



Sulture Plan
Saskatoon
Life of the City

**Saskatoon Culture Plan
Phase II Interim Report**

May 2010



This Interim Report has been submitted by
Office for Urbanism to the City of Saskatoon



Table of Contents

1	Process Update
3	Framework Overview
4	Vision and Principles
5	Culture Plan Report Structure

Process Update

Phase I: Audit and Analysis (October 2009 – February 2010)

Phase I began with a project kick-off meeting followed by key stakeholder interviews in November, 2009 at the Mendel Art Gallery as well as site tours of facilities across the city. This phase focused on completing background scans of the political, strategic and policy context, as well as conducting an initial analysis of the opportunities and constraints of Saskatoon's cultural landscape. The Project Team met with stakeholders from a variety of organizations and groups, including:

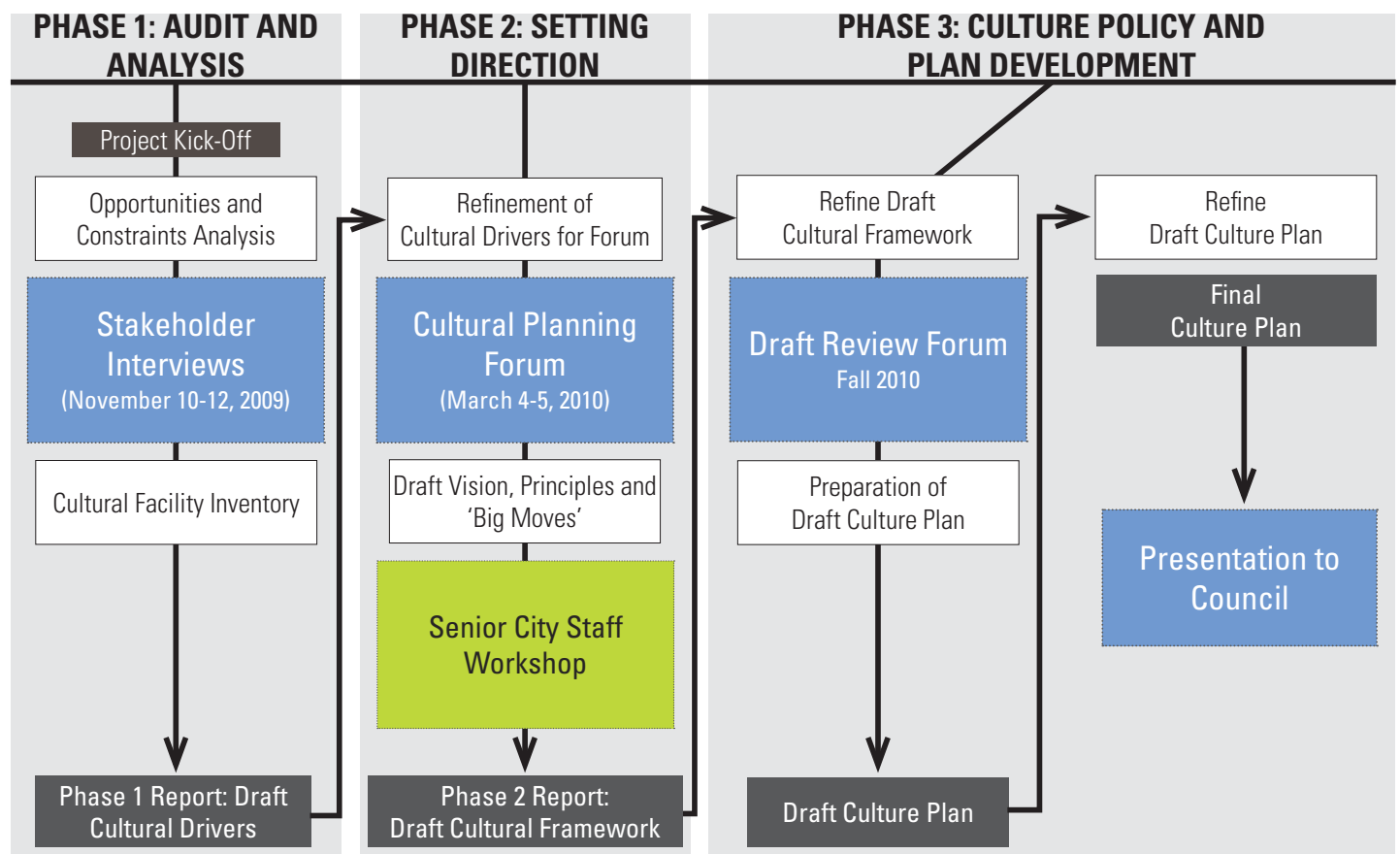
- Steering Committee and Advisory Committee
- City Manager
- City Archivist
- Community Services Department
- Saskatoon Public Library
- Museums & Galleries
- Theatres & Festival organizations
- Educational Institutions
- Business & Tourism

- Meewasin Valley Authority
- Saskatoon Heritage Society
- Individual Artists
- SaskCulture and Saskatchewan Arts Board

Through these early conversations, the Project Team was able to gain considerable insight into the needs and aspirations of cultural organizations and the broader creative community across the city. Several discernible themes emerged from the stakeholder interviews and research. Nine 'drivers for change' were developed to frame initial discussions and illustrate some of the key opportunities and constraints that the Culture Plan must address.

