

Emma Morris

Emma Morris is the Community Consultant for Art and Cultural Heritage with the City of Regina. Emma has always harbored a love for the arts, and she pursued this passion with a Bachelor's degree in Art History from the University of Regina. Upon convocation, she relocated to study an MA in Cultural Heritage and Resource Management from the University of Winchester. During this time, Emma worked locally with two museums and was fortunate to travel within the UK and Europe while conducting research. Emma is currently working to align community and municipal priorities with Regina's Cultural Plan (2016), including adhering to standards and best practices for collections care and management, research, public art, monuments, and supporting community-led place-making initiatives. Her skills and interests include public art, diverse heritages, monuments and legacies, cultural infrastructure, research, funding (administration and grant writing), and cultural events.

1. What is your name and current occupation/job title?

My name is Emma Morris and I am the Community Consultant for Art and Cultural Heritage at the City of Regina, so I get to manage our public art collection and deal with a lot of the cultural heritage and commemoration issues that come up in our city.

- a. (Optional: Where were you born and where did you live as a child?)

I was born in Saskatoon and I grew up in Saskatoon, Nipawin, Swift Current, and Regina.

2. What is your training/education and where did you receive it? Is/was the training you took available in this province?

I did a Bachelor Honours degree in Art History at the University of Regina (Luther College), and I did a Master of Arts in Cultural Heritage and Resource Management from the University of Winchester in Winchester, UK.

3. How did you develop a passion for heritage*? Was it something that you always wanted to pursue?

**As per Heritage Saskatchewan's definition of heritage as "those values, beliefs and ways of living we inherit from past generations that we still use to understand the present and make choices for the future" as well as history, community involvement, and cultural background.*

I have always been interested in history, but it really took off when I took on a student position at the Government House Museum in Regina.

4. How do you integrate heritage into your work?

My job is really closely tied to heritage, in that many aspects of our city's heritage are depicted in our public art, as well as through the street naming, policy development, commemoration, and historical preservation.

5. Why is heritage important to you? Why is heritage important to our society?

I think that knowing and examining our heritage(s) helps us know ourselves and each other. History can be messy and it is not simple, but it is important to look critically and objectively, to learn, and to honour those who came before us.

6. Is the career path that you took (or are undertaking) still a viable option for students today? Are there different options that you would recommend that were not available to you?

It is, but there is now a Cultural Heritage MA at UBC which would have been an option. But I certainly recommend travelling if you have the opportunity!

7. If you could do (or have done) anything differently, what would that be?

I loved the path I took. The only thing I would do differently would be to get involved in non-profits and volunteer for boards earlier on (while still in university) to help me understand the funding structures and governmental organization earlier on. It's also a great way to make connections in the sector!

8. Anything else that you would like to add about yourself and your work?

I love what I do and I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with both art and heritage in my job.

9. What advice do you have for high-school-aged students?

If you choose to pursue a university path in heritage, I would recommend that you wait to declare your major and minor until you've taken a few classes. I started with a French major, changed it to a history major, and changed it again to graduate with an art history major and classics minor. Take some classes and figure out what area you want to take classes in and, perhaps more importantly, what you want to do with that degree after you graduate.

Also, if heritage is one of your many passions, remember that there are so many ways to be involved in heritage in Saskatchewan and you do not have to follow a specific path. If you are passionate about other career paths, there are still so many opportunities for you to be involved in heritage in your community through volunteer and hands-on involvement.