

# Edmonds Self-Guided Walking Tour



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## Framing the Problem

People are less connected to their communities than ever before (Walter, 2018). Small museums have the potential to connect everyone to the area's local history and provide a sense of community (Carlsson, 2021). However, small museums often lack funding and resources which results in limited visitation hours and leads to stagnation in exhibits and programming. With COVID-19, there is increasing pressure for digital formats while modern technology is transforming museum accessibility and engagement.

Small museums can use technology to bring exhibits and programs outside the building itself using existing resources (Ciecko, 2020). While the opportunity to use this technology is available, small museums often lack individuals with the necessary expertise. With time and budget constraints, small institutions must prioritize daily operations. Due to these challenges, institutions miss opportunities to connect visitors with community history in the way that most people connect with each other: through technology.

## Purpose and Impact

The purpose of this project was to engage Edmonds Historical Museum's community with local history through an accessible self-guided digital format utilizing local museum resources, physical locations, and community stories.

This project will enable the local community to engage with their history by gaining knowledge and understanding of the local area and historic community. They will feel more connected to their past by means of first hand experiences alongside the visual of real locations. Additionally, they will appreciate the history and roots of their community.

Tourists will gain knowledge about local history and emotionally connect with community stories, they will experience history through creative storytelling, they will be interested in local museum and the communities history, they will appreciate the history and roots of a community.

## Process/Deliverables

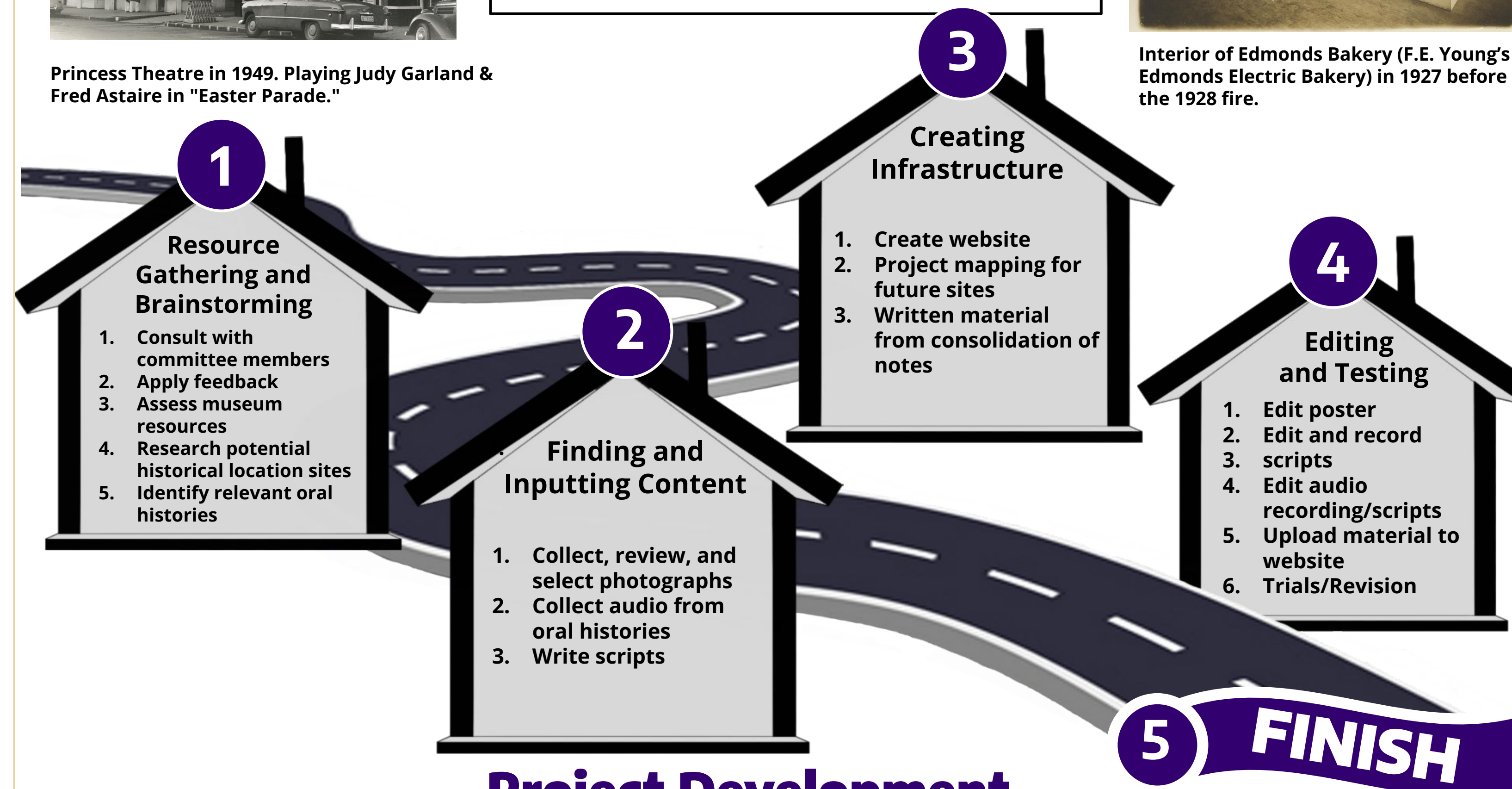
A multidimensional, self-guided, web-based walking tour accessible on any internet connected device. It features real world locations, complete with educational audio and text that incorporates historic photos and excerpts from oral histories.



