

DRA Land Use Committee Member Bios

Chair, Jordan Royer – Jordan grew up in Calgary and went to university at the University of Western Ontario for Engineering/Business. After graduating, he spent time at Infrastructure Ontario on the project delivery team, specifically on the Waterloo LRT project. He then moved to BC to work in real estate development. In this capacity he's worked on residential and industrial projects throughout BC, though mostly focused in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island. In his current position with Omicron, he takes properties from the feasibility stage (which requires interpreting planning documents to understand allowable densities and forms) through entitlements, construction and turnover. As part of an integrated team - with designers and construction professionals in the same office - this gives him a perspective on the current construction trends that is an asset to the Land Use Committee. Jordan became Co-Chair of the LUC and a DRA Board Member in March 2022.

Ruth Annis – Ruth has been a member of the DRA Land Use Committee for the past 10 years. She formerly served on the DRA Board of Directors for 8 years. Ruth chairs the Humboldt Valley Committee- a collaborative network between the Strata Councils of 4 buildings. She is a former Strata President. Prior to retirement, Ruth was Executive Director of a large multi-service agency in Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

Chadi Beydoun – Chadi holds a Master of Engineering from the University of Ottawa and a Master of International Construction Law from the University of Stuttgart. He is a professional Engineer and worked intensively on various residential, commercial, and industrial projects around Canada. While working at Gateway Casinos, he led the construction of restaurants, casinos and hotels across British Columbia and Ontario. Currently, Chadi works with Westerkirk, on development of projects from the early stage of rezoning through design, construction, and turnover. He is also a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional which gives him an edge in the development of sustainable projects. He is interested in urbanism, farming, politics, business, geography, history, and technology.

Wendy Bowkett – Wendy has a BA and MBA and is a business consultant working primarily with clients in tourism, hospitality and property development. She joined the DRA in 2005 after completing

her graduate degree overseas and returned home to Victoria. She served on the Board of Directors for more than a decade and over different terms as President and Treasurer while chairing several committees over the years but has been a regular member of the Land Use Committee since joining the DRA in 2005.

Dianne Flood – Dianne is a retired lawyer who formerly advised the Manitoba government on local government legislation, land use planning, and property assessment matters. She was a vice-chair of the Manitoba Municipal Board, the chair of the BC Property Assessment Appeal Board, an Assistant Deputy Minister (Manitoba Municipal Affairs), and the Executive Director of BC's Administrative Justice Office. Dianne has lived in Harris Green since 2004 and is especially interested in efforts to enhance the green space in the Downtown and Harris Green neighbourhood. Dianne joined the DRA and the Board in 2018 and is Chair of the Governance Committee, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee, and Board Secretary.

Robert E Florida – Robert has the following degrees: Mechanical Engineering, BD, MA, PhD in religious studies. He retired from Brandon University as Dean of Arts and Professor of Religion on 31 December 1999 and served on many provincial, national and international academic committees, panels, and boards. In Manitoba he was on the first panel of the Law Enforcement Review Agency, which adjudicated complaints against the police. He joined the DRA shortly after it was formed and served on the board for several years, edited the Newsletter until defeated by computer technology. He has been on the LUC since 2010 and is concerned to preserve the heritage of the downtown and to enhance liveability for the residents. Special powers: walking on water, raising the dead, calming the seas, and survival.

Quinn MacTavish – Quinn was born and raised in Victoria, and graduated from University of Victoria in 2019. He works in communications and research with the provincial government, and is a board member of the James Bay Community Project and the Hallmark Society, as well as treasurer for Attitude Theatre. He has also been appointed by Victoria City Council to the city's Heritage Advisory Committee. Quinn is passionate about advocating for Downtown amenities and infrastructure upgrades, and bringing the voice of renters into the land-use process.

Pam Madoff – Pamela was a member of Victoria City Council for 25 years. Her particular areas of interest were planning, urban design and

heritage. She has written, consulted and lectured on urban planning, architectural heritage and design. She is currently chair of the City's Heritage Advisory Panel and a member of the Advisory Design Panel. In addition, she volunteers on a number of other boards and committees across the city.

Neil McKinnon – Neil has been interested in Civic issues for many decades, including big questions of how different people with different ideas can live side by side. He has become recently more interested in how the physical landscape of a city contributes to the happiness of the people living there. Neil is looking forward to learning how the Land Use Committee aids in making Victoria an even more attractive place to live.

Harold Stanley – Harold has a Masters Degree in Environmental Design from the University of Calgary (1985) where he studied community planning and citizen participation in the planning process. His career has included: facilitating Tuktoyaktuk's first Official Community Plan; doing population and employment projections as a Strategic Planner in Alberta's Peace Country; working as a Community Planner for the City of Edmonton where he developed Local Area Plans and policies for the Westmount Heritage Area; consulting in the West Kootenays, mainly in the area of economic development as well as a project on cancer prevention and community development for the BCCA, and; working as a Community Planner with the District of Saanich where he was lead planner for the Shelbourne Valley Action Plan. Since his retirement in 2016 he's worked part time as a planning consultant and done community work as Chair of the North Park Neighbourhood Association CALUC and as being a member of the DRA CALUC.

JC Scott – JC is an internationally experienced hospitality and residential designer who specializes in eco design solutions. He moved to Victoria in 1980 and established his design business from a live work studio in Chinatown. He has been involved as a volunteer on committees working for a better Victoria for at least 35 of the past 40 years, most notably as President of The Community Arts Council. He promotes 100 Mile Design Principles using local suppliers and materials and working locally except for special projects. JC was educated as an architectural historian and promotes and works for the preservation of Old Town recently acting as a working committee member for the updating of the Old Town Design Guidelines. JC has been a member of the DRA Land Use Committee since 2013.

Max Thomson – Max is a worker in the restaurant industry, and a student at the University of Victoria. He grew up in several municipalities around Greater Victoria, and now lives in Chinatown and is lucky to also work within the downtown core. Max is passionate about active transport, environmental, land use, and housing issues within the city, and he is particularly interested in how residents of downtown can have a voice in how the city tackles these issues. He joined the DRA Land Use Committee in 2023.

Paul Thorkelsson – Following a decade of architectural practice in Alberta and British Columbia, Paul has spent the last 20 years working in local government in roles ranging from managing municipal building inspection programs, to general manager of development services, to the last decade as chief administrative officer. Paul and his family live in the downtown neighbourhood and he is committed to working on issues of new development and livability in the core of Victoria.

Andy Wachtel – Andy has a doctorate in Urban Anthropology and worked for nearly thirty years as a social policy researcher at United Way of the Lower Mainland. After retirement, he relocated to Victoria in 2009 and became involved in community affairs, serving on the boards of non-profit organizations, on his Strata Council, and on the Humboldt Valley Committee. He joined the DRA and has participated on the Land Use Committee for the last 9 years. Andy is interested in urbanism, art and architecture, local history and gastronomy.

Rob Wittman – no bio provided

Mathew Yee – no bio provided

Jeremy Zhao – Jeremy is a current Victoria Downtown Residents Association board member. He has volunteered for a number of years with the citizen engagement grassroots group CivicCamp, which engaged heavily in advocating for a sustainable future for city development. In addition, Jeremy has experience developing policy through the Alberta Party in the mid-2010s. He is also a former podcast host, with the most recent endeavour as a co-host for the Ward Zero podcast discussing local and urban issues about his former hometown of Calgary.