

Nominee Background & Statements of Interest

Election to Board of Directors, AGM 2016

Edmonton Heritage Council

The Edmonton Heritage Council (EHC) Board of Directors provides for accountability in governance, strategic leadership, and the active community and civic participation of EHC in the Edmonton region. In recruiting for the Board of Directors, the EHC strives to reflect the diversity, vibrancy, and character of the city and region that we serve.

The thirteen (13) candidates have provided the following biographies and statements of interest in serving on the EHC board. Up to nine (9) vacancies will be filled by election at this year's Annual General Meeting on May 11, 2016.

Darrel Babuk

Darrel is the Principal of Boreas Architecture and Civic Design, working to preserve stories of Canadian heritage and achievement to be passed along to future generations. He is a public speaker, author, Board member of the Alberta Grain Elevator Society, and a Freemason, working to create a program of conservation for Edmonton's Freemasons Hall.

The son of a Canadian Pacific Railway Station Agent, Darrel grew up in Alberta train stations. A graduate of the Montana State University School of Architecture, he was elected as Vice President/Secretary/Treasurer of the American Institute of Architecture Students, taking a year away from studies to live and work at the American Institute of Architects headquarters in Washington, DC before beginning his architecture practice in Chicago, IL.

Statement of Interest

The interests and strengths that I would bring to the Edmonton Heritage Council's Board include interest in advocacy and promoting awareness of issues surrounding Edmonton's heritage, as well as identifying, cultivating and working with contacts to promote heritage, and working to integrate heritage into Edmonton's future.

Angelina Bakshi

Angelina is a director at Edmonton consulting firm Veridant Inc. and currently serves on the board of Women Building Futures and the Seniors Assisted Transportation Society of Greater Edmonton. As a consultant, she specializes in setting strategic visions for her clients, and meeting these visions by employing the right people within the right organizational structure.

In the realm of culture, Angelina began as a classical East Indian dancer, before going on to train in classical ballet throughout her formative years. She then decided to apply her discipline and focus to become a professional civil engineer and pursued business school at the University of Alberta.

Statement of Interest

My unique path through the dance, engineering, and business worlds have convinced her that ensuring the vibrancy of arts, culture, history and community require many different perspectives. I am very resourceful and an effective business problem solver.

Wendy Birch

Wendy is the Executive Advisor in the Assistant Deputy Minister's Office at Alberta Education. She has held several roles with the Government of Alberta that have given her an extensive and varied background in policy analysis, program creation, and the development of strategic policy.

A born and bred Edmontonian and a second-generation Canadian of Ukrainian descent, Wendy has an extensive background of community volunteer work, serving as Chair of Habitat for Humanity's Family Support Committee. She has a Master of Science from the University of Alberta.

Statement of Interest

I am an experienced leader within the public sector, with strengths in communication and strategic visioning. I am also excellent at recognizing the relationship between ideas and people as a part of a system, rather than in isolation. This systems thinking underlies an ability to build bridges within teams and with external stakeholders. I believe in the importance of capturing all our stories and sharing perspectives to make historical events relevant for people today.

Ken Fearnley

Ken was born in Edmonton and is active in community affairs. His work career includes several years as Executive Director of seniors housing management organizations, including the Heartland Housing Foundation and the Sturgeon Foundation. He was also the owner of Ken Fearnley & Associates Consulting, providing services to seniors housing operators in Alberta.

Ken has served on the board of the Greater Edmonton Foundation and Alberta Senior Citizens Housing Association and is actively involved with the Alberta Genealogical Society. Ken is retired and lives in Edmonton, with winter vacations to visit grandchildren in Texas, Toronto and Victoria.

Statement of Interest

My experience as Executive Director of a large seniors housing management body has equipped me to understand all aspects of board operation. I am a strategic thinker that looks for consensus on issues. My family has long roots in the Edmonton area with all four of my grandparents coming to Edmonton around 1900. In my 30 years in seniors housing, I heard many stories of hardship overcome and gratitude to have lived in a community like Edmonton. As a society, we have a responsibility to honour and tell those stories.

Martin Kennedy

Martin is a communications professional, heritage advocate and community volunteer. He is a past Chair of the Edmonton Historical Board, and a volunteer and board member with Preserve Garneau since 2001. Martin is currently Vice President External Affairs at Capital Power, and recently served as a Senior Official in the Alberta Public Service.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society, board member for the Sled Island music festival, and past member of the Premier's Council on Culture. You can find him on Twitter and Instagram @mkyeg.

