**ORGANIZATION OF THE CULTURAL MAP**

The interactive Cultural Map offers a new visual dimension as a way for residents, organizations, business, schools, community groups and tourists to locate the City's cultural assets. The Map incorporates a set of tools for identifying, using, updating and sharing information about the City's cultural assets in a variety of ways. Mapping cultural assets is a fluid process, a Cultural Map is never complete, there will always be new information and resources to be added to the Map.

The City's Cultural Map is built on information collected using a consistent set of categories of cultural resources – known as a Cultural Resource Framework (CRF). **Figure 1** illustrates a Cultural Resource Framework used in St. Thomas to gather the information during the mapping process.
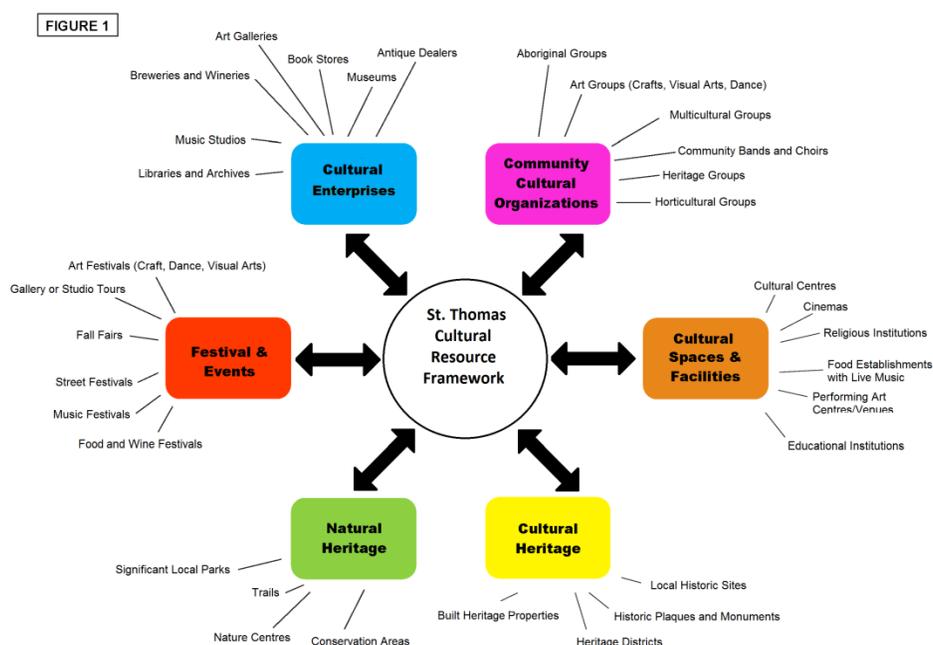
During the mapping process a decision was made to design a map interface that presented to the viewer a set of themes that offered the viewer a local perspective on the cultural assets unique to the St. Thomas community. The result is a Map interface that is flexible, intuitive to use and delivers information in a comprehensive fashion. A user is able to search across subcategories of the database to display all cultural assets that are connected to the search be it an organization a place a statute or a building.