Phase II: Setting Direction (March 2010 – April 2010)

The objective of Phase II is to build on the analysis completed in Phase I to generate content for the Culture Plan. To inform this, a Cultural Stakeholders Planning Forum was held on



March 4-5, 2010 at TCU Place. The event was specifically designed to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to respond to the draft Cultural Drivers and to collaborate on generating the vision, principles and key strategic directions for the Culture Plan.

Over 100 stakeholders participated in the Forum including representatives from arts and cultural organizations, educational institutions, individual artists, architects, planners, students and community leaders. The output of the Forum has been synthesized into a vision statement and guiding principles that are included in this Interim Report. Inspired by the ideas that have emerged through stakeholder engagement to date, a number of 'strategic directions' towards achieving the City's objectives and community's aspirations has been prepared and discussed at targeted meetings with the project committees and through a facilitated workshop with senior city staff in late April 2010.

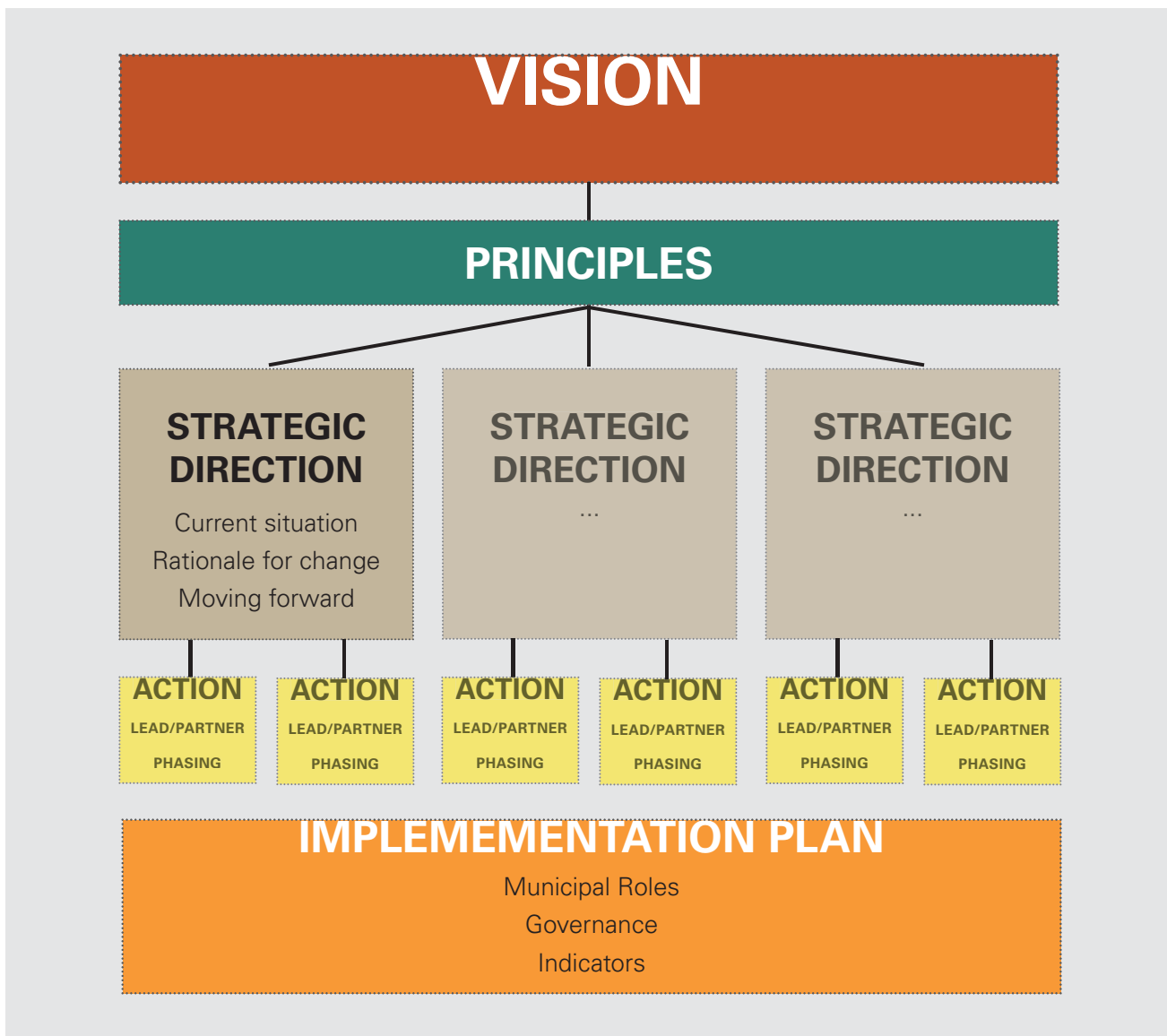
Phase III: Culture Policy and Plan Development (April 2010 – October 2010)

