



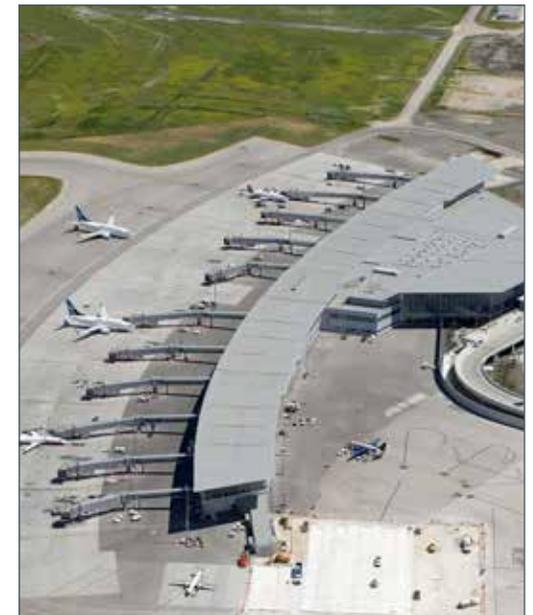
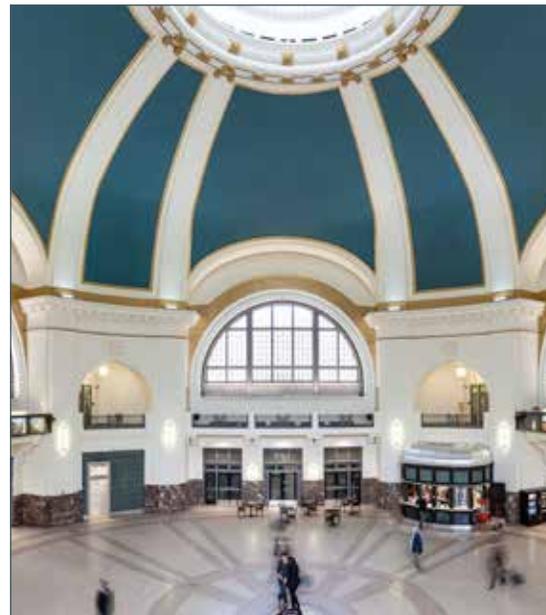
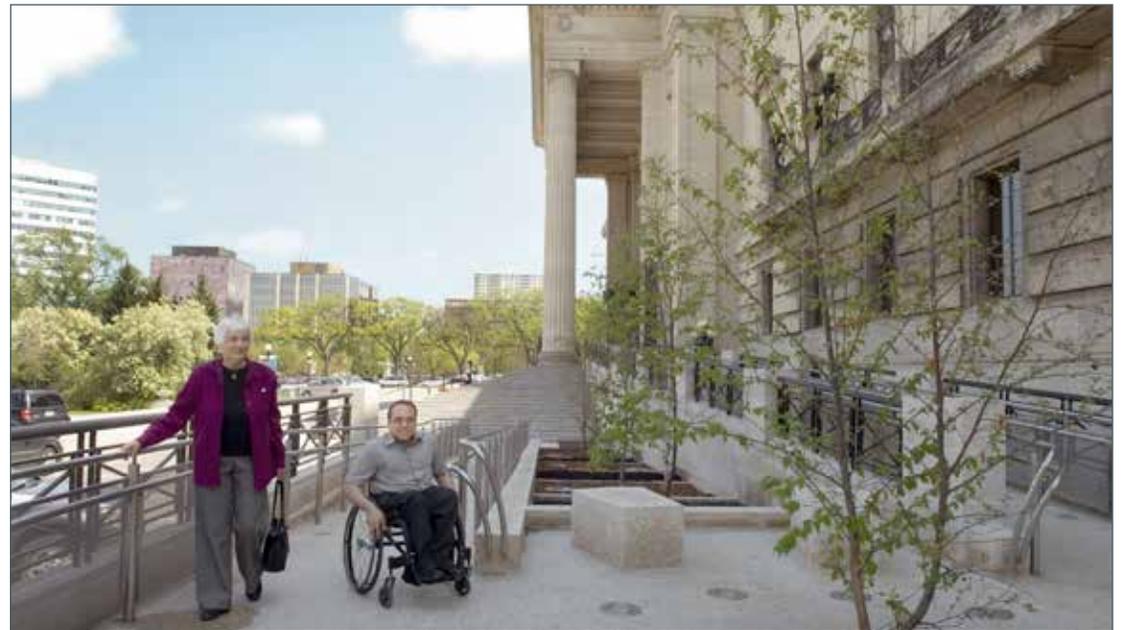
Accessible Winnipeg

CITY OF WINNIPEG
ACCESS
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

Winnipeg is a small city with big goals for universal design. As home to the Canadian Museum of Human Rights, inclusionary practice in policy, planning and the built environment is integral to development in the city.

