiences are optimized throughout the River Landing site.



4.2.1 Connecting to the natural history of the river valley

Visitors can view the river, identify bird and animals species that frequent the site and explore river hydrology.



4.2.2 Cultural experiences in a market setting

Music, murals and performance art, often unique to the cultures of Saskatoon, enrich the environment at the public and farmers' market.



4.2.3 Hands-on history

Robust and moveable historical elements provide richness in park settings and opportunities for creative play steeped in Saskatoon's heritage.



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River Landing Interpretive Plan
April 14, 2005

4.2.4 Experience a sense of place

Each and every activity and discovery on the site is tied to the natural and cultural heritage of the River Landing site, past, present and future.

4.2.5 Local celebrities

Worthy 'hall-of-famers' are identified and recognized where appropriate to the site and indoors to add a personal touch to the history of Saskatoon and area.

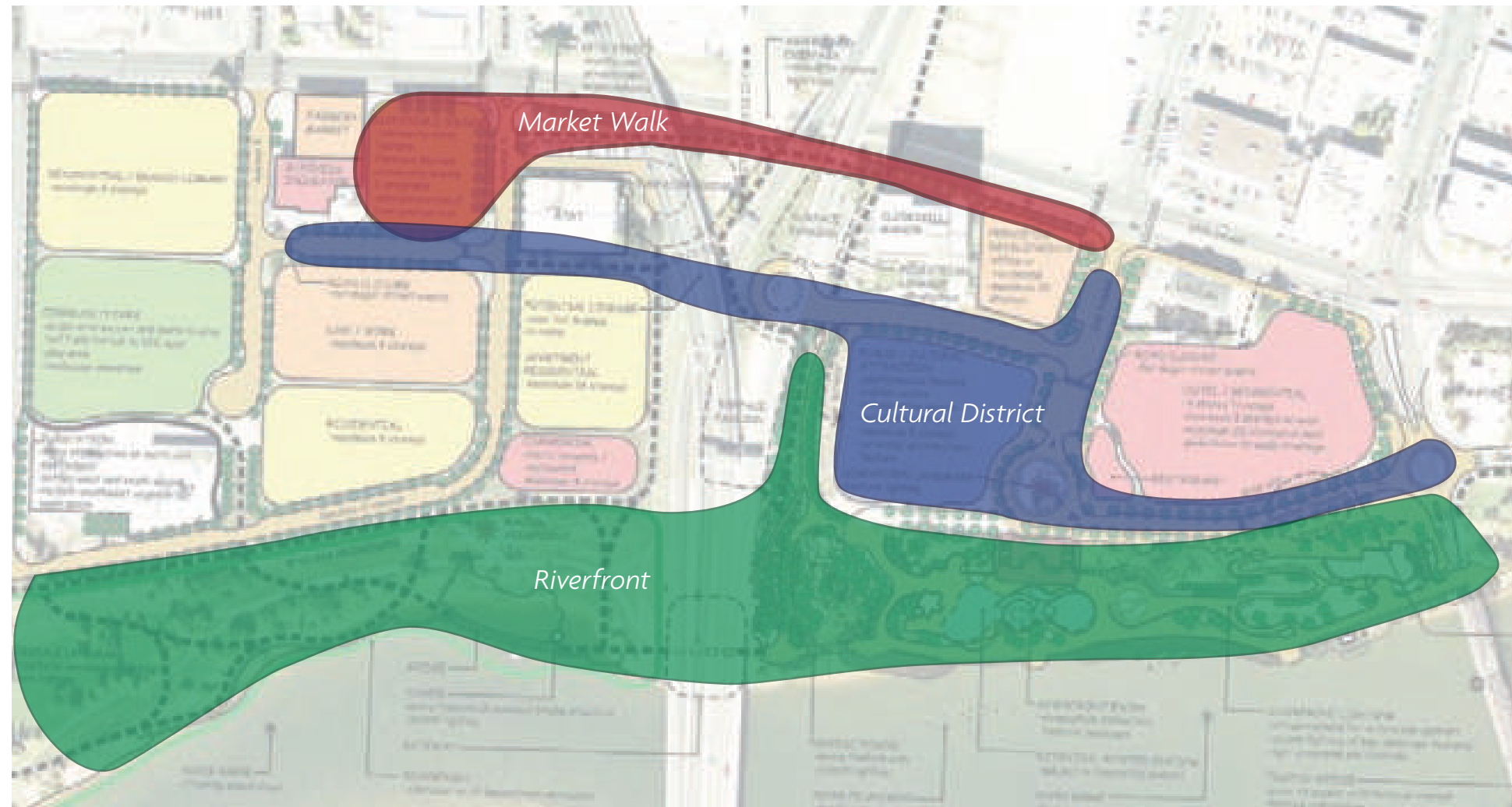
4.2.6 Active art

Children of all ages can create to their heart's content at both indoor and outdoor art program opportunities.

4.3 Opportunities

There are numerous interpretive opportunities on the site. They relate to three main topics: the river, the culture of the area and the market. Interpretation is proposed to be organized into three major interpretive zones as depicted in this diagram. The visitor experiences outlined earlier will be distributed over the entire site but core themes will be explored in these three broad areas: the market walk, the cultural district and the riverfront. These three zones emphasize the east/west connections and encourage visitors to explore the site.

Base plan courtesy of CitySpaces Consulting



4.3.1 The Market Walk

This zone includes the farmers' market, its adjacent outdoor plaza and the 19th Street underpass. Visitors will be immersed in a special place that explores the history of commerce on the site while at the same time participate in the ongoing agricultural tradition of Saskatchewan by shopping at the farmers' market.

4.3.2 The Cultural District

The heart of the cultural district is the interpretive centre and performing arts centre on 2nd Avenue. The path of the pedestrian linkage across the Buckwold Bridge, the streets that are designated to be closed periodically for special events (2nd Ave and the connector between Avenues A and B) and the newly invigorated Spadina Crescent between 2nd and 3rd Avenues are prime areas for local artists to display their work. Rotating installations like murals and sculptures can provide the basis for a year-round cultural walking tour through the site that can change from year to year to keep it fresh and interesting.

4.3.3 The Riverfront

The Riverfront will be punctuated with interpretive elements that explore the history and nature of the river as well as its significance to Saskatoon.

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4.4 Thematic Organization

Themes are used to organize stories in a way that has coherence and clarity for the visitor. Too broad a theme results in a hodgepodge of information; far better to focus on what best captures the spirit of the place and the most important messages. Ultimately the experiences should illustrate these “big ideas” for visitors.

An overall theme conveys the single most important idea that the facility interprets.

This theme could provide an organizing device for the development of exhibits and programs.

All the exhibits, subthemes and stories should support the main theme. It ties everything together to create a meaningful experience for the visitor.

We note that the circle seems to be an important icon for Saskatoon – from the medicine wheel in prehistory, to the Blairmore Ring in our recent past, to the Synchrotron leading the way to Saskatoon’s future.

River Landing: Discover a Sense of Place

Cultural Connections

Explore the culture of the region through art, architecture and performance

- Performance Art
- Visual Art (sculptures, paintings)
- Active Art (interpretive elements that engage visitors)

A People Place

People live, work and play here

- First People
- Villains and Visionaries
- The Classic Saskatonian

Celebrate the Past, Look to the Future

River Landing is historically significant

- Layers of history (what was here before, archaeological finds)
- Former transportation and energy hub of Saskatoon

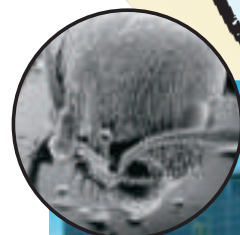
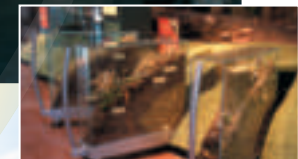
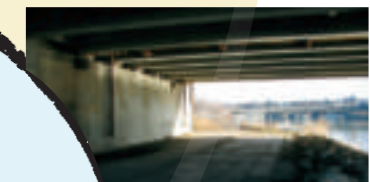
Saskatoon is Going Places

- Science city at the forefront of technology
- A cultural hub
- A sustainable future

The Nature of the River

The river has been significant to Saskatoon’s development

- Hydrology of the river
- Natural history of the riverfront including the riverfront as habitat



4.5 Interpretive Site Plan

This site plan shows all opportunities for outdoor interpretive elements and identifies key indoor interpretive spaces. The legend to the right of the plan indicates different levels of interpretation in descending order of interpretive merit. It is recommended that all elements be implemented in order to achieve a richness of experience and, ultimately, the goals of this report. However, if phasing is required careful consideration should be given to this list of interpretive priorities.

