

## Strathcona BIA Board of Directors Election 2022

Members in good standing of the Society of the Strathcona Business Improvement Association (SBIA) are invited to review the four incumbent candidates and two new candidates up for election for the Board of Directors at the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Every year, the board reviews the existing collective skills, attributes and experience of its directors to identify gaps or priorities, as informed by the SBIA's strategic vision and goals. This is to ensure an optional board governance structure is in place to effectively guide the organization. A list of desired attributes, experience, and interests for directors is communicated to members as part of the [Call for Nominations](#).

As part of the 2022 Call for Nominations process the SBIA received six completed nomination packages. At the 2022 AGM members will vote on how many seats will be assigned to the board for the ensuing year. Your Board of Directors is proposing that the board size be set at 11 seats for the ensuing year. If passed the six candidates up for election would all join the board via acclamation. As per the SBIA bylaws, the Board of Directors can have as few as 8 seats and as many as 12 seats.

*Note: Candidates appear in alphabetical order by first name*

Candidate	Company/Property	Comments
Anu Kainth	395 Alexander	Incumbent
Emma Carscadden	715 East Hastings	Incumbent
Jason Gilron	Foundry Commercial Kitchens (formerly Pacific Restaurant Supply)	Incumbent
Monica Reyes	Monica Reyes Gallery	Incumbent
Joe Chaput	Les amis du Fromage	New
Michael Law	495 Railway	New

**Anu Kainth, Board Treasurer**  
**Property Representative**  
**Service to the Board: 2016 - Present**

Anu Kainth carries multiple connections across the district of Strathcona, working as an independent property manager, accountant, and business consultant with a number of different organizations and enterprises. She loves supporting her tenants, working with numbers, and helping businesses organize their books and accounting so that they may work more effectively on behalf of their clients and customers. She is passionate about the community of Strathcona and believes it's the businesses that bring the vibrancy to this community.



Anu was born and raised in Vancouver and is mother to one son. She is a former soccer mum and remains an active volunteer across many different civic and community roles in the city. She looks forward to serving the business members of the Strathcona district for another term as the SBIA's board treasurer.

**Emma Carscadden, Board President**  
**Property Owner**  
**Service to the SBIA Board: 2012 - Present**

As Property Owner at 715 East Hastings Street and Partner and Director of Communications + Strategy at Carscadden Stokes McDonald Architects, Emma has a long history in Strathcona and with the SBIA. Working in the district for 20 years, she has been a committed volunteer with the Strathcona Business Improvement Association for nearly a decade, serving as its President since 2016. Emma's commitment to Strathcona has also extended to serving as Director and Secretary of the Strathcona Community Centre Association board of directors.



During her tenure with the SBIA, Emma has led several critical strategic initiatives, including the SBIA's successful 2017 Renewal with the membership and City of Vancouver, recruitment of two Executive Directors, and major programming decisions. She has participated in direct advocacy work, media appearances, and presentations to City Council.

Emma has a passion for small business and community building, particularly in the context of a neighbourhood as complex and vibrant as Strathcona. She has both a grassroots practical and academic background in economic development, having completed Simon Fraser University's Certificate in Community Economic Development. Emma is excited to continue her involvement and dedication to Strathcona and its thriving business community.

**Jason Gilron****Foundry Commercial Kitchens - Formerly Pacific Restaurant Supply****Service to the SBIA Board: 2014 - Present**

Jason Gilron, President at Foundry Commercial Kitchens in Vancouver, is a veteran of the foodservice and hospitality industry, having worked in a variety of roles over the past 30 years that range from cook to culinary consultant to company executive. Leading up to his current role with the company, Jason has contributed to the company's growth since he joined Foundry in 2008, including key roles in business development, foodservice design; specification, project management, product procurement, brand strategy, and company culture.



Jason has served as a Board Director with the Strathcona Business Improvement Association for the last 8 years.

Jason and his 2 daughters live in east Vancouver, his home for the past 21 years.

**Monica Reyes****Principal and Founder, Monica Reyes Gallery****Service to the SBIA Board: 2018 - Present**

**Mónica Reyes Gallery (MRG)** has been backing the growth and development of emerging and mid-career artists at its current location in Strathcona since 2013. Serving the local and international art scene, MRG promotes artist initiatives invested in shaping the economies of art and culture. Located in the heart of Strathcona, the gallery is uniquely positioned to create dialogues with the artists and cultural engineers who call the neighbourhood home.



As the gallery's founder and director, Mónica has been a longstanding figure in the Vancouver art scene having served as Vice President of the Contemporary Art Society of Vancouver and during 2016/2017 sat on the Board of Latincover. Today she sits on the Board of the Strathcona Board Improvement Association. Reyes is committed to investing in art that gives voice to the cultural diversity of the Pacific Northwest

**Joe Chaput**  
**Les amis du Fromage**  
**New Candidate**

Joe Chaput is a co-owner of Vancouver's Best Cheese Shop, les amis du FROMAGE.

A veteran in the food industry, Joe began his career in commercial kitchens in 1984. Having cooked at some of Vancouver's finest restaurants and hotels, he has been a Red Seal certified chef since 1992. He currently works at the Strathcona location of les amis du FROMAGE overseeing the production of prepared meals and soups, working with social media and other tech duties, along with assisting with ingredient sourcing.

Joe has owned a business and property in Strathcona since 2009. A long-time resident of East Vancouver, he previously lived in Strathcona for 15 years.



**Michael Law**  
**Property Representative**  
**New Candidate**

Michael is a third generation Hong Kong Canadian who has deep roots on both sides of the Pacific. He speaks fluent Cantonese, Mandarin, and English, and is proficient in French. He holds a BA from McGill University and a Master of Public Policy from UBC.

Michael works as a policy analyst for the Federal Government of Canada where he develops strategic policies and regulations, coordinates relationships with other levels of government, and consults stakeholders and Indigenous rightsholders concerning government initiatives. He has also previously worked on the provincial level and for a national labour union in similar capacities.

Besides his professional experience in public policy, Michael identifies as and is proud of being a gay man of colour. He sits on workplace committees on diversity and inclusion on the federal level, has volunteered for LGBTQ2+ working groups on the provincial level, and actively participates in Pride events here in Vancouver.

When not at work, Michael loves to visit the many craft breweries in Strathcona and around his neighborhood in Grandview-Woodland with his partner. They also frequently attend performances held by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra and they are big fans of classic music and opera.