Statement of Interest

I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the EHC board. During my six years on the Historical Board, I worked with colleagues to launch Edmonton's Historian Laureate program in partnership with the EHC; create the Edmonton's Architectural Heritage website; expand the heritage inventory and designation program; as well as diversify the communities and individuals represented in the Board's recognition awards. As an advocate, I worked for the designation of the Garneau Theatre, the preservation of the former Bank of Montreal building (BMO '63), and continue to seek options for the maintenance and interpretation of the Rossdale site.

Jeanne B. Lehman

Jeanne is the President of the Francophonie Albertaine Plurielle (FRAP) working within Alberta's Francophone communities. FRAP was founded to support inclusion of more Francophone immigrant teachers to Alberta's French schools and has broadened its work to overcoming barriers affecting inclusion of newcomers in Francophone and mainstream communities. She also founded My Voice Counts, an organization for civic engagement of new immigrants. She worked with and served on boards of directors, as well as with external entities in the public and private sectors in order to maintain effective governance.

Jeanne has a Bachelor of Business Law and Master Degree in International Relations from the Sorbonne, Paris; a management diploma from the HEC Business School, University of Montreal; and a Graduate Diploma in Management from HEC Business School, Montreal. She has recently worked in project management with Diversity Group and the Africa Center and currently works with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (Government of Canada).

Statement of Interest

My extensive knowledge of Edmonton's multicultural communities and proven experience in community leadership, along with my lifelong engagement with multicultural communities, my multilingual skills, and my strong academic and organizational background would be assets for the EHC. The EHC strives to reflect the diversity, vibrancy, and character of the city and region that it serves. Having excellent knowledge of new Edmontonians' cultures and being well grounded in my city, I will bring the perspectives and memories of multicultural communities to the EHC and will advocate to stimulate the interest of these new Edmontonians in the heritage of our city.

Mack Male

Mack is a passionate Edmontonian and well-known local blogger, writing about urban affairs in Edmonton at mastermaq.ca. He's also co-founder of the popular What the Truck?! series of food truck events, and has helped to organize dozens of other local events including Eat Alberta, ChangeCamp Edmonton, and the Edmonton New Media Awards (Yeggies). Mack is an active community participant, and currently serves on the Edmonton Food Council, Downtown Vibrancy Task Force, Council Initiative on Public Engagement, and numerous other boards and committees in Edmonton.

Statement of Interest

I'm a passionate Edmontonian and dedicated community member with a deep appreciation for Edmonton's history and a desire to help ensure Edmonton's heritage is an integral part of the city's future. The strengths I would bring to the EHC Board of Directors include extensive local volunteer experience, a broad network of connections, a proven track record of getting things done, and unique insight into the dynamic and changing landscape in Edmonton. I believe I would be able to positively contribute to the Edmonton Heritage Council in a number of ways and look forward to the opportunity.

Alexis Miller

Alexis recently relocated to Edmonton from Halifax to work for the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation as a consultant in First Nations housing. Her academic background is in Gender Studies and City Planning. Her professional planning work has largely involved working with Indigenous communities.

She has developed comprehensive community plans on reserves in Saskatchewan, Quebec, Ontario and Nova Scotia; housing plans with urban Indigenous populations in Winnipeg; and worked on the Urban Aboriginal Strategy in Atlantic Canada. She is passionate about creating intercultural cities and spaces where cross-cultural dialogue and interactions can occur.

Statement of Interest

As someone who works mainly with Indigenous peoples in Canada, I can't help but connect the words "Canadian" and "heritage" with colonization. I am acutely aware of how our country was founded on the exploitation and oppression of Indigenous communities. I am actively engaged in learning about the unique cultures and histories of the diverse Nations I have worked with. As a reflective practitioner, I am continually questioning my privilege, perspectives and whiteness. I look forward to supporting projects and initiatives that engage with the story of urban Indigenous peoples, and diving deeper into acknowledging what it means to be part of Treaty 6 Territory.

Michael Parkatti

Michael is the Senior Director of Economic Information & Analytics with Alberta Economic Development & Trade. In this role, Michael has led the creation of the Alberta Economic Dashboard and the Alberta Major Projects Map website, which documents all major building projects planned and underway in the province.

He grew up in St. Albert, AB, moving to Edmonton in 2008. He and his wife recently built a modern-style home in Riverdale, using historical bricks from that neighbourhood's now-defunct JB Little Brickyard in its construction. His interests include hockey analytics, having previously consulted for the Edmonton Oilers and maintained a statistics blog at boysonthibus.com.

