

Committee: **London Public Library Board**

Organization/Sector represented: **Strategic Consulting**

Name: **Anand Desai**

Address: **1741 Louise Boulevard, London Ontario N6G 5E7**

Occupation: **Urban & Strategic Planning Consultant**

Work experience: **For the past 10 years, I have worked for Monteith Brown Planning Consultants. My primary area of focus is strategic planning, facility and service needs assessments, and business planning for library systems and parks/recreation/culture departments across Ontario. Our firm is also involved in every aspect of land use planning.**

Education: **I have a Master's Degree in Environmental Design (Planning) from the University of Calgary. I also have a Bachelor's Degree from Wilfrid Laurier University in Environmental Studies and Business Administration. I am a full member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ontario Professional Planners Association.**

Skills: **I have been directly involved in over a dozen Library Master Plans, Library Facility Master Plans and topic specific Library Service Assessments. Our firm regularly provides consulting services to public library systems in Ontario. In the past two years, I have been directly involved in projects for Richmond Hill Public Library, Innisfil Public Library, Clarington Public Library and Mississauga Public Library. I am currently working on projects for Oshawa Public Libraries and the Halton Hills Public Library. In addition, I have experience in developing Sustainability Plans, Parks, Recreation and Culture Master Plans, Healthy Communities Studies, Youth and Older Adult Strategies, Intensification Studies and land development applications. I have a strong understanding of City building and quality of life, of which the Library plays an integrated and important part of.**

Interest reason: **My professional experience provides me with a great understanding of what other library systems are implementing as they transition their services in line with future trends and best practices. I wish to learn more about the ways in which London Public Library plans, implements and services our community as it is cited as a progressive organization. I also see great benefit in applying my skill set to the London Public Library to guide policy and future direction. Most importantly, I believe in volunteering for the betterment of my community. I have been raised in London and my parents instilled values of community service early in my life. I believe that our City is a great place to live and can be even better. I am in my mid 30s and want my family to grow here as I did. My 3 year old daughter has and continues to benefit from services provided by the London Public Library, and I want to give back but also make sure that the Library is a place that she continues to want to use even as an adult.**

Contributions: **I believe my library-focused skill set is greatly complemented by my training as an urban planner. I have the ability to listen to all points of view (whether political, community-based or from other Board members). I bring a wealth of knowledge that ranges from developing Strategic Plans and translating these goals into space and programming requirements. I am well aware that Libraries are viewed as civic integrators that are not just the traditional 'books and shelves' of the past but instead are community destinations that can service newcomers to the community, youth interested in makerspaces, startup entrepreneurs looking for productivity and meeting areas, and older adults looking to avoid social isolation. I understand the roles of the Central Library versus a community-serving branch, considering how we maximize services and avoid redundancies.**

Past contributions: **I am a past member of the City of London Environmental and Ecological Planning Committee. I am also engaged in my local community association. I also maintained regular communication with Matt Brown during his term as our Ward Councilor, providing him with my insights and opinions as it pertained to quality of life in our community.**

Interpersonal: **I am a trained facilitator whose professional career is based upon dialogue with others. I am open to viewpoints from all perspectives and consider the opinions of others through decision-making. Ultimately, I make my decisions based on a variety of quantitative and qualitative factors and will stand by them - that being said, I endeavor to keep an open mind after I make a decision as well should new information come to light. In a word, I would describe my approach as 'balanced'. This is what I pride myself upon. Thank you for your time and consideration.**

Interview interest: **Yes**