Informed by the outcomes of the staff workshop and committee meetings, the draft plan will be developed for review in early Fall 2010 through a Draft Review Forum. With community feedback provided through this highly interactive session, the Project Team will prepare the Final Culture Plan to be presented to Council in late Fall 2010.

Framework Overview

The Culture Plan Framework is comprised of three interconnected components:

- *Vision and Principles* - describes the future aspirations of the community regarding its cultural development and the guiding principles that will underpin the successful achievement
- *Strategic Directions and Action Plan* - sets the context and focus to achieve key objectives including descriptions of the current situation, rationale for change and direction required to move forward for each
- *Implementation Plan* - describes the roles for the City of Saskatoon, governance recommendations and key indicators of success



Vision and Principles

Informed by the nine Cultural Drivers for Change, participants at the the Cultural Stakeholders Planning Forum on March 4-5 worked with the Project Team to identify the values and principles that would be fundamental to a new vision for culture for the city.

Based on a series of 'we value' statements generated by participants, the following draft Vision and Principles have been prepared to guide the municipality and its partners through the development of a Culture Plan Framework.

Saskatoon is a culturally innovative city.

Our culture is our collective traditions, our distinct religions, our diverse languages, our founding nations, our stories and histories, our progressive ideas, our built heritage, our natural heritage and our Saskatoon spirit.

Our communities work collaboratively to create dynamic and sustainable urban environments that reinforce our freedom to express, feel, innovate, share and take creative risks.

Our children and youth are innovators of culture and our elders respected and treasured as keepers.

We encourage diverse forms of cultural expression as new and different perspectives keep us vital as a society.

We take immense pride in our ability to make Saskatoon culture inclusive, accessible and alive in every neighbourhood such that everyone has the opportunity to participate.

Our civic cultural leadership is demonstrated by nurturing cultural inclusion, awareness and celebration in all aspects of our work: community development, city planning, urban design and architecture, recreation and leisure programming, and economic development.

Enabling innovation in the arts is valued, and we partner with institutions to constantly create new opportunities that will elevate awareness and appreciation of Saskatoon's culture.

Our Vision will be achieved through a commitment to the following principles:

Accessible

Through our work in community development, recreation programming and urban planning we strive to ensure that our culture is accessible to all throughout the city, in its neighbourhoods, civic facilities and community places and spaces ensuring everyone has an opportunity to participate.

Inclusive in our Diversity

We embrace diversity in all of its forms: ethno-cultural, linguistic, religious, age, gender and income, encouraging participation and contributions to ensure an inclusive cultural experience that builds community.

Collaborative

We seek to build connections through our approaches to civic administration and community development by building partnerships across sectors, generations, disciplines and narratives.

Sustainable

We will foster a culture that respects our natural environment and protects our built heritage while recognizing our urban environment, prairie landscape and river setting.

Innovative

We will enable, we will support and we will celebrate cultural innovation based on our entrepreneurial traditions.

Responsible Leadership

The City will nurture civic and community leaders to mentor and encourage greater participation in cultural endeavours in an effort to create cultural legacies that will continue to inspire and guide us generation after generation.

Culture Plan Report Structure

- 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
- 2 INTRODUCTION
- 3 PLANNING APPROACH
 - 3.1 Purpose
 - 3.2 Approach to Cultural Planning
 - 3.3 Study Process
- 4 POLICY AND STRATEGIC CONTEXT
 - 4.1 Cultural Development and Sustainability
 - 4.2 Policy and Strategic Context
- 5 STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK
 - 5.1 Vision & Principles
 - 5.2 Strategic Direction 1 – Create Culture-Infused Neighbourhoods
 - 5.3 Strategic Direction 2 – Ensure Cultural Heritage is Visible and Valued
 - 5.4 Strategic Direction 3 – Build Capacity for Effective Collaboration
 - 5.5 Strategic Direction 4 – Foster Intercultural Exchange
 - 5.6 Strategic Direction 5 – Develop the City Centre as a Cultural District
 - 5.7 Strategic Direction 6 – Cultivate Conditions for Creative Entrepreneurship to Thrive
- 6 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN
 - 6.1 Roles for the City of Saskatoon in Cultural Development
 - 6.2 Governance Recommendations
 - 6.3 Evaluation Indicators
- 7 APPENDICES