Figure 2 illustrates the St. Thomas Cultural Map Public Interface, shows the themes Selected and the organization of the subcategories under each selected theme.
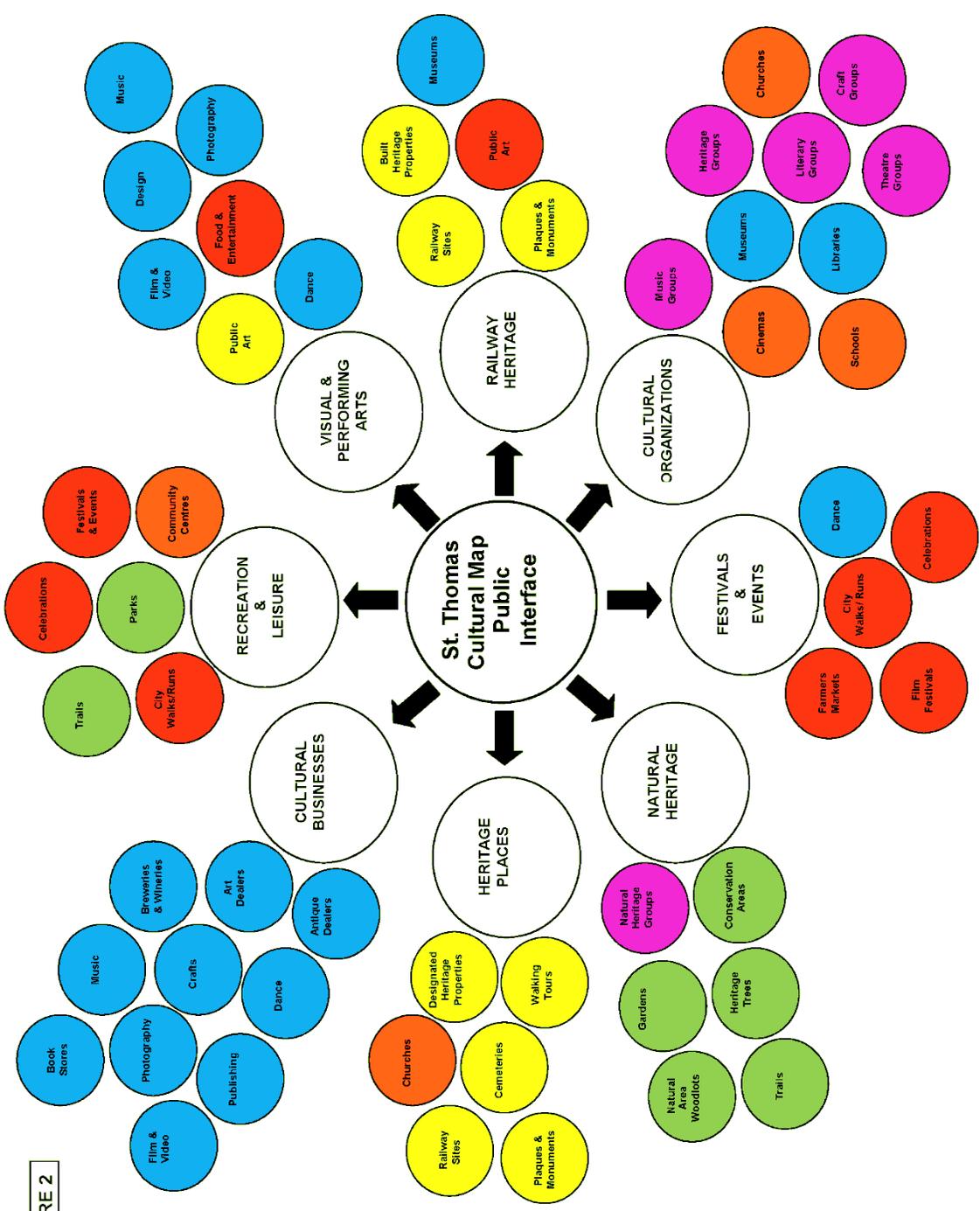
FIGURE 2

St. Thomas Cultural Map Public Interface

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS
- Music
- Design
- Photography
- Food & Entertainment
- Film & Video
- Dance
- Public Art

RAILWAY HERITAGE
- Museums
- Built Heritage Properties
- Public Art
- Railway Sites
- Plaques & Monuments

CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS
- Churches
- Craft Groups
- Heritage Groups
- Literary Groups
- Theatre Groups
- Music Groups
- Museums
- Libraries
- Cinemas
- Schools

RECREATION & LEISURE
- Festivals & Events
- Community Centres
- Celebrations
- Parks
- Trails
- City Walks/Runs

FESTIVALS & EVENTS
- Dance
- Celebrations
- City Walks/Runs
- Farmers Markets
- Film Festivals