For the purposes of this document, the distinction between interpretive sculpture and art is subtle but important. Interpretive sculpture would be thematically appropriate to the site and related to content determined in the interpretive plan. Art, on the other hand, wouldn't necessarily be related to the site. It could be an installation that celebrates another feature of the region, deal with global issues, commemorate a special event or none of these things. Essentially, this plan does not limit the content of the art pieces but does define content for the interpretive sculpture.

The following pages illustrate key ideas from the interpretive plan. They are shown to illustrate possibilities and are not intended to be final designs. They are but a few examples of how this document can be used as a guideline for future interpretive design at the River Landing.





LEGEND
in descending order of interpretive merit

- INDOOR INTERPRETIVE SPACE
- INTERPRETIVE PANELS
- MURALS
- BANNERS
- INTERPRETIVE SCULPTURES
- ART

POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR INTERP IN LOBBY:

- Knox church
- Armories
- Gathercole Building
- Clinkskill House

INTERACTIVES:

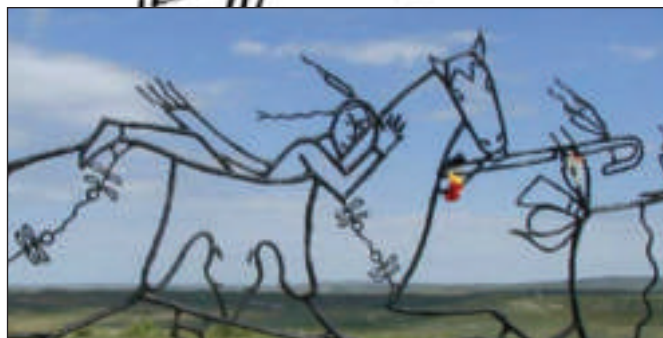
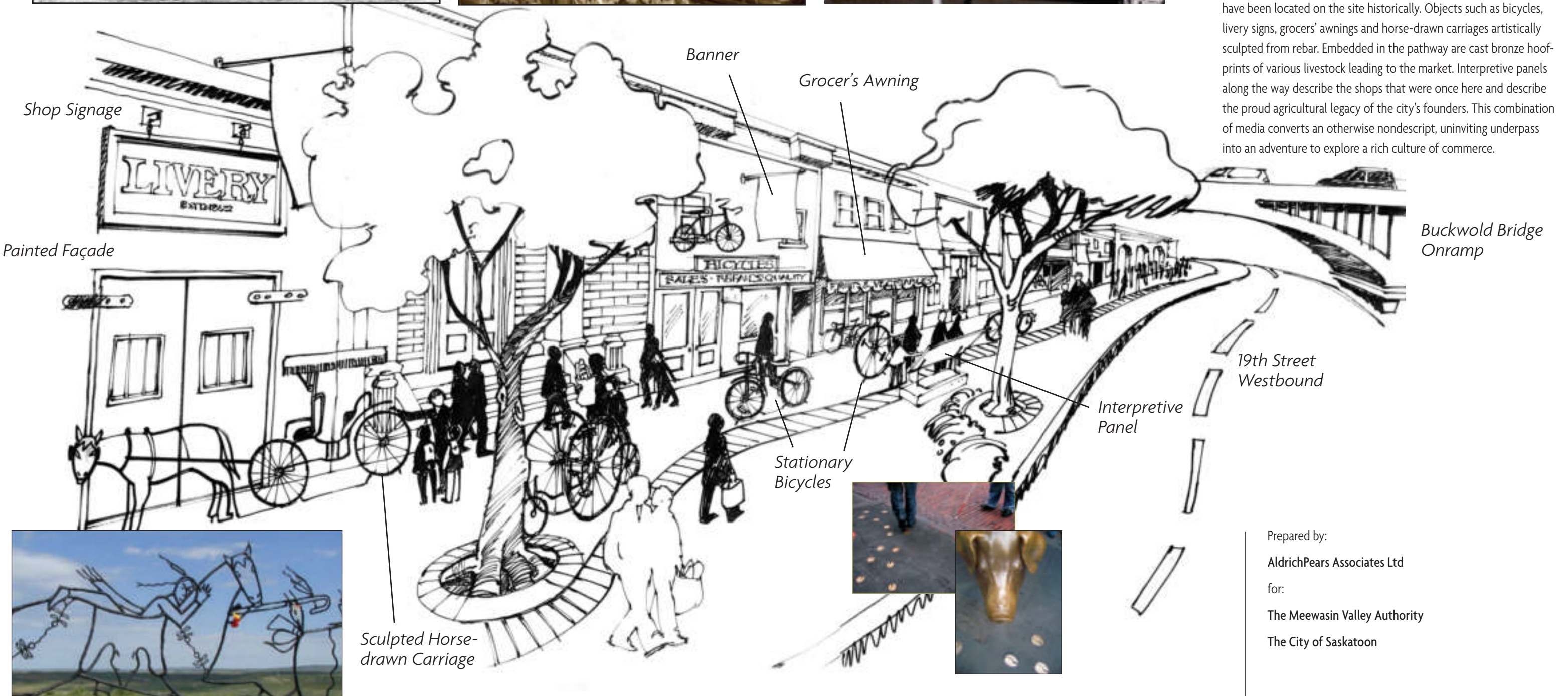
- Water level pole
- Periscope
- Water speed



Market Walk

Visitors heading west along 19th Street towards the Farmers' Market will be drawn under the Buckwold Bridge ramps by a series of banners confirming that they are on the right path. The banners spanning 19th Street from 3rd Avenue to Avenue C will be brightly coloured and depict bold icons of Saskatchewan's agricultural heritage.

As visitors approach the underpass the path dips below grade and a series of historic facades begin to crop up along the retaining wall to the south. The facades are painted on the retaining wall with applied three-dimensional objects that relate to the types of shops that have been located on the site historically. Objects such as bicycles, livery signs, grocers' awnings and horse-drawn carriages artistically sculpted from rebar. Embedded in the pathway are cast bronze hoof-prints of various livestock leading to the market. Interpretive panels along the way describe the shops that were once here and describe the proud agricultural legacy of the city's founders. This combination of media converts an otherwise nondescript, uninviting underpass into an adventure to explore a rich culture of commerce.



