

# City of London - Application for Appointment to a City of London Board or Commission

## Application

Please choose the Board or Commission you are interested in serving on: **Covent Garden Market Corporation Board of Directors**

## Contact Information

Name: **Donna Szpakowski**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N6H 5N1**

## Experience and Qualifications

If you have experience on a London Board or Commission, please provide dates and details. (max. 3000 characters):

**Covent Garden Market; 2014-Present**

**Current Board Member**

**City of London Business Advisory Council; 2010-2013**

**An initiative under Mayor Joe Fontana, and active member representing the Hyde Park BA to provide feedback on behalf of London's businesses**

**Hyde Park Business Association; 2007-2019**

**Secretary, Treasurer and then President prior to and leading up to formation of the Hyde Park BIA**

**London & St Thomas Crime Stoppers; 2008-2009**

**Active Board Member representing NWL**

**Neighbourhood Watch London; 2008 to 2014**

**Vice-Chair and then Chair**

**Child Safety Committee, Middlesex London; 2005 to 2013**

**Road Safety Committee; Middlesex London; 2009-2013**

**Community Safety & Crime Prevention Committee (CSCP); 2002-2009**

What do you hope to contribute or learn as part of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

**Having had the pleasure of serving with the Covent Garden Market (CGM) for the last two terms, I have developed a keen understanding into its operations.**

**During my time with the CGM, I have been exposed to and participated with an almost 'self-running' operation easily making and exceeding its' revenues between vendors and parking revenues, to it sustaining loss and challenges due to COVID.**

**After the CGM's long standing General Manager retired, I actively participated in the recruiting and hiring of a new General Manager, and with a subsequent re-hire of a new General Manager since. I believe that as the CGM evolves with a new Board, new General Manager & staff that I can contribute in a positive manner as mentor while supporting the new General Manger in her transition. This along with supporting (from a Governance level) the development of i.e. new policies, strategy plan that will support the growth and reinvigoration of the market and its' operations.**

**From a learning perspective, I would welcome the opportunity to hear and learn new perspectives and while building relationships as we collectively work for the common best for the CGM, a downtown London anchor.**

How will you support the work of a Board or Commission? (max. 3000 characters):

**I have extensive experience, and passion for working with London's business sector from small entrepreneurs through to larger corporations amongst various sectors that include retail of many sizes.**

**Some of my past experiences that I feel relate to this position include Strategic Planning, Marketing, Business Planning, and Financial Management as well as managing a London BIA. I believe that my expertise can add value to the Board in supporting its' overall operations from developing goal setting priorities and to supporting it overall objectives. I also possess insight into the nonprofit sector with a good understanding of how London's Board & Commissions work, municipal by-laws and Roberts Rules of Order which, I believe can help contribute to the governance oversight success of the CGM Board.**

**My last two terms with the CGM have provided much input into working with a Farmers' Market in both good and challenging times, and I would welcome the opportunity to be able to continue this work as the Market evolves.**

Please describe additional experience, training, or community involvement that will help you in your role as a Board or Commission Member. (max. 3000 characters):

**My professional background includes working within various sectors of the local non-profit space that include small business, community work, and over the past fifteen years with the Hyde Park Business Improvement Association, a nonprofit business group which I championed into successfully achieving the BIA designation.**

**Over the years, I have proven my ability, drive and passion for building bridges by finding common ground from which to create strategic, collaborative partnerships that span beyond neighborhoods, and that include various stakeholders in the community, the commercial and business sector, along with those on a municipal level (staff and council members), as well as relationships with some local politicians on a provincial and federal level.**

**I have worked hard as a leader in our community, the City of London, and I believe that my background and knowledge, coupled with the many relationships and partnerships that I have proven to be able to establish will enable me to collectively continue to achieve results for the Covent Garden Market as the organization pivots forward post COVID.**

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 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): **Professional or community organization**

If you selected 'Other', please specify:

Submitted on: **10/19/2022 12:19:57 PM**