

Board Member Candidates 2023-2026

Three-year terms

Paola Marques



Paola's passion for design started with an introduction by her high school calculus teacher to his spouse, Eleanor Brydon, one of the founding partners at Rice Brydon, a powerhouse Interior Design firm based in Toronto. She was toured around the office and had the privilege of spending time with Eleanor, who was supportive and inspiring. Eleanor gave her a signed copy of her book "Organization & Design: The Double Discipline." She was hooked and knew this was her future! Paola has a B.A.A.I.D from Ryerson Polytech (now TMU) and started her career in Toronto, learning about design and office planning, retail design and project management. A move to Montreal allowed her to hone her design skill set while managing national and international projects. These opportunities touched on multiple retail categories including hospitality, health & wellness and food & beverage. She has partnered on projects for singular retail brands as well as on large scale retail development initiatives. Managing teams with varied and diverse expertise over the years, she benefited from the knowledge those relationships impart. Paola is grateful to have had the privilege of continuously evolving in and sharing a creative profession with other passionate people.

Kathryn Lawrence



Kathryn is a Jamaican-born Interior Designer with experience working on small to large scale corporate, government, institutional, and recreational projects across Canada. She has worked with multi-disciplinary Toronto-based design firms like FORREC Ltd., Perkins&Will and currently Brook McIlroy, as well as GW Architects in Kingston, Jamaica. She is NICDQ licensed, and a registered member of the Association of Registered Interior Designers of Ontario (ARIDO) and IDC. Her desire to pursue design stemmed from her need to explore an avenue that would allow her to embrace her love for the visual arts and her fascination with how the built environment shapes and influences society. In addition to her work in the design industry, Kathryn has a strong passion for creating impact specifically in the Afro-Caribbean community. This led her to create the Ubuntu Creative Arts Project, a Jamaican-based initiative meant to support young creatives in the Caribbean. Kathryn is also a co-founder of Nobellum, a Canadian organization with the mandate of supporting the start-up of 100 Black-led businesses in STEM by the year 2025. Her ultimate hope is to use design to improve the lives of others and help to pave the way for other emerging creatives.

Sandra Lester



Sandra is the founder of affectingchange, a boutique green building consulting practice established in 2010. She is a nationally recognized expert and has worked on groundbreaking high-performance green building design, deep energy retrofits and community transformation projects across Canada for over 30 years. Her expertise is in diverse areas includes architectural design, building science, strategy mobilization, and project management. Sandra and her team provide interior design consulting, Passive House design advice, deliver sustainability strategy, write grants and funding proposals, and provide project management services.

Shannon Robinson

Shannon has 11 years of professional experience in Real Property and Corporate Interior Design with a focus on project management and client relationships. She has a diverse background with expertise working on complex projects across Canada working for top tier firms. She has years of project experience working with various stakeholders on multi-disciplinary/cross functional teams. Shannon has a proven track record for developing an in-depth understanding of client needs to maintain, build, and foster relationships at all levels. She brings valuable skills to every project and team. Most recently, she worked closely with the Practice Leader as Senior Project Interior Designer-Studio Project Manager at HOK in Ottawa, managing the interiors team and studio projects. However, Shannon is now making a transition back into project management where she will be working for Tiree in Ottawa, working on the largest restoration project in Canada - Centre Block. Shannon is passionate about leadership and fostering a positive work environment while maintaining demanding schedules to achieve client success.

Joanna Tiffin

Joanna Tiffin has been working as a resource in the Architectural + Design industry for over thirty years. Her focus is commercial specifications, predominately in the floorcovering sector. Joanna's drive and passion for her work has led her to dedicate a significant amount of time to many organizations that support our industry. Through working with IDC and CSC, and on the BOD for IDCEC, Joanna's contributions have led to many incredible opportunities and platforms which provide her the opportunity to advocate for design for accessibility, interdependence, and dignity.