As an advisory committee, we have prepared a brief snapshot of an accessible Winnipeg to highlight both private and public practices that are striving to clear barriers for the participation of all people. We celebrate accessible arrivals with the Path of Full Citizenship front entry of the Manitoba Legislative building, the accessible James Richardson International Airport and Via Rail Union Station.

We recognize that we will only truly “arrive” as a fully accessible city when all barriers to equal participation are removed. We have momentum and celebrate this forward motion towards inclusivity. Here are just a few highlights from our journey.



Arrivals



Leadership of inclusive transportation is evident in our transit system. In 2009, the entire fleet was equipped with Audible Next Stop Announcers to accommodate blind and visually impaired passengers. Currently, 100% of the fleet is equipped with low-floor easy access.

Handi-Transit is a service of Winnipeg's public transit system that provides door-to-door transportation for people who are unable to regularly use the City's fixed route transit system because they are legally blind or have a physical disability that significantly impairs their mobility. Door to door service is an extraordinary feature of our system provided at no extra cost to riders. In 2016, Handi-Transit accommodation was extended to people with cognitive impairment.

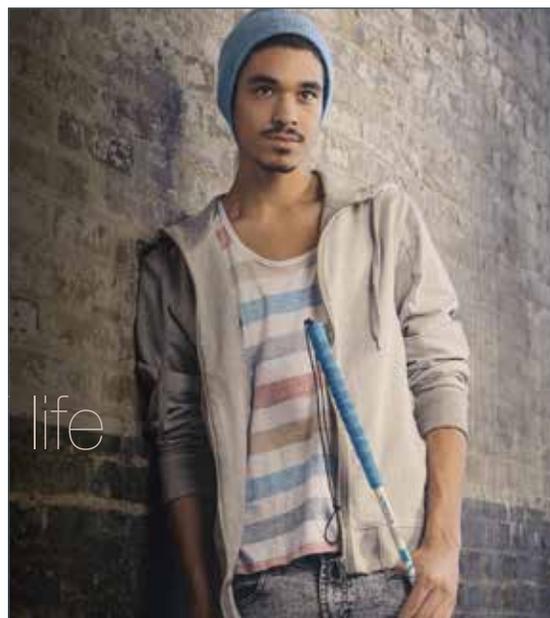
This pre-booked shared ride service operates within the same geographical service area as Winnipeg's fixed route transit system. Over 7000 active registered consumers participate in Handi-Transit and a total of 524,731 trips were registered in 2016. The ride service is provided for the same fare as conventional transit. We are moving in the right direction with our transportation in a challenging winter city.



Meeting needs of an accessible city is good for business and the economy. In the early 1980's, Ambutech began as a small shop in Winnipeg building support canes. Currently, Ambutech is a contemporary designer and manufacturing leader that shows true passion for their work and a commitment make some of the most reliable canes in the world. They are the largest supplier of mobility products in Europe and North America, and distribute to more than 80 countries around the world. Each hand-finished cane is made to customer specification.

Move Mobility, also located in Winnipeg, is another successful business-case to strive for excellence in access. This local business customizes wheelchair accessible vehicles to best fit with needs. They are also a reliable re-seller of used accessible vehicles to meet a range of budgets.

New Flyer Industries and their sister company Motor Coach Industries of Winnipeg has also emerged as an industry leader in the manufacture of low floor buses and accessible highway coaches. The match of strong municipal policy with business ingenuity illustrates that a truly inclusive city capitalizes on the business and economic opportunities of accessibility.



