

City of London - Application for Appointment to a City of London Board or Commission

Application

Please choose the Board or Commission you are interested in serving on: **LMCH**

Contact Information

Name: **Sara Pineros**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N6H 0J8**

Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Board or Commission, please provide dates and details. (max. 3000 characters):

Since September 2023, I have proudly served as a dedicated member of the Board of Directors for the Rights and Responsibilities Awareness Initiative (RRAI). RRAI operates as a community-driven initiative, officially incorporated as a registered charity/non-profit, committed to fostering legal, financial, and cultural awareness within the Ontario community, with a specific focus on newcomers residing in the London Area. In my role, I actively contribute to the organization's mission by participating in monthly Board of Directors meetings. These gatherings serve as a platform for overseeing ongoing operations and making key decisions related to strategic, financial, and legal matters. The collective expertise of the Board ensures the effective management of RRAI's initiatives, reinforcing the organization's commitment to empowering individuals and enhancing the overall well-being of the community. RRAI engages in dynamic public awareness campaigns tailored to address the specific needs of the community. These campaigns are meticulously designed to educate targeted groups about their rights and responsibilities concerning Canadian laws, regulations, financial planning, and cultural intricacies. Our strategic approach aims to bridge gaps in crucial aspects of daily life often overlooked by traditional settlement agencies, contributing to a more comprehensive understanding of these fundamental aspects and empowering individuals within the community. By fostering awareness and facilitating understanding, RRAI seeks to make a meaningful impact on the lives of individuals, particularly newcomers in the London Area. The organization's emphasis on proactive management, strategic planning, and community engagement underscores its commitment to creating positive change and contributing to the betterment of society.

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

As a prospective member of a Board or Commission, my primary aim is to contribute my understanding of housing intricacies and programs to face them. Having dealt with issues such as elevated housing prices, limited unit availability, land shortage, and public programs designed to address access barriers related to income, health, or social issues, I bring a wealth of practical experience to the table. My specific interest lies in deepening my knowledge of the application of Canadian regulations within the housing sector, with a keen focus on community housing programs administered by LMHC. I am particularly eager to explore the nuances of social housing, including aspects such as access (criteria), operational protocols, financial dynamics, and management challenges associated with these programs. I believe that my unique combination of extensive knowledge, distinctive perspective, and practical experience positions me well to offer valuable insights to the decision-making processes of the Board or Commission. My enthusiasm to contribute stems from a desire to enrich discussions with the viewpoint of a newcomer, bringing forth considerations that may not be immediately apparent. I am dedicated to leveraging my

expertise to foster effective solutions and enhance the overall approach to addressing social housing issues within the Canadian context.

In joining the Board or Commission, I also hope to learn from the diverse perspectives and experiences of fellow members. Collaborative learning is essential for staying abreast of evolving challenges and emerging best practices within the field of social housing. Through active engagement and dialogue, I aim to broaden my understanding, contribute meaningfully to the decision-making process, and collectively work towards creating positive and impactful solutions for the community.

How will you support the work of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

I am committed to supporting the work of the Board or Commission through a proactive and meticulous approach. One key aspect of my contribution will involve conducting thorough examinations of reports to assess the efficacy of programs under consideration. This includes analyzing data, evaluating outcomes, and identifying key performance indicators to discern the primary areas that may require attention and remedial action.

In addition to my analytical skills, I am dedicated to active participation in every meeting. I will bring forth informed ideas to address the inherent challenges commonly encountered in community housing programs. Drawing from my comprehensive understanding of housing intricacies and practical experience, I aim to contribute meaningful insights that can inform decision-making processes and contribute to the overall effectiveness of the Board or Commission.

By actively engaging in discussions and offering well-informed ideas, I seek to foster a collaborative and solution-oriented environment. I recognize the importance of collective efforts in addressing complex issues related to community housing, and I am committed to playing a proactive role in supporting the Board or Commission's objectives. My goal is to enhance the decision-making process, contribute to the development of effective strategies, and ultimately contribute to the improvement of community housing programs within the scope of the Board or Commission's responsibilities.