Princess Theatre in 1949. Playing Judy Garland & Fred Astaire in "Easter Parade."



Interior of Edmonds Bakery (F.E. Young's Edmonds Electric Bakery) in 1927 before the 1928 fire.



## Project Development

Activity	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
<b>Research</b>									
Connect with Host Site									
Research potential historical sites									
Identify relevant oral histories									
<b>Content Development</b>									
Locate Areas of Historical and Community Significance									
Integrate Museum Resources (Oral History, Photos, and Objects)									
Webpage Skeleton (framework)									
Create Scripts for supplementary audio									
<b>Product Development</b>									
Create Audio and Oral History Transcripts									
Refine Web Page and Upload Content									
Preliminary Testing and Revision									
Final Project Video and Poster									

Acknowledgements: A special thank you to our host site, The Edmonds Historical Museum; as well as our Committee Chairs Katie Kelly, Rahul Gupta, and Angie Ong. We would also like to thank Michael Sparacio and Diane Conrad for their skills and support.

## Recommendations

- Expand the tour by adding new historical locations
- Talk to business owners to ask for participation
- Survey and interview the local community regarding important or popular locations in downtown Edmonds.
- Ensure the website is as accessible as possible, such as making it compatible with screen readers, offering a downloadable app, and providing pamphlets and QR codes at building locations.

## Key References

Rick Steves European Tours

Bradley, S. (2012). History to go: oral history, audio walks and mobile media. *Oral History*, 40(1), 99-110.

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Walter, N. (2018, May 3). *Summary of "bowling alone: The Collapse and revival of American community"*. Beyond Intractability.

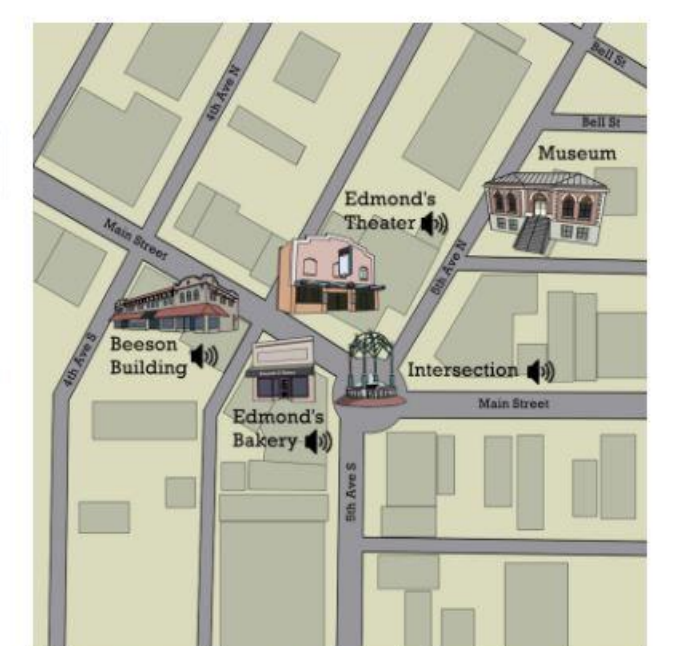


Edmonds Self-Guided Tour



Welcome to the Edmonds Self-guided Walking Tour in partnership with the University of Washington 2022 Thesis project and Edmonds Historical Museum. We hope you enjoy this experience. Thank you.

Edmonds sits, lives, works, and plays, on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Coast Salish people. The Duwamish, Snohomish, Stillaguamish, and Suquamish ancestors have cared for this land since time immemorial. This land acknowledgment does not take the place of authentic relationships with Indigenous communities.



Landing page for our self-guided walking tour, hosted by the Edmonds Historical Museum Website.