Design & Manufacture



Community charitable and non-profit organizations often set goals to meet a social agenda for inclusion. When groups choose to value the role of physical access and inclusion in cultural practices, faith-based organizations and affordable housing, they show leadership and challenge assumptions that accessible community places are out of financial reach in project planning. Each of these samples show access as a true value-add to the communities served.

At the Manitoba Indigenous Cultural Education Centre, the main floor of the designated Heritage building was dropped from an elevation of 7' to grade level access to maximize welcome and inclusion. This dramatic intervention was reviewed in consultation with Elders and community to best meet needs of an accessible community place.

At Habitat for Humanity, they understand that an affordable Habitat home may well be the only home its owners ever live in. Habitat strives to incorporate wider doorways for future wheelchair accessibility to reduce the potential cost of expensive renovations and helps maintain the future affordability of Habitat homes. In 2009 Habitat built a home for six family members, one of whom is a quadriplegic. The unique, accessible design enabled the family member back door access through the main floor area to the front deck, along with a main floor suite and independent use of his own bathroom.

Windsor Park United Church had a very small budget to meet the needs of their whole community. Their project provided an elevator to access the basement programs room, FM hearing assistance and made the choir loft accessible. Their decision to commit financial resources to accessible interventions shows the need to remove barriers of participation to remain inclusive, relevant and sustainable to meet multiple needs of congregation and community.



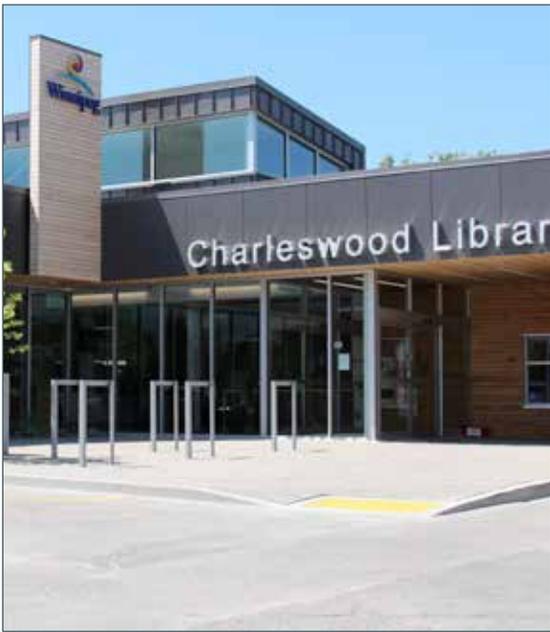
The City of Winnipeg strives to meet the needs of public through new design and retrofit of existing spaces to remove barriers. By applying the Winnipeg Accessible Design Standards, Architects, Landscape Architects, Planners and Interior Designers have embraced these requirements as a way to excel and distinguish their individual practices in the field of Universal Design. Design professionals have benefited from developing a robust knowledge of the standards as they participate in the highly competitive Request for Proposals for the design and improvement of civic assets.

A transformation is in process of our many libraries, pools and recreation centres, showing the direct benefit of inclusive design practice in Architecture. Our community parks and open spaces are being re-imagined through the creativity and knowledge of our Landscape Architects. This robust accessible thinking extends to tourism destinations such as Journey to Churchill, the Forks Accessible Playground, Esplanade Riel, the Metropolitan Event Centre, Club Regent, the Convention Centre and the Assiniboine Park Family Centre.

Finally, at our hospitals and centres for health, barrier-free access is more important than ever. Interpreting space with sensitivity and deep knowledge of inclusion is evident in the Victoria Hospital Miracle Garden and shines at the Specialized Services for Children and Youth hub, the Winnipeg Birthing Centre, the University of Winnipeg Health and Rec Plex and ACCESS St. Boniface to name just a few examples.



Public Places & Spaces



Public Places & Spaces



ACCESSIBLE WINNIPEG

An accessible Winnipeg is made possible through leadership and creativity in design, manufacturing, planning and service supported by municipal standards of excellence. Whether through design invention or intervention, policy or place-making, Winnipeg is in motion toward a truly barrier-free city.

For further information contact:

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Access Advisory Committee

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Photo credits:

Access Advisory Committee, Province of Manitoba, Jaqueline Young, Move Mobility, Ambutech, New Flyer, ft3 Architecture Landscape Interior Design, Crosier Kilgour, Michael Pratt.