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Board or Commission Member. (max. 3000 characters):

I bring a wealth of experience in collaborating with communities facing barriers to accessing their fundamental needs through market channels due to social, economic or health issues. Over the course of five years, I served as a public servant at national and local level, culminating in my role as the Rural Housing Director in the Ministry of Housing, City, and Territory of Colombia. Within this institution, I held pivotal positions as the Strategic Planning Director and Strategic Planning Advisor to the Minister. This extensive background has equipped me with a discerning understanding of criteria application, enabling a focused approach to decision-making and operational program enhancement, particularly within government initiatives aligned with social objectives. Moreover, my professional journey extends over five years in financial institutions and non-profit organizations dedicated to the empowerment of women in political, economic, and psychological spheres. This multifaceted experience has honed my ability to navigate diverse sectors, fostering a comprehensive skill set that aligns seamlessly with the objectives and considerations integral to board governance.

I also have experience working with minorities, including indigenous groups. That is why I was awarded to be part of the International Visitor Leadership Program in the USA in 2020.

Please tell us about your interest in being a part of the London Middlesex Community Housing board. Why are you interested in this particular opportunity? What do you hope to contribute, and how would you support the work of the London Middlesex Community Housing board?(max. 3000 characters):

I am deeply interested in being a part of the London Middlesex Community Housing board due to its unique advisory role for an organization that aligns with my specific areas of interest. The prospect of contributing to and learning from this dynamic environment is exceptionally motivating, as it offers a platform to directly impact the community to which I belong.

This opportunity holds particular significance for me because it provides a chance to contribute actively to a crucial cause—addressing housing issues within the London Middlesex community. My interest in this board stems from a desire to play a meaningful role in shaping policies and strategies that directly impact the lives of individuals in need of affordable and accessible housing.

I hope to bring my comprehensive understanding of housing intricacies, gained through experiences with elevated prices, limited unit availability, and involvement in public programs addressing access barriers related to income, health, or social issues. My aim is to leverage this knowledge to provide valuable insights into the challenges faced by the community and to actively contribute to the development of effective solutions. In supporting the work of the London Middlesex Community Housing board, I plan to conduct meticulous examinations of reports to assess program efficacy and identify areas that may require attention and remedial action. Additionally, I am committed to actively engaging in board meetings, offering well-informed ideas to address challenges commonly encountered in community housing programs. Through my proactive involvement, I aspire to enhance the decision-making process, foster a collaborative environment, and contribute to the overall effectiveness of the board in fulfilling its mission to support and improve housing opportunities within the community.

Please tell us about your educational background, professional credentials, or any other training which is relevant to this position. (max. 3000 characters):

I am an Economist, having earned two Master's degrees—one in Finance and another in Economics—alongside a specialization in markets and land policies. This educational background has equipped me with a robust understanding of public policy principles, economic and finance dynamics, and the intricacies of markets and land policies, which are directly relevant to the position.

Please describe any relevant work and/or lived experience you have. (max. 3000 characters):

I bring a wealth of experience from private, government service and the non-profit sector, totaling over ten years of dedicated work. This information is more detailed in my resume.

My government service has provided me with insights into public policy formulation and implementation, while my tenure in non-profit organizations has allowed me to actively engage with community-driven initiatives and understand the challenges faced by various demographics.

Concurrently, I have combined my professional roles with academic pursuits, serving as an professor at the university level. Teaching subjects related to development, finance, and economics has been a personally gratifying endeavor. This dual engagement has not only allowed me to stay abreast of the latest developments in the academic field but also provided me with a platform to impart the knowledge and insights I have acquired through academic study and practical experience. For me this has been the best way to be in touch with the youth and the future.

My multifaceted background, combining experience in government, private and non-profit with educational settings, positions me as a candidate with a diverse skill set. I believe that my educational background and professional experiences make me well-suited to contribute effectively to the objectives and responsibilities of the position.

Tell us about your involvement in any public or private sector boards, community involvement, or other experiences that are relevant to this position. Please describe the roles you played and the period of time you were involved.(max. 3000 characters):

I was a Board Member on the Superior Housing Council in Colombia from February 2021 to April 2022. Serving as part of the Technical Secretary, my roles and responsibilities encompassed facilitating in-depth discussions on the country's housing policies, actively contributing to the identification of barriers and opportunities for their effective implementation.

The Council comprised representatives from various sectors, including popular housing organizations, builders, credit institutions, users of individual housing loans, and a representative from the national real estate sector.

In particular, the Technical Secretary supported:

Advisory: offering insights and recommendations in the formulation, coordination, and execution of housing policies, with a specific emphasis on social interest housing.

Cost Review: conducted comprehensive reviews of various costs associated with housing acquisition, including taxes, fees, and related expenses. This critical function aimed at ensuring affordability and accessibility within the housing sector.

