

City of London - Application for Appointment to City of London Community Advisory Committees

Application

Committee you are interested in serving on: **Environmental Stewardship and Action Community Advisory Committee**

If applying for the Accessibility Community Advisory Committee, please select:

If applying for the Ecological Community Advisory Committee, a professional designation, education or experience in related fields is a requirement based on the technical nature of the committee work. Please indicate your area(s) of expertise: **Other**

If you selected 'Other', please specify: **Ecology and Religion/Culture/Philosophy**

Contact Information

Name: **Michael Ross**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N6G 5R7**

Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Advisory Committee, please provide dates and details. (max. 250 characters): **I joined the Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE) in July of 2019. In the summer of 2021, I was voted in as the Chair of the Committee and served until the recent dissolving of ACE.**

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters): **As a PhD candidate (University of Toronto) in the field of Religion and Ecology and an adjunct professor at King's University College in London, my research is focused on questions around the religious, philosophical and cultural beliefs related to climate and ecological issues. A growing body of research demonstrates that understanding these cultural belief systems is critical to engaging ordinary citizens on climate issues. I believe that as the City of London attempts to implement its climate goals, we will need new and unconventional approaches towards engaging diverse groups of people. I contribute a unique lens to the Advisory Committee and can enhance the science and policy elements. As a scholar, I often feel detached from the realities of government and policy and I have greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn how the city works and how environmental progress is actually made at the municipal level. I hope to continue in this learning process with the new committee.**

How will you support the work of a Community Advisory Committee? (max. 250 characters): **As noted above, I am interested in how institutions can communicate climate strategies in a manner that connects with the cultural worldviews of their constituents. In my view, at this stage in London's Climate Emergency Action Plan, public engagement is the central challenge and I believe that my background and interests can lend support to this process. Along with collaboration and diplomacy skills, I can bring strong research, writing and communication abilities to the Advisory Committee, and I am comfortable relating to a wide variety of viewpoints.**

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Community Advisory Committee Member. (max. 250 characters): **In 2019, I contributed to, and co-edited, a multi-author book about the practical application of Pope Francis' encyclical on the environment. Through experiences such as this, I have developed a knowledge base about how environmental and other issues of justice relate to policy and government. I am also involved in Yale University's Forum on Religion and Ecology where I have edited articles, presented graduate student papers, and edited podcast interviews with ecological thought-leaders. I developed and now teach the "Ecology, Spirituality and Justice" course for King's (a cross-listed course between the Religious Studies and Social Justice and Peace Studies programs).**

I am a long-time resident of London and, in addition to my involvement with the Advisory Committee on the Environment, I have been a soccer coach for two different London clubs, and am a long-time musician with a passion for London's music scene.

Attach resume or other document here, if needed:

Attach more files here, if needed:

Confirmations

I declare the following: **I am a resident of London. ; I am at least 18 years old.; I am not a City employee or Council member.; I understand that the commitment may be up to 4 hours per month to attend meetings and prepare.; I understand that my application and any attachments will be included on a public agenda that is published on the City website.**

To help inform our outreach activities, please tell us how you heard about this opportunity:
(optional): **Other**

If you selected 'Other', please specify: **Through my involvement with a past Advisory Committee**

Submitted on: **4/8/2022 1:06:03 PM**