

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: **London Public Library Board**

Contact Information

Name: **Erin Ross**

City: **London**

Province: **ON**

Postal Code: **N6C 1V4**

Experience and Qualifications

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

I don't have experience being on a board or commission in the past.

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

I have always been very enthusiastic about public libraries and am a lifelong library user. I grew up in the Byron area and have very fond memories of afternoons spent in the Byron Library stacks and playing in the old sunken conversation pit! As an adult, with Landon as my home library, I found the libraries essential when my children were young, for both recreation and development. I have attended many story time and craft sessions, participated in library workshops, attended talks at Central Library and shows at Wolf Hall, and have taken part in a number of community events centred on the library. I am also an avid reader who always turns to the library first when I need a new book. As a therapist, I consider the library a valuable resource for my clients in terms of providing information and social/recreational opportunities, decreasing isolation, and as the ideal starting point for participating in the London community.

I feel I have gained so much as a library user and would like to give back by contributing to the library continuing to be a fantastic public resource. As someone who spends much of my time in front-line work, I am very interested to be involved in governance and learn what is involved from the organizational side of things. I look forward to learning about some of the challenges that face public libraries as they try to meet the needs of a diverse and changing community. I also look forward to understanding the library system in the context of London, and the unique needs of the communities in this city. I have been a practicing psychologist since 2015 and a psychotherapist for a decade before that. I am knowledgeable about mental health issues and interventions, as well as available services in the city. I worked at LHSC for 10 years and have been in private practice for three. Prior to that, I worked at various locations in Toronto, including the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. I have worked with a broad range of people in varying social locations and states of health. I am an experienced qualitative researcher. I work from a feminist framework and am trained in areas such as conducting focus groups, participatory action research, and assessing community needs. I have some experience in program design and evaluation.

I am also hoping that being on the LPL board will be an opportunity for me to grow my connections within the community. My own life circumstances have meant that I, until recently, have been rather narrowly focused on my career and people in my field. I'd welcome the chance to meet people separate from my work context not as business networking, but as straightforward community building and engagement. I'd like to be a more active citizen and I think being a board member would allow me to do so in a way that aligns with my values.

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

I am committed to learning about the policies and by-laws relevant to Ontario's public libraries so that I understand the role the board plays in library governance. Since this would be my first time on such a board, I am prepared for a steep learning curve. Within board activities, I will maintain an open mind and a willingness to listen, understand, and collaborate with others, respecting differing viewpoints. I will keep a critical eye on issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion to ensure that myself and the board are working to keep the library safe, attuned to the needs and issues of marginalized users, and responsive to the needs of all users. I will ensure I have made the time for any reading and research necessary for me to come to meetings prepared.

Within the larger community, I will attend library functions on an ongoing and advocate for the library when possible. I greatly enjoy public events and will be happy to participate either on my own or with family and friends. Although work-life balance means I likely won't be able to attend all the events that interest me or where I could be helpful, I am committed to setting aside time beyond that required for preparing and attending meetings to participate in community events or engage in other LPL activities. Depending on the needs of the Board and the interest of other members, I am also happy to serve on one of the specific committees.

I am very comfortable speaking with others, both in public speaking settings and 1:1 conversations. I am happy to engage with staff or members of the public in ways that are supportive of the LPL and board duties and activities. Depending on needs and timing, I would also be available to liaise with other agencies, boards, committees etc, representing the LPL.

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

Though I am not an expert to any degree in the following areas, I do have some training in working with LGBTQIA+ clients, indigenous clients, and newcomers to Canada. While I do not consider my knowledge to be advanced, it does help me to be attuned to issues of diversity and inclusion. I have not previously been a member of a board, but I have engaged in working groups at LHSC looking at issues such as patient experience, program planning, and quality control. I have also been in community working groups in London and Toronto examining issues such as experiences of racism in accessing primary health care and barriers to accessing mental health care. I have also taught at Western and Kings and have engaged in public talks and presentations at a number of academic conferences.

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 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: **I was searching for volunteer positions. I believe I was directed from the Pillar webpage.**

Submitted on: **10/17/2022 4:48:00 PM**