

Committee: **Covent Garden Market Board of Directors**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Donna Szpakowski**

Occupation:

Work experience: - **Employed as General Manager with the Hyde Park Business Improvement Association for the past 2 years; volunteered with them for 8 years previous to that. - Sole proprietor of a marketing agency for the last 9 years. - Business Plan Writer for the Business Help Centre that was in Komoka for 1 1/2 years. - 2002 to 2007 worked as a Business Advisor at the London Small Business Centre. - Employed at Microage Computers/Metafore as Project Manager for the first 15 years of my career.**

Education: **Business Computer Studies; Humber College Common Assessment Training; Employment Sector Council; Project Management Certificate from UWO, Diversity Training, Effective Communication Training.**

Skills: **Over the years I have acquired a number of skills, experience and education that I feel may assist this Board that include Project Management, marketing and business planning along with a strong volunteer history. As well, I am a current member of this Board and have enjoyed this time.**

Interest reason: **I believe that the Covent Garden Market plays an important role in the community in many different aspects. From stimulating the local economy and boosting tourism, to providing opportunities for small businesses to thrive. The market contributes to the betterment of the community through its' environment, the market, its' activities and also by the outdoor market and rink.**

Contributions: **I am very passionate about working with entrepreneurs from all walks of life and feel that qualifications and skills would enable me to contribute in an enthusiastic and dynamic manner. I have had extensive experience working with London's small, medium and corporate business sectors and feel that this will be a positive contribution to the Board.**

Past contributions: **I have worked in a volunteer capacity within the City of London for many years, and volunteered with the Hyde Park Business Association for 8 years, with ending in the President role (until becoming employed by them). I continue to work with members and the community to support businesses and neighborhoods in North West London. In addition I have sat on: - Community Safety & Crime Prevention (CSCP) - City of London High Risk Committee - London Police Services Board - London & St Thomas Crime Stoppers Board - Middlesex London Road Committee, and - Middlesex London Child Safety Committee**

Interpersonal: **I have years of experience working in the small, medium and corporate business sectors. as well as non-profit Boards. Having worked with a diverse group of people I have developed the ability to keenly listen to what people are saying - which reduces misunderstandings. Listening and accepting others while respecting both their strengths and weaknesses is, in itself, I believe a skill. At the end of the day, there is no "I" in team. I believe that we need to work together to achieve set goals as identified.**

Interview interest: **Yes**