Periodic Evaluation: support the Council in the periodic evaluation of outcomes achieved through the implementation of housing policy execution programs. This proactive approach ensured continuous assessment and adjustment for the sustained effectiveness of policies.

Compliance Oversight: overseeing compliance with the objectives and criteria outlined

within the specialized system of long-term housing financing. This role contributed significantly to maintaining the integrity and efficacy of the financial framework. **Statistical Establishment and Dissemination:** establishing and disseminating statistics relevant to the construction and financing of housing. This effort contributed to informed decision-making within the sector, fostering transparency and accountability. My involvement in the Superior Housing Council underscored my commitment to fostering a comprehensive understanding of housing dynamics. Through active participation, I ensured a well-rounded perspective on policy considerations within the context, thereby contributing to the formulation of effective and inclusive housing policies. This experience equips me with a unique skill set and perspective that aligns seamlessly with the responsibilities of the current position, enhancing my ability to contribute meaningfully to relevant initiatives.

If necessary, please provide any additional relevant information that is not captured in your previous answers.(max. 3000 characters):

I really find fulfillment in volunteering for public interest initiatives that specifically address groups requiring greater assistance from public institutions.

Attach resume or other document here, if needed: **Pineros Sara Resume LMCH.pdf**

Attach more files here, if needed:

Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am a resident of London. ; I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; I understand that my application and any attachments will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity: (optional): **Word of mouth**

If you selected 'Other', please specify:

Submitted on: **1/10/2024 2:59:36 PM**

SARA PINEROS

London, Ontario N6H0J8

SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Over ten years' experience in finance, social policy and programs, and government.
- Skilled in social and economic and financial research, critical thinking, problem solving and leading teams.
- Over twelve years' experience as professor in economics and finance on the most important universities in Colombia.
- Strengths in relationships and public program management.
- Awarded in the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) conducted by United States Department of State.
- Languages: English (8) and Spanish.

EXPERIENCE

National Director of Rural Housing

Ministry of Housing, City and Territory of Colombia. Bogota, Colombia 2021 – 2022
Formulate, implement, and evaluate the first rural housing policy in Colombia working in collaboration with social, private, and public organizations, including international actors like: World Bank and Interamerican Development Bank.

National Director of Planning

Ministry of Housing, City and Territory of Colombia. Bogota, Colombia. 2019 – 2021
Formulate and evaluate the strategic planning for water, housing, and urban development in Colombia.

Advisor of Strategy for the Minister of Housing

Ministry of Housing, City and Territory of Colombia. Bogota, Colombia. 2018 – 2019
Formulate a national development plan for water, housing, and urban development in Colombia.

Team Leader Social and Economic Research

City of Bogota. Bogota, Colombia. 2017-2018
Conduct research about market informality and economic development for Bogota.

Project Manager

Citizenship in Action Foundation. Bogota, Colombia. 2016-2017
Manage the program of women empowerment with international cooperation from Germany.

Economic and Financial Researcher

S&P Global 2012 -2015
Review of risk rating reports and elaborate sectoral and macroeconomic research related to the financial sector and credit risk analysis on a sectoral and macroeconomic scale.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Professor

La Salle University. Bogota, Colombia. 2022 – now

Graduate Professor

Javeriana University. Bogota, Colombia. 2018 – 2022

Undergraduate Professor

Sabana University. Bogota, Colombia. 2015 – 2017

Undergraduate Professor

National University. Bogota, Colombia. 2010 – 2015

SARA PINEROS

London, Ontario N6H0J8

EDUCATION AND DESIGNATIONS

Specialization in Land Markets National University	Bogotá, Colombia	2020
Master in economics National University	Bogotá, Colombia	2017
Master in Corporate Finance University of Barcelona	Barcelona, Spain	2014
Bachelor's degree in economics National University	Bogota, Colombia	2012

AWARDS

Social Leadership United States Department of State	March 2020
Teaching Assistant Scholarship National University	August 2015
Young Researcher National University	March 2015
Best Highschool Graduates City of Bogota	December 2006

VOLUNTEER WORK

Board of Directors Rights and Responsibilities Awareness Initiative. London, ON. Canada	Sept 2023-present
Speaker Women Economic Empowerment Citizenship in Action Foundation. Bogota, Colombia	2016 - 2018
Academic Executive Director National Federation of Students of Economics. Fenadeco. Bogota, Colombia	2010 – 2011

REFERENCES UPON REQUEST