Sculpted Horse-drawn Carriage



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The Railyard

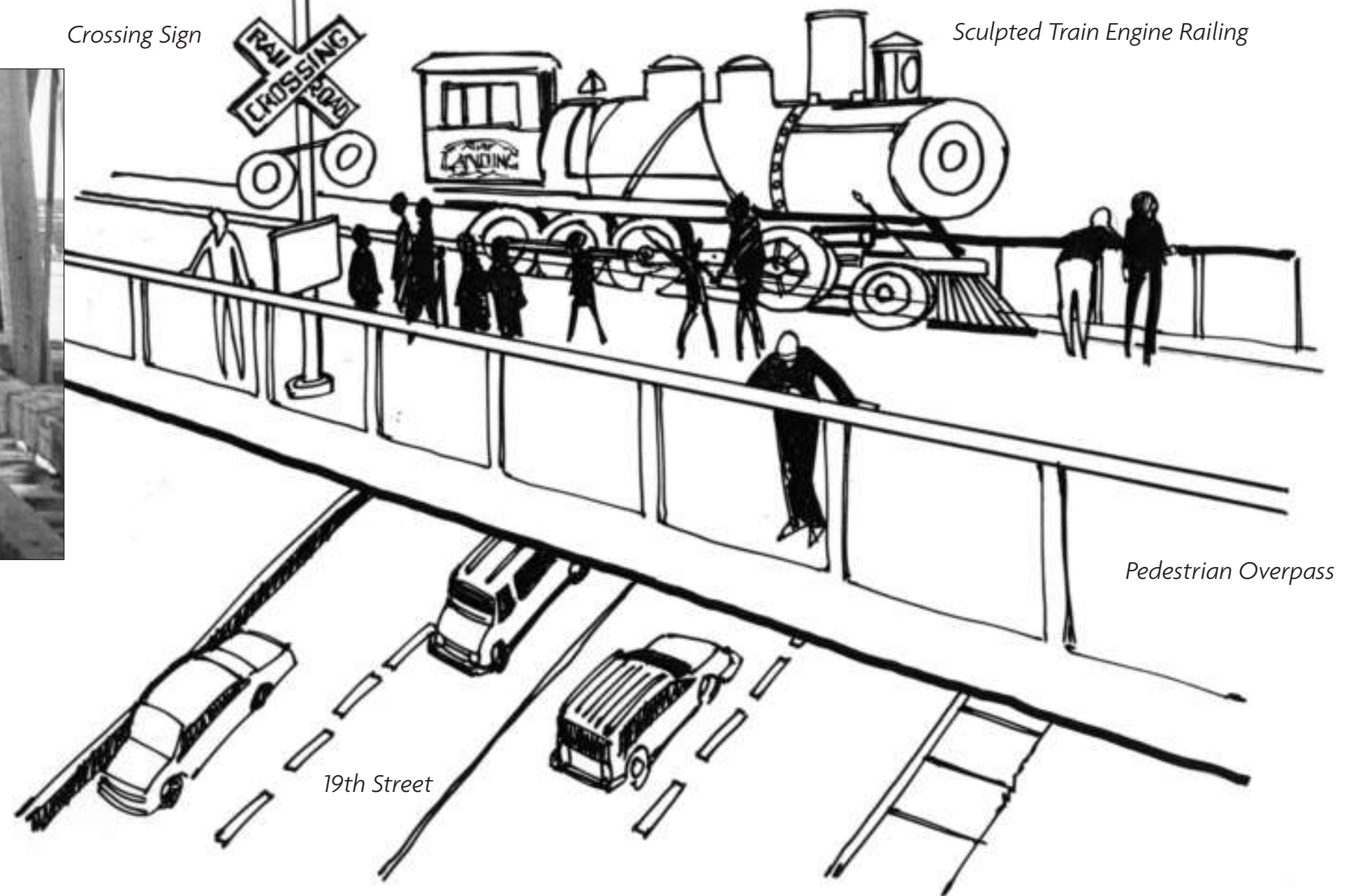
The new pedestrian bridge that crosses 19th Street is located near what was once the city's railyard. The handrail for the bridge will be sculpted to depict an icon of the long-forgotten railyard — a historic train engine hauling a series of open container cars. The sculptural technique will be consistent throughout the site; objects will be depicted semi-abstracted on a two-dimensional plane and formed from wrought-iron or rebar. This technique allows the sculptural element to be recognizable but not block views. The train sculpture will be large enough so that cars passing below the bridge will be able to make out its shape, piquing the interest of passers-by and reminding them of the site's history as a transportation hub. Pedestrians along the bridge will find interpretive panels that connect the river to the railroad and describe the river and railroad's significance to the development of the city and the province.



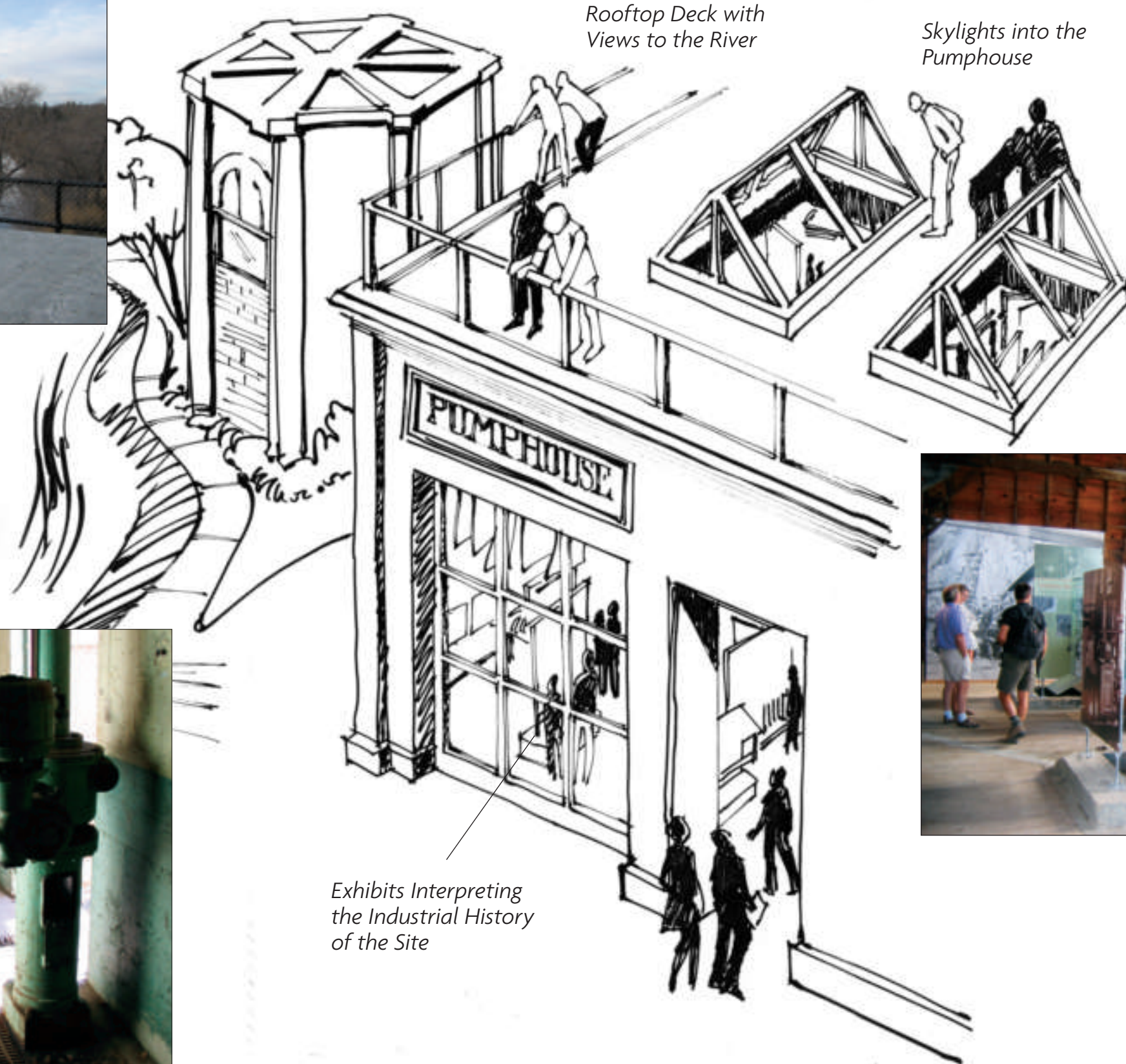
Crossing Sign



Sculpted Train Engine Railing



Pedestrian Overpass



Rooftop Deck with Views to the River

Skylights into the Pumphouse

Exhibits Interpreting the Industrial History of the Site



The Pumphouse

The River Landing site has a long industrial history. The AL Cole Power Plant operated from 1911 until it was decommissioned in 1983. The only remaining industrial relic of the Power Plant — and only intact historic building on the site — is the Pumphouse. The roof of the Pumphouse provides an excellent vantage point for viewing the majestic Saskatchewan river and the bridges that give Saskatoon its title: City of Bridges. Interpretive displays on the roof deck will deepen visitors' appreciation of the nature of the river, its flora and fauna, and unique features. More than simply a viewing deck, the building could be renovated to provide a protected indoor space to interpret the industrial history of the site. Industrial artifacts could be on display and interpretive displays could describe the history of the Power Plant and its role in providing a growing city with power during boom times.

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“Under the River” Mural

As a reward for venturing under the bridges, visitors will encounter themed murals that whimsically interpret features of the site. For example, visitors who pass under the Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge along the river walk will be surprised to find a mural depicting life under the river — an assortment of fish swimming in their habitat, the hulls of different rivercraft overhead, divers exploring the river-bottom and maybe even remnants of the wreck of the SS Medicine Hat! Interpretive panels will draw visitors’ attention to features that can actually be seen from where they are standing such as the life along the riverbank or the construction of the bridge overhead.



