

Committee: Covent Garden Market Board of Directors

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Nick Soave**

Occupation: **Senior Manager, Advocacy and Government Services**

Work experience: **I am currently working at the University Students' Council (USC) at Western University as the Senior Manager of Advocacy and Government Services. This role can be summarised as the organisational governance professional. I ensure that the organisation's governance functions operate smoothly and in compliance with our by-laws, policies and procedures. As a provincially incorporated organisation, I also support the USC as it develops by-laws to ensure they are in line with our mandate as outlined in our letters patent. At the USC we operate a 9 person board of directors that meets 8-9 times a year, and I am part of the staff team that supports the committees of the board, as well as the board of directors to ensure they follow good governance practices. The board is comprised entirely of Western University undergraduate students on 2-year terms. This means we are constantly teaching and educating our student leaders on what good governance looks like. For me, this means I sit as a resource member to all the sub-committees of the board to provide support as meetings progress by explaining best practices to the group and our own internal rules. I also support the student leaders in teachable moments when they can learn and improve their governance skills.**

Education: **I earned my Bachelor of Environmental Studies from the University of Waterloo, where I was elected to their student government as the Vice-President Education. This role entailed being a leader of a multi-million dollar organisation at the age of 21. That experience included sitting as a voting member on the organisation's Board of Directors. As well I have completed 2 Western Continuing Studies courses focused on Not For Profit Management; Effective Boards: Best Practices, Governance and Administration and Fundamentals of Financial Management for Not-for-Profits. As well as attended two professional development conferences focused on Corporate Governance; The Governance Professionals of Canada Annual Conference 2017 and the Govern for Impact Conference Annual Conference 2018.**

Skills: **As a working governance professional, I feel I can provide the Covent Garden Market board with governance support to ensure the role of the board vs. management is clear and ensures the effective operation of the board. It is my belief that Board's should be an asset to an organisation and not a burden, and I am not saying the current board is, but this is the approach I bring to governance. As well as of November 2018 I finished a 4-year term as the Chairperson on the London Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) Board of Directors. During these 4 years, the organisation underwent massive change, seeing the Founders and Executive Director leave, and the development of a new strategic direction of the organisation. As the chairperson during these transitions, I was in a leadership role that ensured the organisation could smoothly transition from one executive to the next while still ensure the successful operation of our programs. These leadership experiences have proven useful in my professional life as I support the Board Members at the USC understand how to be leaders of an organisation at such a young age through sharing my past experiences as a leader on a board. As I myself transitioned out of the LYAC Board as it helped me truly understand the role of a board to protect the mission of the organisation and ensure management is effective in their efforts to carry out a vision co-created by the members.**

Interest reason: **I live in a near-core neighbourhood, and as a result, I regularly will walk to the Market to shop, eat a meal before a Knights game or take in a public event occurring outside the Market. It is my opinion that the Market is one of the most important features of our Downtown and City because it is a community space that has an impressive mix of retail, entertainment and commons space right in our core. I would like to through effective governance ensure that future Londoners can enjoy the market as I have. My role in this is to protect the mission of the Market so management can continue to operate the market as effectively as possible.**

Contributions: **Given my professional and volunteer experience sitting on 5 different board of directors, I feel I can bring an experienced approach to governance. As well if there is a sub-committee related to governance I would be willing to join that group as well.**

Past contributions: **I have just finished as of November 2018 a 4-year term as the**

Chairperson on the London Youth Advisory Council (LYAC) Board of Directors. During these 4 years, the organisation endured massive change seeing the Founders and Executive Director leave, and the development of a new strategic direction of the organisation. As the chairperson during these transitions, I was in a leadership role that ensured the organisation could smoothly transition from one executive to the next while still ensure the successful operation of our programs. These leadership experiences while a member of a board of directors have proven useful both in my professional life, and as I myself transitioned out of the LYAC Board as it helped me truly understand the role of a board to protect the mission of the organisation and ensure management is effective in their efforts to carry out a vision co-created by the members. Other than the USC Board of Directors and the LYAC board I have also sat as a director on the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance, Daya Counselling, and Federation of Students board of directors.

Interpersonal: A board of Directors should be a diverse group of people from different backgrounds, origins, and experiences. This diversity in life brings with it diversity of ideas, and at a boardroom table, you need to ensure the best approach is selected, which can only be done with a diversity of voices. Around each boardroom table I have sat we have had people who brought a unique approach and skill set to the table and through respectful debate, we have always arrived at a solution that is useful to the organisation. My personal approach around the boardroom table to review the material ahead of time, listen to what my colleagues have to say and add either my conflicting point of view or additions to other people's comments. I think as a group we need to listen to the people around us and the experts who run our organisation to gather the information needed to make a decision that meets the needs of Londoners using the Market.

Interview interest: **Yes**