



cultural planning definitions



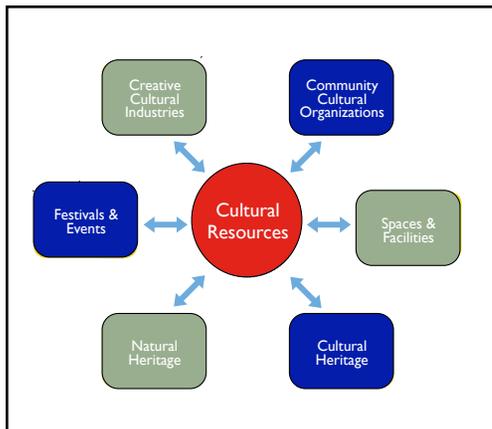
Battlefield House Museum and Park - Hamilton Civic Museums

WHAT IS CULTURAL MAPPING?

Cultural mapping is a tool for identifying what is unique about a community, thereby enabling us to leverage cultural assets to support economic prosperity and improved quality of life.

OCC Phase I Report

Cultural Resource Framework



Cultural mapping is the first step in developing a municipal cultural plan and it has two dimensions:

1. Resource Mapping – identifying and recording physical (or tangible) cultural resources making use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools and platforms; and,
2. Community Identity Mapping – exploring ‘intangible cultural resources’ – the unique histories, values, traditions and stories that combine to define a community’s identity and sense of place.

Why is Cultural Mapping Important?

Cultural mapping has become an accepted industry standard planning tool for municipalities. The Province of Ontario has moved to embrace a Cultural Resource Framework (CRF) that establishes a consistent set of categories (taxonomy) of cultural resources for the purpose of municipal cultural planning in Ontario. The foundation of the CRF is Statistics Canada’s Canadian Framework of Cultural Statistics that represents how the Federal government has defined the creative cultural sector in Canada. Cultural resources within the Cultural Resource Framework are grouped in the following six categories:

- Creative Cultural Industries
- Community Cultural Organizations
- Spaces and Facilities
- Cultural Heritage
- Natural Heritage
- Festivals and Events

Each of the six categories is then broken down into sub-categories or disciplines. The full set of cultural

resources by category is set out in the Cultural Resource Framework (Appendix E).

Establishing a consistent definition of cultural resources for purposes of policy and legislation across all provincial ministries means municipalities can take a more coherent approach to planning. In the next anticipated review of the Ontario Planning Act in 2011, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the Ontario Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing are working together to explore the potential to establish a Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) related to municipal cultural planning. Determining a consistent definition of cultural resources is a key component to successfully establishing the PPS.

Phase I Mapping Goals

The first dimension of cultural mapping, cultural resource mapping as undertaken in Phase I of the OCC Project, was guided by the following three goals:

1. To establish baseline information on cultural resources in Hamilton and to complete an initial analysis of these findings;
2. To establish the ongoing mapping system that will be used to expand mapping over time; and,
3. To recommend next steps and opportunities for further mapping work in Hamilton.

The complete outline of Phase I mapping goals, scope of baseline data and methodology for data collection can be found in the Cultural Mapping Report (Appendix D).

Municipal Cultural Planning is a municipally-led process for identifying and leveraging a community's cultural resources and integrating culture across all facets of local planning and decision-making.

OCC Phase I Report



Dundas Valley School of Art, Dundas

Photograph by Jeff Tessier

As in any type of municipal planning, there is a need to agree on a consistent set of definitions to guide thinking and action. The agreement on definitions is especially important in municipal cultural planning because cultural planning relies so strongly on effective coordination and integration of planning across departments. A core set of cultural planning definitions for municipal cultural planning, culture and heritage is set out below. See Glossary of Municipal Cultural Planning Terms (Appendix L) for additional definitions.

Municipal Cultural Planning

Municipal cultural planning (MCP) is a priority for the Government of Ontario. One indication of the Province's commitment to MCP is the Municipal Cultural Planning Partnership (MCP), MCP is a broad coalition of seven provincial ministries, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, individual municipalities, cultural service organizations (e.g., Ontario Library Association, Ontario Presenters Network, etc.) and the University of Waterloo working together to advance MCP across the province.

The following definition of municipal cultural planning has been set out by the Ontario Ministry of Culture and the Municipal Cultural Planning Partnership (MCP):

Municipal Cultural Planning is a municipally-led process for identifying and leveraging a community's cultural resources and integrating culture across all facets of local planning and decision-making.

Municipal cultural planning is built on two core principles:

1. Developing a cultural mapping system – a systematic approach to identifying and recording local cultural assets.
2. Adopting a cultural lens – bringing cultural considerations into all aspects of municipal planning and decision making.

Furthermore, municipal cultural planning is used to refer to two distinct but interrelated concepts and approaches:

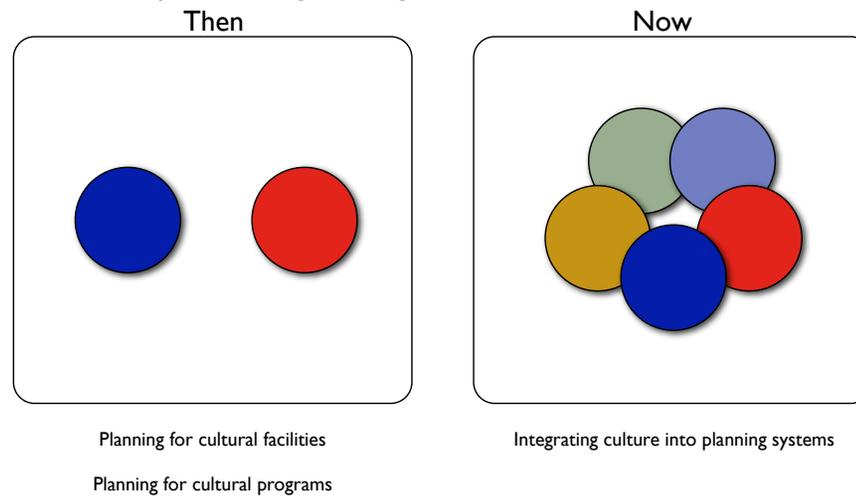
1. A specific process and set of assumptions for establishing a plan.
2. The ongoing integration of culture in municipal planning and decision-making.

