

Committee: **London Public Library Board**

Organization/Sector represented:

Name: **Amber Matthews**

Occupation: **Graduate Student - Library and Information Sciences**

Work experience: **Prior to returning to my studies, I had a nine-year career in the non-profit sector and worked for several Ontario charities including hospital foundations, youth centres and a shelter for abused women and children. With increasingly senior roles and responsibilities through my career. I helped to raise over \$70 million in funding and left a tangible mark on the communities where I worked. Despite enjoying the ability to make a positive impact through this career path, I also felt a strong calling to pursue my long-held dream of a career in academic research and scholarship into public libraries and service delivery as such I returned to Western University in 2017 to complete my Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS).**

Education: **Holding a Graduate Certificate in Fundraising and Volunteer Management and an Honors Bachelor of Arts degree, I am currently enrolled in the MLIS program at Western University with completion in April 2019. Next Fall, I will begin the next phase of my education as I pursue my PhD in Library and Information Science with a focus on public libraries and youth.**

Skills: **In addition to my extensive professional experience in non-profit fundraising and governance, I am also a passionate researcher and advocate for public libraries in Canadian cities. My graduate research explores how marginalized and racialized youth access, perceive and experience library and information services in the community. This perspective can assist the London Public Library Board by bringing an informed and dedicated advocate for youth in libraries to the table. I also have strong background in strategic planning and communications for non-profit organizations. This includes developing and executing long-term plans to engage new stakeholders and increase financial support in the community.**

Interest reason: **I am interested in serving on the London Public Library Board because I firmly believe that public libraries are a cornerstone of society and one of our most valuable community resources. I also see this as an opportunity to offer my extensive skills in governance, relationship building and non-profit fundraising to ensure that the London Public Library is able to achieve its strategic goals and build strong relationships within the London community.**

Contributions: **I believe that I can contribute greatly to the London Public Library Board by leveraging my professional experience combined with my passion and knowledge of public libraries. My potential contributions are many including: assisting with relationship building with corporate and major gift donors, identifying other opportunities for financial and community support, effectively advocating on behalf of the London Public Library, and working with my fellow trustees to better understand how they can also leverage their existing networks. I also have a strong background in strategic planning and execution in the non-profit sector.**

Past contributions: **In the past I have served as both an internal and external member of fund development, community engagement and advocacy committees for a wide variety of non-profit organizations. I also served as an executive member of the Canadian Association of Gift Planners - Golden Horseshoe Chapter.**

Interpersonal: **My professional and community experience is also completed by my participation in the year-long Leadership Niagara Program. In this experiential leadership development program, participants from all sectors undertook a curriculum meant to refine professional learning, communication skills and gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which community leaders can best leverage our unique abilities and skills to make a tangible community impact. Learnings were complimented by a cross-sectoral project in which team members worked to aid a non-profit organization in organizational planning. This experience, along with many others in my career, has allowed me to develop a strong understanding of how to work effectively and collaboratively with others to achieve a common goal.**

Interview interest: **Yes**