Bridge Overhead

Mural Painted on Bridge Footing

Interpretive Panel

Pedestrian Underpass



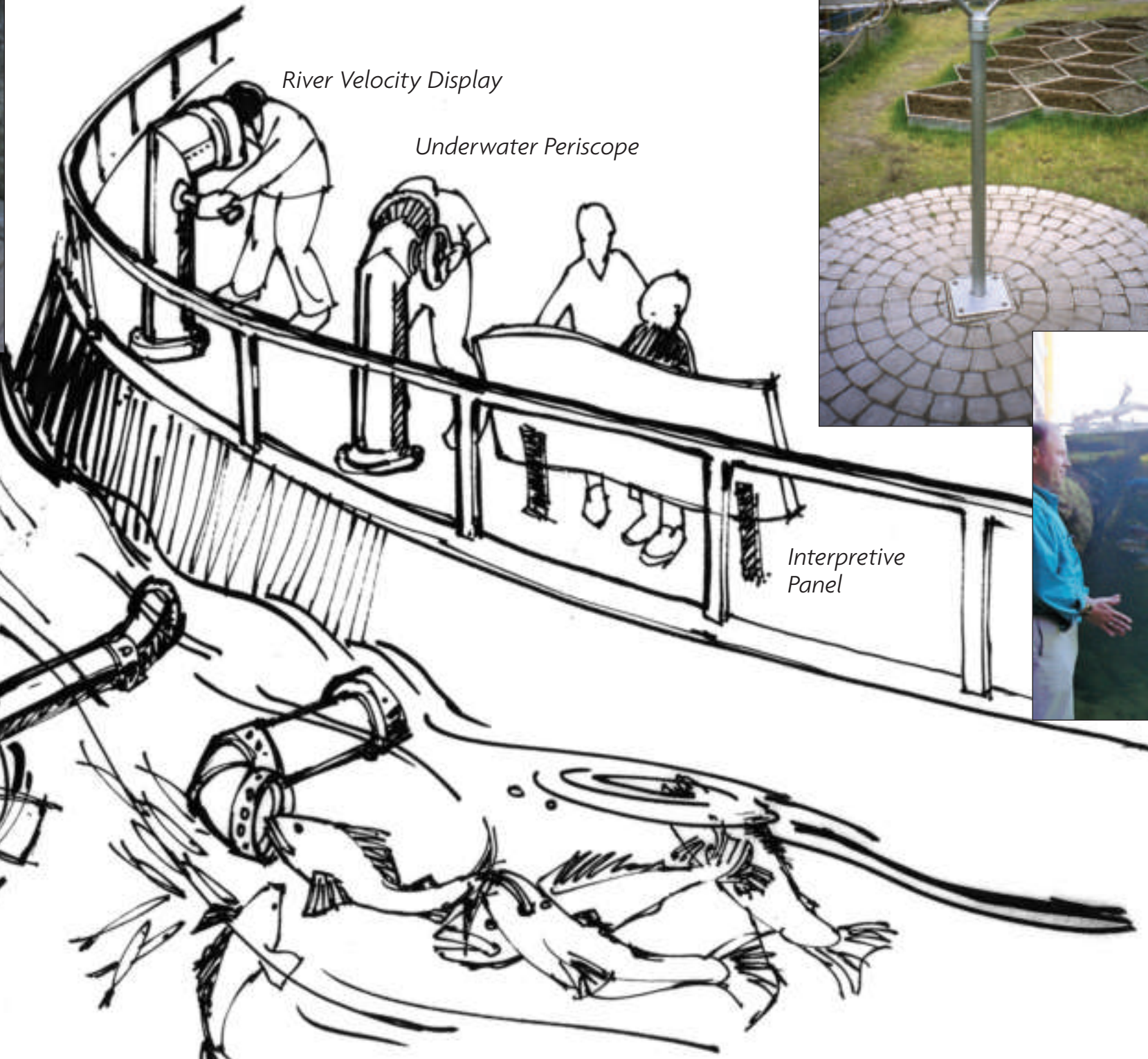


River Velocity Display



More Than Meets the Eye

Adjacent to the “Under the River” mural and all along the river walk are exhibits that really show what’s going on under the river. An underwater periscope gives visitors a fish-eye view of the river bottom. Meanwhile a propeller is spun by the river’s current and triggers a display of its velocity. The hydrology of the river is explained in greater depth through interpretive displays and panels. All of these exhibits encourage visitors to question their perception of the river and show them that there is more to it than meets the eye.



Underwater Periscope

Interpretive Panel

Spinning Propeller



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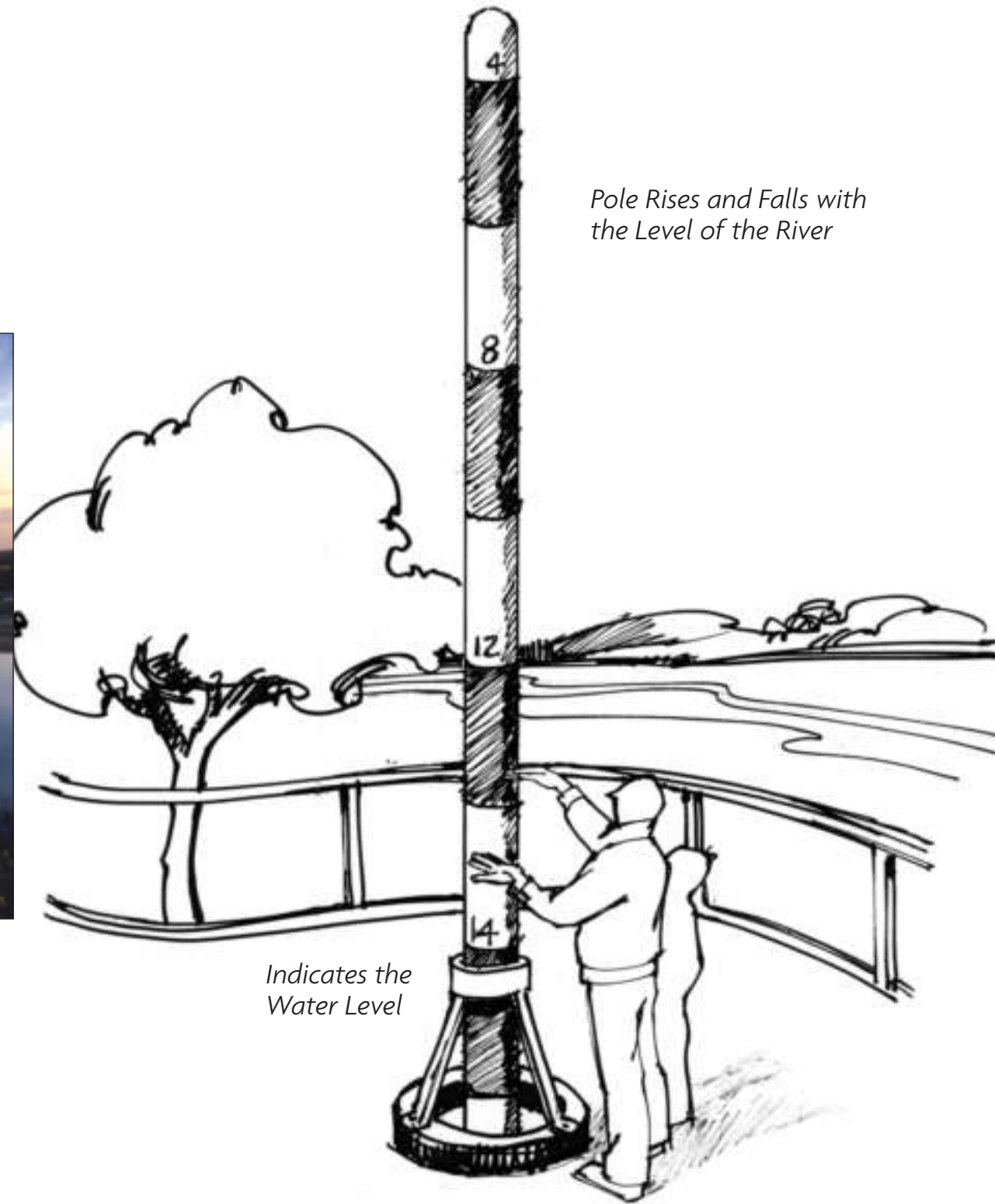
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High Water Mark