Municipal cultural planning is making new and expanded demands of municipalities, requiring them to rethink what they do as well as how they plan and support the creative economy and cultural development. With respect to culture, the traditional expectation of municipalities was to focus on managing or funding facilities and delivering cultural programs.

Under the new paradigm of municipal cultural planning these traditional expectations do not disappear. Rather, municipalities are also being called upon to play stronger strategic leadership roles including:

- Integrating culture into policies and plans across all departments;
- Working to support and strengthen cross-sectoral partnerships and collaboration with business and community partners; and,
- Building collective capacity across a wide range of cultural activity and organizations.

The Municipal Planning Paradigm



The development of a Cultural Policy and Plan for Hamilton will define a new and expanded role for the Cultural Division in collaboration with other City Departments. In order to fully integrate cultural planning principles and practices into the City's planning processes, the appropriate resources will be required.

Culture

The City of Hamilton established a working definition of culture to guide Phase 1 of the OCC Project. The definition is intended to be a starting point for community conversations and engagement in Phase 2. The working definition of culture is as follows:

Culture is the way of life as it is expressed and lived out in our community. Culture is all the institutions, activities and people in a community through which we express our shared beliefs, values, customs, traditions, rituals, heritage, language and interactions, formal and informal relationships.

Heritage

Most facets of municipal cultural planning are not legislated responsibilities for municipalities. The exception, however, is heritage conservation where responsibilities are set in both the Ontario Heritage Act and the Ontario Planning Act. The following definitions form the basis of the Ontario Ministry of Culture's framework for heritage conservation that informs these responsibilities. This framework recognizes both the distinctiveness of the individual categories of cultural heritage resources and the overlap between these categories.

We must put culture and place at the centre of building Canadian communities.

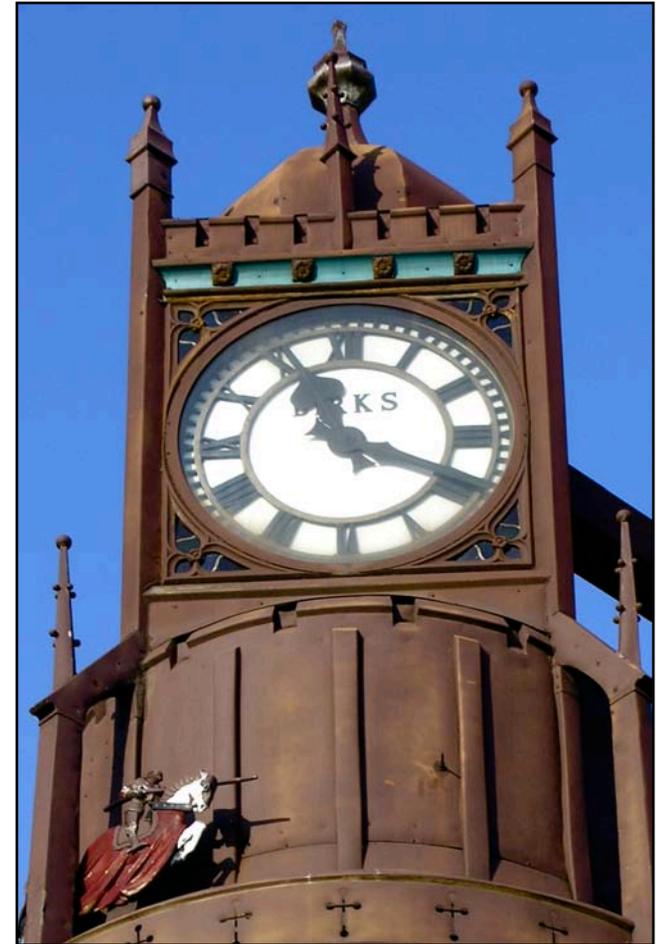
External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities (Harcourt) Commission

The three broad classes of heritage resources are:

1. Immovable heritage: land or land-based resources, such as buildings or natural areas, which are “fixed” in specific locations (e.g., structures, sites, areas).
2. Movable heritage: resources that are easily “detachable” and can be transported from place to place (e.g., objects, documents).
3. Intangible heritage: the non-material, spiritual productions of humans, such as cultural expressions, stories, songs, and beliefs (e.g., values, behaviours, speech), (Ministry of Culture, 2002). 6

The cultural heritage framework also defines a comprehensive understanding of heritage conservation which is understood to include:

1. Identification and recovery: the selection of heritage resources or features involving documentation and inventories.
2. Preservation and renewal: the resource is protected and renewed. Actions include legal protection, repair, restoration and maintenance of heritage features.
3. Interpretation and sustainable use: making the meaning and importance of heritage resources evident through educational and promotional programs and the ongoing management of heritage resources as living parts of the community.



Birks Clock pre-restoration - City of Hamilton Art in Public Places Collection