

Committee: London Public Library Board Trustee Position

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **James Shelley**

Address:

**317 Simcoe Street
London, ON
N6B 1J4**

Occupation: **Research Coordinator, Western Health Sciences**

Work experience: **I am a Research Coordinator at the Centre for Research on Health Equity and Social Inclusion (Western University, Faculty of Health Sciences). I am also a Group Fitness Instructor at GoodLife Fitness. Previous employment positions include various Research Assistant contracts at the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing (Western University) and community relief work at the Canadian Mental Health Association.**

Education: **I am an autodidactic. (And as an independent, self-taught learner who is employed in the academic sector, I bring an acute appreciation for the role that public libraries play in democratizing access to knowledge.)**

Skills: **Strong critical, analytical, and research skills; program evaluation; equity and inclusion lens; system analysis; extensive knowledge translation/mobilization experience; messaging, media, and communications design; strategic planning and logic model development; strong interpersonal and listening skills.**

Interest reason: **I believe that the public library is a cornerstone institution in democratic society, and that the London Public Library's specific role in democratizing access to knowledge, providing community learning resources, and fostering creativity, will only grow in importance as the social and economic landscape of our region continues to evolve. I am interested in serving on this board principally because I am passionate about democracy and equality.**

Contributions: **As a Research Coordinator in my day job, my principle contribution to the library board would be expertise in research, data and system analysis, knowledge translation, and evidence-based policy (along with a critical commitment to understanding and respecting the lived experiences, perspectives, and autonomy of others).**

Past contributions: **Advisory Committee on the Environment, City of London (2012-2014) Citizen's Panel (Member) (2011-2012) City Symposium Series (Coordinator), London Public Library (2011-2013) Wolf Hall Debates (Coordinator), London Public Library (2016-) Central Conversations podcast series (Coordinator and Host), London Public Library (2017-)**

Interpersonal: **Every committee, board, working group, and team that I have ever been a part of has been an exercise in exchanging perspectives, backgrounds, and experiences with other people. To not inform, but to be informed -- this, for me, is the foundation of working with others. No single person has a synoptic view. I approach governance and advisory work as a learner -- I don't possess any silver-bullet solutions, only a willingness to listen and work towards collaborative decisions. For example, through involvement with research projects related to studies in racialization, gender bias, and anti-oppression, I have come to realize acutely that the ability to ask hard questions and listen intently is far, far more important than waltzing in with a readymade answer.**

Interview interest: **Yes**