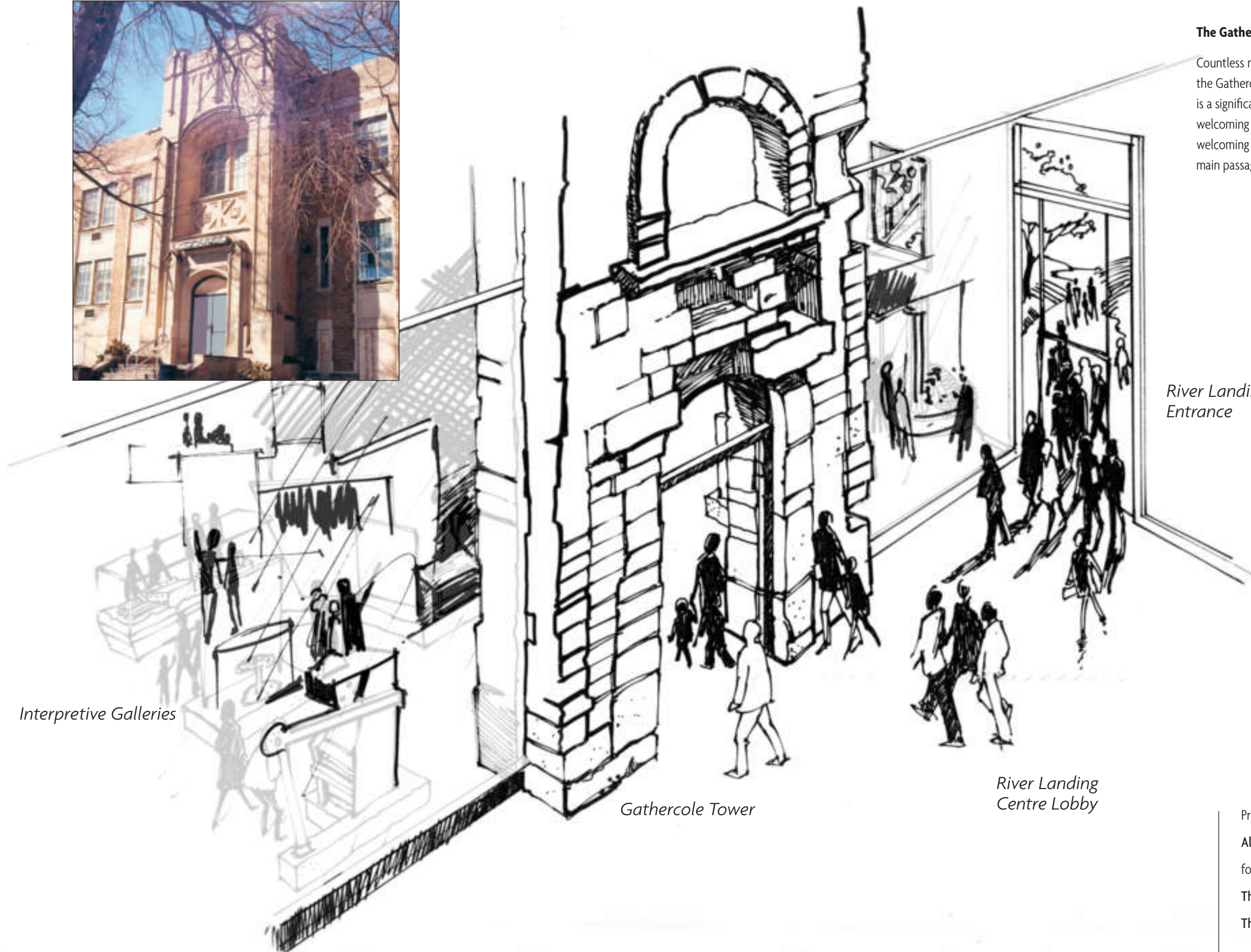
It is the nature of the river to rise and fall based on seasonal environmental conditions. Visitors will be surprised to see just how much the river level fluctuates and learn of the subsequent effect on the river's velocity. The high water mark feature will be a free-floating measuring rod that moves up and down with the level of the river. A fixed-position marker on the river walk will indicate the level of the river at a glance.





The Gathercole Tower

Countless numbers of people have passed through the Gathercole arch over its decades-long history. It is a significant historic artifact and powerful icon for welcoming visitors. It will continue to be used as a welcoming gateway in the River Landing Centre as the main passage into the interpretive galleries.



Gathercole Tower

River Landing Centre Lobby

River Landing Centre Entrance

Interpretive Galleries

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The City of Saskatoon

5.0 Interpretive Matrix

The following matrices detail specific stories, experiences and media for both outdoor and indoor interpretation. The first matrix is broken down by specific location on the site. The second matrix is specific to the proposed visitor centre, The River Landing Centre.

Saskatoon River Landing Site

LOCATION		STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA	LINKS
<p>MARKET WALK</p> <p>The Market Walk is a key part of the 'cultural corridor' between Broadway, Downtown, and Riversdale, where Saskatoon's history of trade and commerce continues in a vibrant marketplace and commercial streetscape.</p>	<p>19th STREET LINK</p> <p>The underpass along 19th St. is the main boundary between River Landing and the rest of downtown. It should provide a unique feel and sense that the experience beyond the border will be unique.</p> <p>While needing to be comfortable for pedestrians, interpretive treatments should be at a scale that is meaningful to motorists, as 19th Street is a main vehicle route.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> at the turn of the century, and during the city's early boom, several businesses were located along 19th Street. They often represented the blending of old and new technologies/methods of transportation. There were liveries and blacksmiths next to bicycle shops and automobile garages. Boarding houses were also common. towards the teens and 1920s, the area became Saskatoon's 'Chinatown'. Several Chinese businesses thrived here, including laundries, restaurants, groceries, and the Chinese Nationalist League. the Saskatoon Farmer's Market is a key contemporary draw to this site. 	<p>As visitors stroll the market walk, a park-like pathway along 19th St., they enjoy the sights of site-specific sculptural elements. Some examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> local characters 'seated' on park benches facades and sidewalk elements reminiscent of old Chinatown sculptures of items that used to be sold here, i.e., bicycles, horseshoes, Model Ts <p>Murals and banners show facades of old businesses, historically themed store signs, and provide a sense of the materials that were once used, such as brick, clapboard, etc.</p> <p>As visitors get closer to the Farmers' Market, banner treatments become more modern and vibrant, focusing on food and other market items.</p>	<p>Sculptural elements</p> <p>Subtle signage</p> <p>Street banners</p> <p>Painted murals</p>	<p>Farmers' Market</p>
	<p>ENTRY POINTS</p> <p>Along 19th Street, entry points at 2nd Ave., Ave. A, Ave. B and Spadina should all be visually remarkable and intriguing.</p> <p>Secondary entries at 3rd Ave. and Ave. C can be marked in a clear but less obvious manner.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to River Landing several buildings have stood on the River Landing site, including the Gathercole Building, Saskatoon Bottleworks, the Saskatoon Arena, and Immigration Hall. There are remnants and homages to these buildings throughout the site. 	<p>Visitors are greeted by themed archways and tasteful signage welcoming them to the River Landing.</p> <p>Gathercole bricks, the tower, and smaller archways are incorporated into key buildings on the site. Other historic pieces, including stones from the Gathercole steps and cobblestone paving salvaged from downtown streets add a level of meaning and texture to the site.</p>	<p>Structural entries, heritage building and paving elements used where possible</p> <p>Graphics</p>	<p>Connects River Landing to downtown</p>
	<p>MARKET SQUARE</p> <p>Market Square has been a bustling centre of activity through most of Saskatoon's history. From the days of early settlement when the Barr Colonists camped near Immigration Hall, to today's Market Square, it has long been a "People Place"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1903, 1500 Barr colonists camped on the site of the A.L. Cole Powerhouse, just south of Immigration Hall. The colonists effectively tripled the population of Saskatoon during their two-week stay 	<p>Art installations and sculptures of an historic or commercial nature will add to the richness of the outdoor market activities</p>	<p>Artwork</p>	<p>Connects cultural and commercial activities</p>

