

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release



Fort Edmonton Park's Indigenous Peoples Experience Among the Best

EDMONTON, AB - Fort Edmonton Park is thrilled to receive a *Thea Award for Outstanding Achievement - Heritage Center* for the new Indigenous Peoples Experience. The Thea Award, presented this past weekend in Anaheim, California, is internationally recognized for celebrating outstanding work on educational, historical and entertainment projects.



Renée Williams, Senior Vice President,
Darren Dalglish, President & CEO
Fort Edmonton Management Company



Audrey Poitras
President
Métis Nation of Alberta

President and CEO of Fort Edmonton Management Company, Darren Dalglish says, "We are truly honoured to be recognized with this award and to have had the privilege to facilitate this incredible project alongside our MOU partners the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations and the Métis Nation of Alberta. We thank our MOU partners and the many collaborators on this incredible project, including the City of Edmonton, Clark Builders, Stantec, Hidden Story Productions, and all of the Elders, knowledge keepers, storytellers, artisans, volunteers, and staff who brought this experience to life. We continue to learn and listen, as there is much work to be done. Thank you. This award is all for you."

The Indigenous Peoples Experience is a transformative experience as a result of years of partnership, cooperation and deeper understanding between all parties. The exhibit explores the rich cultures of local First Nations and Métis Peoples while encouraging guests to seek out truths lived by Indigenous Peoples before and after Canada's founding. This opportunity to uplift Indigenous communities comes at a critical time in Canada's reconciliation with Indigenous people. It is the first exhibit of its kind in Canada.

"When I learned of the Thea award recognition for the Indigenous Peoples Experience at Fort Edmonton Park, I was not surprised at all," says Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi. "This exhibit is a breathtaking reflection of Indigenous communities in the sacred territory of Treaty Six. It is such an honour to have a space to share the rich history and legacy of the First Nations and Métis peoples who originally called this land home. Collaborative and inclusive leadership were the heart and soul of this project, and the committed partnership between the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations, the Métis Nation of Alberta and Fort Edmonton Management Company were the cornerstone. The Indigenous Peoples Experience at Fort Edmonton will continue to be a place of learning, of hope and of reconciliation. Congratulations on the Thea Award and to everyone involved."

Deep conversations with over fifty Indigenous Elders, historians, educators, and community members informed the content shared in the exhibit. The stories and artwork come directly from Indigenous perspectives gathered through engagement with over forty local Indigenous nations, historical documents, and research. Music was written and composed by local, award-winning, Indigenous musicians and performers through an artist residency. Local Indigenous interpreters greet guests and impart their own personal stories and history, adding unique depth to the experience. This shared knowledge does not just exist in the past, it is here today.

[A short video about the project is located here.](#)
[Photos from the awards ceremony available here.](#)

About the Thea Awards

The Thea Awards were created by the Themed Entertainment Association (TEA) to help realize a key mission of the association: bringing recognition to achievement, talent and personal excellence within the themed entertainment industry. From a modest beginning in 1994, the Thea Awards have become internationally recognized as a symbol of excellence. www.teaconnect.org.

About Fort Edmonton Park

Fort Edmonton Park began as a Centennial project in 1967 and has since been a mainstay of Edmonton's river valley. Operated by Fort Edmonton Management Company for over ten years, Fort Edmonton Park is a multi-attraction space providing a gathering place for

visitors and offering an immersive cultural experience. After closing for renovations in 2018, Fort Edmonton Park reopened in 2021 with multiple enhancements, including the addition of the Indigenous Peoples Experience.

Fort Edmonton Park and the Indigenous Peoples Experience open to the public on May 21, 2022, for the general admission season. The Indigenous Peoples Experience is currently available for school field trips, workshops, corporate, and private gatherings.

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