CULTURAL BUSINESSES
- Breweries & Wineries
- Art Dealers
- Antique Dealers
- Music
- Crafts
- Dance
- Book Stores
- Photography
- Publishing
- Film & Video

HERITAGE PLACES
- Designated Heritage Properties
- Walking Tours
- Churches
- Cemeteries
- Railway Sites
- Plaques & Monuments

NATURAL HERITAGE
- Natural Heritage Groups
- Conservation Areas
- Gardens
- Heritage Trees
- Natural Area Woodlots
- Trails

St. Thomas Cultural Resource Framework

The Interactive Cultural Map has six (6) symbols, which are colour coded to reflect the St. Thomas Cultural Resource Framework (Figure 1). Below is a complete description of these categories:

Cultural Enterprises

This resource represents a wide range of cultural businesses engaged in the creation and production of cultural goods or services.

Assets Include: antique dealers, artistic representatives, public art gallery, book stores and new dealers, breweries, wineries, local radio stations, craft suppliers, dance studios and instruction, graphic design services, web design and production services, motion picture and video productions, libraries, history museums, musicians, music instruction and studios, photographers, newspaper publishers, and visual art studios

Cultural Spaces and Facilities

This resource represents facilities and spaces where cultural activities take place.

Assets Include: community centres, post secondary institutions, primary schools, secondary schools, bars with live music, restaurants with live music, performing art venues, railway sites, churches, and motion picture and video exhibition

Community Cultural Organizations

This resource represents community based cultural organizations that are smaller, with often less formal organizational structures, however essential to the cultural vitality of the community.

Assets Include: craft groups, genealogical societies, book clubs, local food groups, choirs, natural heritage groups, theatre groups, and other cultural organizations

Cultural Heritage

This resource represents significant cultural heritage sites or resources. Numerous designated heritage properties pay tribute to the City's past.

Assets Include: area walking tour, designated heritage properties, church area walking tour, courthouse area walking tour, railway sites, cemeteries, monuments, plaques, art installations, and murals

Natural Heritage

This resource represents significant natural areas in the City. Assets such as trails, parks, and conservation areas offer rich recreational and community experiences for residents and visitors alike.

Assets Include: conservation areas, local gardens, trees, local parks, local trails, and waterways

Festivals and Events

This resource represents recurring cultural activities. Festivals and events contribute to the animation of public and natural spaces by bringing entertainment, new experiences, and economic impacts to the community.

Assets Include: holiday celebrations, seasonal celebrations, cultural events, farmers market, film events, multicultural events, music festivals, street events, and visual arts events.

St. Thomas Cultural Map Public Interface

Using the categories set out in Figure 1, the data was reorganized into themes to offer a local perspective on the culture that is unique to the City. The St. Thomas Cultural Map Public Interface consists of eight (8) themes, and are displayed on the map in the information panel in blue. The themes are described below.

Recreation and Leisure

Assets Include: trails, celebrations, festivals and events, community centres, parks, city organized walks/runs.

Visual and Performing Arts

Assets Include: Music, design, photography, food and entertainment, dance, public art, and film and video.

Railway Heritage

Assets Include: railway sites, built heritage properties, museums, public art and plaques and monuments.

Cultural Organizations

Assets Include: music groups, cinemas, museums, churches, literary groups, schools, libraries, theatre groups, craft groups, and heritage groups.

Festivals and Events

Assets Include: farmer's markets, city walks/runs, dance, celebrations, and film festivals

Natural Heritage

Assets Include: natural heritage groups, conservation areas, gardens, heritage trees, natural area woodlots, and trails.

Heritage Places

Assets Include: designated heritage properties, walking tours, cemeteries, churches, railway sites and plaques and monuments.

Cultural Businesses

Assets Include: brewers and wineries, art dealers, antique dealers, music, crafts, dance, music, photography, book stores, publishing and film and video.