

Committee: **London Advisory Committee on Heritage**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Benjamin A. Vazquez, U.E.**

Address:

**416 English Street, Appt #11**

Occupation: **Student**

Work experience: **I've worked a variety of part and full time jobs, both while traveling as a young man, and now during the process of putting myself through my education. The only one directly applicable to LACH is a period of three months I recently spent helping to sort the archives of St. Paul's Cathedral at the Huron Archives.**

Education: **I am currently in the middle of my Bachelor of Theology at Huron College, double majoring in Systematic Theology and Philosophy.**

Skills: **I first discovered Jane Jacobs when I was in high school, and have been passionate about urban design ever since. I have a solid background in North American architectural history. I'm the author of "The People Came: The People Stayed: From Lilley's Corner to Old East Village" and chair of the London East Historical Society. I recently co-organized the East London Historical Symposium.**

Interest reason: **History and urban designs are passions of mine. I've been reading extensively about both topics since I was in my teens. I want to help draw attention to both issues within the City of London, and serving on LACH is one way I can do that.**

Contributions: **I believe that the question of how well the city manages to balance the needs for greater density with the need for heritage preservation is one of the most important questions facing the London as it grows. I don't believe that every century-old building requires preservation, and I understand that in the process of building a stronger London some compromises will need to be made. I want, however, to advocate for not making these compromises at the expense of heritage more often than is necessary.**

Past contributions: **I have been serving as a Director of the Old East Village Community Association for two years, and during that period I have acted to gather the neighbourhood's history and engage in a number of educational projects within the neighbourhood.**

Interpersonal: **I have never served on a board, or been a member of an organization, where everybody agreed upon every issue. Recalcitrance and insistence upon the "right" answer which only I have is almost always a sure recipe for catastrophic failure. As I've been moving into leadership positions within the neighbourhood I'm increasingly realizing that I, personally, am an expert in very little. Rather, I'm trying to develop a capacity to bring people with widely varying expertise together on projects that need these varying talents. I'm still a novice at community organizing, though, and I have a great deal yet to learn.**

Interview interest: **Yes**