LOCATION	STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA	LINKS
<p>MARKET WALK</p> <p>The Market Walk is a key part of the 'cultural corridor' between Broadway, Downtown, and Riversdale, where Saskatoon's history of trade and commerce continues in a vibrant marketplace and commercial streetscape.</p>	<p>SASKATOON FARMERS' MARKET</p> <p>The Farmers' Market is successful in its own right and requires very little interpretive treatment. It would enrich the market experience, however, if visitors gained some knowledge about the history and development of Saskatoon's market and the future of the growing public market on the site.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Farmers' Market is a Saskatoon institution. It has been around for 23 years. ▪ Several of its founding members are still involved. ▪ It is a working business incubator, as several businesses have expanded into other commercial ventures from the Farmers' Market, although they are still involved in the Saturday market as well. ▪ Each vendor has a unique story to tell about how they got to the farmers' market, and of the successes they have known. 	<p>Visitors browsing for their favorite produce and products will be buoyed by colourful murals of multi-cultural, agricultural and food related themes. The usual rich farmers' market experience, including musical entertainment, special events and displays will be enriched by the vendors' opportunities to tell their histories on signs near their vending table. While personal interaction is always paramount to reading information, and is a key part of the Farmers' Market experience, visitors may be surprised at the colourful histories and long commitment that many of the founding vendors have made to the market.</p> <p>The doors and building facades can be treated with banners or murals to make the Farmers' Market more colourful, more inviting.</p>	<p>Painted murals Interpretive signage</p> <p>Connects cultural and commercial activities</p>
<p>CULTURAL DISTRICT</p> <p>The Cultural District provides an extension of the Spadina promenade, connecting the cultural experiences along the riverfront park to the Live/Work and retail spaces. It allows a continuous experience through the centre of the site.</p> <p>Any physical piece on the site (manhole covers, walls, posts, etc.) provide opportunities for interpretive/creative treatment.</p>	<p>PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS LINK</p> <p>Connects west and east sides of River Landing in a way that is visually attractive and physically accessible.</p> <p>The Pedestrian Overpass allows a playful metaphoric experience of weaving between 'ribbons' of highway.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge was originally a train bridge—and the first bridge in Saskatoon. It was built by Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan in 1890, and connected Regina to Prince Albert. ▪ The new road made Saskatoon a shipping centre, with the three primary commodities being buffalo bones, cattle and grain. 	<p>Artwork and banners draw visitors to the other side of the overpass. Orientation signage provides information on what visitors can see and do.</p> <p>Stairs and railings show themed artwork, such as cast iron train silhouettes.</p> <p>Gateways frame the overpass and make it a pleasant and inviting pathway, covered and safe from traffic.</p>	<p>Banners Painted murals Graphic signage where necessary Themed artwork</p> <p>Connects contemporary life to historic situations</p>
	<p>COMMUNITY PARK</p> <p>The function of the community park will be determined by public consultation. Interpretive goals will be influenced by these decisions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saskatoon has a long history of organized sport and outdoor activities. ▪ South downtown and vicinity have over time been home to more than one rink, including an early rink that housed Saskatoon's own professional hockey team in the 1920s and the Saskatoon Arena which saw a double header of the New York Rangers and the New York Americans in the late 1930s. ▪ Sports icons, from Olympians to professional athletes to budding sports stars deserve honour and recognition. 	<p>Visitors enjoying the outdoor areas of the park can spend their time interacting with games and sculptural elements related to sport, including invitations to jump as high as Ethel Catherwood or run as fast as Gordie Howe or Catriona LeMay-Doan can skate.</p>	<p>Sculptural elements Robust interactive elements Graphic elements where necessary</p> <p>Connects site to the larger community</p>
	<p>THROUGHOUT CULTURAL DISTRICT</p> <p>Along the entire promenade of the Culture District, various art elements will intrigue and delight visitors. Art pieces can be themed to the site, or more abstract, depending on the desired type of commission</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saskatoon and Saskatchewan have hundreds of artists who have contributed to the aesthetic value of River Landing. 	<p>Some examples of artwork that visitors can admire as they traverse the Culture Crawl: textile banners, blacksmith works, welded steel pieces, stone carving, mosaic walks, ceramic tiles or sculpture pieces, wood or bronze or concrete works, mixed media... small, large, realism, abstract, traditional, contemporary, hanging, ground level, horizontal, vertical...</p>	<p>Numerous artistic media</p> <p>Connects site to the larger artistic community</p>

LOCATION		STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA	LINKS
<p>RIVERFRONT</p> <p>The Riverfront provides a more intimate view of the river, and is one of the only places along the Meewasin Trail where visitors can safely get to the water's edge.</p> <p>Old shoreline of river identified/treated along the various areas where the differences are palpable.</p> <p>Visitors stroll along an urban path, enjoying the river views and occasionally stopping to examine or interact with points of interest along the way.</p>	<p>THE FERRY LANDING</p> <p>Identify the importance of the River Landing as a crossing location using fording, ferries, and the Traffic Bridge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From before settlement, this area of the river was long considered the easiest place to cross. Chief Whitecap recommended the area for a settlement for that very reason. Aboriginal people camped here enroute as they followed buffalo herds south. After settlement, an area very near the landing became one end of Saskatoon's ferry crossing. The ferry crossing was replaced by the Traffic Bridge in 1907. 	<p>An art installation representing the 'ghosts' of past uses of the site greet visitors who descend to the landing for a view of the river and the Traffic Bridge. Frames of riverboats and trains are pleasing and meaningful structures. Sculptural human figures of an indeterminate historical era 'load' goods onto the car/boat.</p>	<p>Sculptural elements</p> <p>Simple graphic elements with historic photos</p> <p>Graphics on bridge</p>	<p>Connects contemporary life to historic situations</p>
	<p>UNDER THE TRAFFIC BRIDGE</p> <p>Provides an interesting and thematically relevant experience as pedestrians walk under the traffic bridge. Appeals to visitors' imagination with visions of the past</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The South Saskatchewan was once navigated by barges, canoes and steamboats. Modern watercraft, including rowboats, dragon boats, and powerboats still grace the waters. 	<p>Mural of steamboat/SS City of Medicine Hat, paddlewheeler. Could also be an artistic piece identifying both modern and historic river vehicles.</p>	<p>Painted mural</p>	<p>Connects contemporary life to historic situations</p>
	<p>BOAT DOCK</p> <p>Provide an interpretive layer to an active boat rental and river use oriented site</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Saskatoon site and the South Saskatchewan River have long been a crossroads of various types of traffic, from bison to Red River carts, to boats, wagons and trains. Around Saskatoon, early trails included several bone trails, where Métis people collected and shipped buffalo bones to fertilizer companies; the Batoche/Clark's Crossing Trail ran along the east side of the river 	<p>At the boat dock railing, cut out characters represent various uses of the River Landing, and Saskatoon's early trails, including Red River carts, horses and carriages, ferries, etc.</p> <p>Along the wall next to the boat dock, visible from the water, images of water scenes, boats etc.</p>	<p>Sculptural elements</p>	<p>Connects contemporary life to historic situations</p>
	<p>RIVER OVERLOOK</p> <p>Direct visitors to views across the river and tell stories of adventures and mishaps on the river</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The landing was also the location of several river-related mishaps, including the sinking of the SS City of Medicine Hat after hitting the pillars of the Traffic Bridge. The SS City of Medicine Hat was the last steamboat to navigate the South Saskatchewan. Airplane adventurers once attempted daredevil stunts including flying between the river and the bridges. Sometimes they were successful; other times, tragedy was the result. 	<p>Visitors can get a little closer to the river at the overlook. Historic photographs provide them with another view of what they see before them, showing photos of the SS City of Medicine Hat and images of daredevil flying aces.</p>	<p>Interpretive signage</p>	<p>Connects contemporary life to historic situations</p>

LOCATION		STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA	LINKS
<p>RIVERFRONT</p> <p>The Riverfront provides a more intimate view of the river, and is one of the only places along the Meewasin Valley Trail where visitors can safely get to the water's edge.</p> <p>Visitors stroll along an urban path, enjoying the river views and occasionally stopping to examine or interact with points of interest along the way.</p>	<p>SASKATCHEWAN WATERSHED</p> <p>This area is one of intense activity and interactive opportunities. It includes interpretive elements embedded in the landscape, combined with a water play area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The South Saskatchewan River winds its way out of the Rocky Mountains, through the prairies, joins with the North Saskatchewan River near Prince Albert and then winds its way toward Hudson's Bay. ▪ The Saskatchewan River's hydrology is visible throughout Saskatoon. Areas of erosion and deposition are clearly marked by tell-tale sandbars. ▪ The Saskatchewan River has changed remarkably over the last 100 years. Before Gardiner Dam and other upstream barriers were put in place, the South Saskatchewan flooded regularly. ▪ Before the river was 'tamed', spring breakup was something to behold. Ice floes would crack and burst forth which much noise and drama. 	<p>A 3D map of the Saskatchewan River system with textural areas and patterns intersects but does not interfere with visitors' path along the Riverfront. In the summer, water flows through the path, with shallow areas for children to play in, as well as a series of waterfalls, wellsprings, fountains, etc. to mimic some of the characteristics of the actual river. The river also reads as a map from above, which visitors can see from the overview at the foot of 2nd Ave.</p> <p>A small amphitheatre in this area could provide opportunities for impromptu performance art</p> <p>The view towards the river from the Saskatchewan Watershed includes fountains in the river as well as perching posts for cormorants to use. Interpretive signage would instruct visitors on what to look for.</p> <p>The old shoreline of river is identified/treated along the various areas where the differences are palpable.</p> <p>Interpretive signage shows images of the South Saskatchewan River during spring breakup.</p>	<p>Etched concrete</p> <p>Water features</p> <p>Amphitheatre</p> <p>Interpretive signage</p> <p>Sculptural elements</p>	<p>Hydrology information at interpretive centre</p>
	<p>THE CHANNEL/POND</p> <p>This area is very lightly-treated, primarily serving as a quiet and less active area compared to the more urban adjacent riverfront.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Saskatchewan River is a rich and diverse ecosystem. ▪ While the River Landing is a very urban area, wildlife can make their homes here with just a little help from urban planners and designers. 	<p>Visitors can take a break from the busy, bustling activity in Riverfront Park and take a quieter path to a more natural, slightly wild area, surprisingly juxtaposed against the freeway.</p> <p>Visitors can simply enjoy the scenery, or peer into fish viewers (periscopes into spawning areas). Small graphics point out some of the wildlife that visitors may see if they look carefully.</p>	<p>Viewing equipment</p> <p>Small interpretive signage</p> <p>Sculptural elements</p>	<p>Beaver Creek Conservation Area</p>
	<p>UNDER THE BUCKWOLD BRIDGE</p> <p>Visitors need to be encouraged to move under the bridge and over to the rest of the site. The pathway under the bridge can be seen as an opportunity rather than a barrier by treating it as an immersive 'underwater' river experience.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The River Landing and Riverfront Park experience continues on the other side of the bridge. ▪ The Senator Sid Buckwold Bridge is reminiscent of typical 1960s bridge architecture. 	<p>Visitors get the sense that they are going under water rather than simply under the bridge as they walk under the freeway. Painted murals mimic the shadowy underwater world.</p> <p>Some surprising sculptural elements appear underwater with the visitors: a very large sturgeon, which make their home in the South Saskatchewan, as well as schools of trout and whitefish, and a diver or the lower body of an angler standing in the river.</p>	<p>Painted mural</p> <p>Sculptural elements</p> <p>Interpretive signage</p>	<p>Connects built and natural worlds</p>