Statement of Interest

As a board member, I would bring creativity in ideas along with a well-developed skillset in quantitative problem solving. I believe that we can do more to integrate Edmonton's heritage into our everyday lives. As a resident of Riverdale, the neighbourhoods of Boyle Street and McCauley represent fantastic opportunities to preserve existing heritage, while integrating and contrasting it within modern, healthy communities.

Edmonton's heritage and history are incredibly important parts of our city's story, presenting vivid vestiges of how previous generations lived to future inhabitants of our city. This past chronicle of Edmonton's evolution is something I am very passionate about preservation and enhancing.

Arundeep Singh Sandhu

Arundeep was born and raised in Mill Woods, Edmonton, and has a B.Comm in management accounting from the MacEwan School of Business. He operates a transportation and construction business with his family, and has built projects across Northern and Central Alberta, and in the Edmonton area.

Over the past fifteen years, he has worked with the Sikh Heritage Society of Edmonton, the Sikh Students' Society at the University of Alberta, and many other heritage organizations in the Edmonton area. He served as a Vice President of PC Alberta from 2011 to 2015. He also served as a special advisor in the Government of Alberta and brings a history of helping community groups work with government to raise and address issues important to them.

Statement of Interest

Being born and raised in South East Edmonton, I've seen firsthand how the diversity of our heritage is strength for our city as a whole. It gives us the power to see issues from multiple perspectives and find unique, made in Edmonton solutions. I have served on the boards and executives of province-wide non-profits where I contributed shaping the organization's direction. I've worked with heritage organizations in the Sikh community over the years, and am familiar with many of these heritage initiatives. I would like to serve as a bridge between EHC and the many members of Edmonton's vibrant heritage community so we can all benefit as Edmontonians.

Sally Scott

Born and raised in Edmonton, Sally falls increasingly more in love with this city, enhanced through her work in heritage over the past ten years. She holds two Bachelors of Arts degrees from the University of Alberta; one of these with a specialization in Western Canadian history, focusing on women's history since the 19th century and the fur trade in the West.

Sally has been deeply involved in public interpretation, cutting her teeth at Fort Edmonton Park as well as the University of Alberta Museums and the Royal Alberta Museum. For the past two years, Sally has contributed articles for the Edmonton City as Museum Project, covering topics from Edmonton's downtown farmers' market to the first women's organization at the University of Alberta.

Statement of Interest

I have great passion for our city, its citizens, and where we're going as well as where we've been. I am proud to call myself an advocate for Edmonton's heritage, and I would welcome the opportunity to continue this advocacy in a more formalized manner as a member of the board of the Edmonton Heritage Council. Further, I am excited by the opportunity to work with other strong advocates for the same things, and to hear all of the voices that surround and support our heritage. Through my work, I have learned about the Indigenous history of Treaty 6, 7, and 8 lands, and is invaluable to my citizenship in a city on Treaty 6 territory.

Lindsay Smith

Lindsay is a Building Systems Specialist with MacEwan University, residing in Edmonton since 1996. A strong community advocate, he has served on his Community League Executive from the time he arrived in Edmonton, serving as President of his League from 2010 to 2012. He has also been a Director on the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues' Board of Directors since 2010 and is Chairman EFCL's 100th Anniversary Project Committee.

Lindsay has a Bachelor of Applied Information Systems Technology from NAIT and a Fourth Class Power Engineering Certificate. He has had a keen interest in architecture and in preserving historical sites and buildings, along with extensive practical experience in renovating and maintaining structures of diverse ages and sizes.

Statement of Interest

I have always had a keen interest in history in general and specifically in Edmonton's history. I would like to devote my time and passion to working with like-minded people to raise awareness about Edmonton's heritage. I am no stranger to volunteering my time to make improvements to our city and the communities that are within it. My interest was peaked in attending the National Trust Conference in Charlottetown in 2014, noting that city's ability to preserve heritage buildings and repurpose those buildings.

Eric Strikwerda

Eric is Assistant Professor of History at Athabasca University. He co-ordinates and teaches Canadian history courses in the Centre for Humanities. He published his first book, *The Wages of Relief: Cities and the Unemployed in Prairie Canada, 1929-1939* (AU Press) in 2013. He also serves as co-Vice President of the Alberta Labour History Institute, and on the Athabasca University Press editorial board.

He is a past member of the Edmonton Historical Board. Currently he is working on a history of western and northern Canada following Canada's acquisition of the territory in 1870.

Statement of Interest

I offer to EHC's work my related board experience and professional skills as a Canadian historian who focuses on the prairie and northern regions, along with a desire to preserve and protect Edmonton's documentary and non-documentary source materials for future generations of researchers, and my interest in communicating aspects of the city's past.