LOCATION		STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA	LINKS
<p>RIVERFRONT</p> <p>The Riverfront provides a more intimate view of the river, and is one of the only places along the Meewasin Valley Trail where visitors can safely get to the water's edge.</p> <p>Visitors stroll along an urban path, enjoying the river views and occasionally stopping to examine or interact with points of interest along the way.</p>	<p>THE PUMPHOUSE AREA</p> <p>The pumphouse is one of the few remaining historical buildings on site, and the most intact by far. While it is currently in need of cleanup and renovation in order to be put to use as an interior space, it offers several opportunities as is, both as an icon of industrial days past and as a potential viewing and seating area on the rooftop.</p> <p>The pumphouse offers a premium river view, and is an ideal location for visitors to interact with and learn about river hydrology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The pumphouse is a key industrial remnant from the A.L. Cole Powerhouse. It pumped cooling water from the river to the coal-fired powerhouse until the site was completely decommissioned in the early 1980s. ▪ The A.L. Cole Powerhouse was a much larger and more imposing building which the pumphouse served. ▪ The pumphouse played an important role in energy production in the early 20th century; current uses of energy include the Queen Elizabeth powerplant upstream. ▪ Alternative energy sources are now being explored as world supplies of petroleum products dwindle. Saskatchewan has an abundance of sun and wind, two of the most promising alternative energy sources. ▪ The river is extremely fast moving at this point on the trail. It holds its own amount of energy. 	<p>Children can learn about water, solar, wind power at the power play area, where they can watch the river spin small turbines, measure water speeds, manipulate wind turbines to face the wind direction, or use sundials or solar powered activities.</p> <p>Visitors can get up close and personal with the river on the curving walkways over the water. Interpretive nodes along the walkway offer water speed and depth indicators. A small turbine in the river could visibly represent the speed of the water.</p> <p>Markings along the exterior wall of the pumphouse could show historic flood levels. Along the path, industrial remnants from the A.L. Cole site/pumphouse can be treated as sculptural elements.</p> <p>From the top of the pumphouse, visitors have an excellent view of the river, and can watch boats pass. The ground level of the pumphouse is enriched with metal cutouts of humans working on the pumphouse, or people standing in the river on the pumphouse intakes.</p> <p>As an extension of the stories about power use near the old A.L. Cole site, visitors can stroll Power Alley along Avenue A. The old footprint of the A.L. Cole generating station and yards are identified at points of interest, explaining to visitors what used to exist where they now stand.</p>	<p>Robust interactives</p> <p>Interpretive signage</p> <p>Sculptural elements</p> <p>Plaques, commemorative signage</p>	<p>Science exhibits in the interpretive centre</p>
	<p>WATERFRONT GARDEN/PLAZA</p> <p>The waterfront plaza is an iconic area for the community of Riversdale. It could offer a public gathering place or a place for artists in the live/work area to spill into outdoors during spring, summer and autumn, or for ice sculptors to work during the winter.</p>		<p>Visitors enjoy market activities while being amused by various fun interpretive elements, such as following railway tracks to a hand car (could be a small midway experience).</p> <p>A primary sculptural element at the centre of the plaza provides a place for family and friends to gather before public programming events.</p>	<p>Robust Interactives</p> <p>Sculptural elements</p>	<p>Connects cultural and commercial activities</p>

The Cultural Centre: Growing Saskatoon

An indoor interpretive experience at River Landing will permit year-round enjoyment of the site and its stories. A series of multi-use spaces containing a wide variety of interpretive displays will create an interpretive centre that is constantly changing: part art gallery, part history museum, part children’s museum, and part science centre. The unifying theme to these seemingly unrelated stories and experiences is their relevance to Saskatoon. From this perspective residents and visitors alike will gain an appreciation for Saskatoon’s rich natural and cultural heritage.

THE BIG IDEA	SUBTHEMES	STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA
A PEOPLE PLACE	FIRST PEOPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ According to archaeological studies, River Landing site, like several other sites around Saskatoon, was inhabited by pre-contact cultures for over 6,000 years ▪ More recently, in the past 200 years, Saskatoon and area were used and traversed by several First Nations tribes. The Cree called the area <i>Minnetonka</i>, meaning “swift-flowing water”. ▪ Aboriginal people are a vital part of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan today. ▪ Visitors wanting to learn more about Saskatchewan’s first peoples should visit Wanuskewin Heritage Park 	<p>Visitors can dig through layers of ‘soil’ in an archeological interactive, discovering how archeologists do their work and at the same time appreciating Saskatoon’s layers of history.</p> <p>An exhibit highlighting prehistoric, historic and contemporary Aboriginal culture identifies the ongoing contribution of these cultures to the fabric of Saskatoon and beyond.</p> <p>A ‘virtual tour’ kiosk allows visitors a chance to explore other attractions in the city, and helps them plan their visits.</p>	<p>Interactive exhibits</p> <p>Virtual tour computer program</p> <p>Interpretive signage</p>
	VILLAINS AND VISIONARIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many famous and infamous people hail from Saskatoon and Saskatchewan—those that stayed and became famous, and those that traveled out into the world. Just a few examples are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joni Mitchell, musician and painter • Gordie Howe, hockey player • Ernest Lindner, internationally reknowned artist and teacher at the Saskatoon Technical Collegiate for 30 years • Morris ‘Two-Gun’ Cohen, con-artist and member of the Chinese Nationalist League and bodyguard to Dr. Sun Yat-Sen • Emma Woiken, coined by Ruth Millar as ‘Doukhobor farm wife turned spy’ • Catriona Le May-Doan, Olympic speed-skater 	<p>An interactive and multi-dimensional ‘Wall of Fame’ treatment could involve quizzes, artifacts, awards, and other artifacts highlighting these and many other well-known and little-known but significant people.</p> <p>A gallery of art pieces produced by local artists could also be included.</p>	<p>Three-dimensional interactive wall of fame</p> <p>Interpretive signage</p>
	THE CLASSIC SASKATONIAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What makes Saskatonians Saskatonians? We know that prairie people are known as hardy, practical, no-nonsense individuals. How does that apply to Saskatoon residents? 	<p>An exhibit that is interactive in a different way: visitors are encouraged to make their own suggestions on what makes us unique, from serious suggestions to humourous ones. They can submit written, drawn, or digital comments on the topic, and a two-dimensional ‘character’ could be updated according to these suggestions on a monthly or semi-weekly basis</p>	<p>Cartoon-like cutout figure (or 3-dimensional figure) whose dress, demeanour, statements, or other characteristics are treated in ways as suggested by visitors.</p>

THE BIG IDEA	SUBTHEMES	STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA
<p>A PEOPLE PLACE</p>	<p>HUB CITY...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hind and Palliser traveled near modern day Saskatoon as they surveyed the Northwest Territories ▪ Saskatoon has long been a redistribution centre. From the days before cityhood, the Battleford Trail, Bone Trail, Moose Jaw Trail and Batoche/Clark's Crossing Trail passed nearby ▪ With the coming of the railroad in 1890, Saskatoon soon became a shipping centre for goods across the province. At first its primary commodities were buffalo bones, grain and cattle. While the buffalo bones are long gone, the grain and cattle are still a mainstay, with the addition of manufactured products and raw materials. ▪ Today Saskatoon remains a key destination from the surrounding agricultural areas. Farmers and other rural residents continue to come here to pick up supplies. ▪ Saskatoon is also a 'hub' of intellect and ideas, home to the University of Saskatchewan, and closer to the site, the home of the former Saskatoon Technical Collegiate. 	<p>An interactive audio-visual treatment of a scale model of Saskatoon and area shows the development of trails, railroads, bridges and roads that were built to create the city as it is today.</p>	<p>A/V treatment overlaid on scale model</p>
	<p>...TO SCIENCE CITY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saskatoon's role in supporting Saskatchewan's agricultural economy has expanded from a city focused on transporting and receiving goods to a new 21st century role in science and technology ▪ The Saskatchewan Research Council (SRC) and the National Research Council (NRC) are leaders in the areas of plant biotechnology, DNA fingerprinting of plants and DNA testing for livestock. ▪ The Canadian Light Source Synchrotron is a unique national resource whose beamlines allow further research in pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, agriculture, industry and electronics ▪ Services and businesses located on the River Landing site contribute to the development of Saskatoon as "Science City" 	<p>These stories create an opportunity to include a mini-science centre, with simple, changing exhibits identifying the types of research done at Innovation Place and the University of Saskatchewan. While most of the research projects are extremely complicated, they are often based on simple scientific principles that provide an opportunity to make the research projects less abstract and more applicable to visitors' daily lives.</p>	<p>Interactive exhibits</p>

THE BIG IDEA	SUBTHEMES	STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA
NATURE OF THE RIVER	THE SHAPE OF THE RIVER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ What is now Saskatoon has been “covered by mountains, by four great seas (the third produced the area’s major mineral wealth, potash) and by fern forests as well as by glaciers. The cataclysm that created the present semi-arid climate was the birth of the Rocky Mountains 70 million years ago. Then the glaciers deposited sediment that now constitutes the upper layers of the great plains and carved the river systems.” (Kerr xxii) ▪ 12,000 years before present, the Wisconsin glacier retreated past the site of present day Saskatoon, forming glacial Lake Saskatoon. As the glacier continued to retreat, channel ways opened up along the path of the South Saskatchewan River. Existing sand dunes are remnants of the glacial lake. ▪ Modern limits on the river include Gardiner Dam, about 150 km southwest of the city, as well as the weir, a 1930s make-work project about two kilometres downstream from the site. The dam prevents floods that used to occur regularly along the banks of the river, and the weir regulates the river depth along the downtown stretch. ▪ The river has been a boon and a barrier to transportation, being the obvious impetus for Saskatoon’s nickname, the City of Bridges, and inspiring steamer and ferry travel before the bridges’ construction. ▪ The river is also a key element of interpretation along the many MVA sites, such as Beaver Creek and the Weir. 	<p>Information on the hydrology of the Saskatchewan River can be treated in an A/V treatment or interactive topographic map, combining an audiovisual program and projected lighting. The information inside should be more formal and information-dense than the outdoor map of the Saskatchewan Watershed.</p>	<p>Audio-visual program</p>
	THE RIVER IS OUR HOME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Saskatchewan River defines the natural history of the area, the river’s edge providing an ecotone between prairie in the south, aspen parkland in the north, and freshwater habitats. ▪ Hundreds of species of plants, insects, fish, birds and mammals make the river valley part of their home. 	<p>Models of plants and animals, or a very small diorama of the types of wildlife that inhabit the river valley provide a backdrop to a trail guide and references to Meewasin Valley Trail sites where visitors can see nature of the river firsthand.</p>	<p>3-D exhibit Computer kiosk</p>
	CLIMATE: IT’S A DRY COLD!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saskatoon’s climate shapes the behaviour and adaptations of animals and people alike. ▪ Mosquitoes don’t bite in winter! 	<p>Visitors can explore the interesting and sometimes humorous ways that animals, plants and people have adapted to Saskatoon’s climate.</p>	<p>A/V or interactive exhibit</p>

THE BIG IDEA	SUBTHEMES	STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA
CULTURAL CONNECTIONS	PERFORMANCE ART	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Saskatoon is home to many theatre companies and festivals. 	<p>Occasional live programming offers local theatre companies a chance to advertise their shows.</p> <p>Visitors can use computer kiosks that provide one-stop access to local theatre events, and perhaps even online ticket sales. This could be a remote website attached to the Saskatoon Experience website.</p>	<p>Live programming Computer kiosk, web URL</p>
	VISUAL ART (IN THE FORM OF SCULPTURES, PAINTINGS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The sky is the limit to what visual artists in Saskatchewan are capable of! Unimaginably creative treatments of surprising media become fantastic art pieces all over Saskatoon and beyond. Some very well-known artists have come from Saskatchewan, including Ernest Lindner, who taught at the Saskatoon Technical Collegiate. Living artists from Saskatoon are also well-known. Artists such as Don Hefner live near River Landing and their art pieces are sought after across North America 	<p>A non-traditional art space offers visitors a fresh look at art, viewing everything from textiles to cast iron and barbed wire to watercolour paintings. The purpose of the exhibit is to inspire visitors to redefine their view of 'art', to consider their own creative abilities in unconventional artistic endeavours, and to inspire pride in the innovative art coming out of Saskatoon and area.</p>	<p>Various art pieces</p>
	ACTIVE ART (INTERPRETIVE ELEMENTS THAT ENGAGE VISITORS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anybody, from age 0-99, can be artistic and can contribute to these community art pieces. 	<p>Visitors, especially but not exclusively children, are encouraged to contribute to several community-created art projects, weaving cloth walls, painting giant canvases, shaping wire sculptures.</p> <p>In an active art space such as this, local artists could have an opportunity to run workshops, connection with kids and promoting their work.</p>	<p>Ongoing art projects</p>
BUILT HISTORY: PAST TO FUTURE (OR A SENSE OF PLACE)	LAYERS OF HISTORY (WHAT WAS HERE BEFORE, ARCHEOLOGICAL FINDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeological studies are not just for ancient cultures. Studies of the River Landing site have revealed building foundations and smaller remnants of businesses and activities that occurred here. 	<p>A model of layers of the River Landing site is available for visitors to explore, and perhaps even dig through, to identify replicated artifacts.</p> <p>An alternative approach is a 'build-your-own' archeological site where visitors can uncover artifacts and put them back in whatever order they choose, creating a different experience for the next set of visitors. This would shift the focus of the exhibit from what is actually on the site to the process of archeology.</p>	<p>Interactive elements</p>
	LEARNING FROM OUR MISTAKES: INDUSTRIAL PAST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The A.L. Cole Powerplant was a cornerstone in the development of the City of Saskatoon. When it was decommissioned, PCBs were leached into the soil. The City of Saskatoon and its partners have worked to clean up the site to make it safe for residents and visitors to River Landing. The goal of these stories is to show how we have made mistakes in the past, but we are now learning to mitigate old mistakes and prevent new ones. 	<p>A model of the River Landing site shows, through projection, the buildings and uses that have graced the site, for better or worse, over time.</p>	<p>Interactive projection model Interpretive signage</p>

THE BIG IDEA	SUBTHEMES	STORIES	VISITOR EXPERIENCE	MEDIA
BUILT HISTORY: PAST TO FUTURE (OR A SENSE OF PLACE)	A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Part of learning from our old mistakes is the shift toward working with nature (and our climate) instead of against it in new building developments ▪ Buildings on the River Landing site are more energy efficient and made from more earth-friendly materials than buildings in our recent past 	Visitors can touch and learn about the sustainable materials and finishes that were used in the construction of the building and other buildings on site. Computer databases of materials and energy saving techniques could inspire them in their own projects.	Computer kiosk Material samples Interpretive signage throughout building

ALDRICHPEARS ASSOCIATES

100-1455 West Georgia Street

Vancouver, BC V6G 2T3

TEL (604)669-7044 FAX (604)669-7644