



# COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES

FEBRUARY 2018

## COMMISSIONERS

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### Veronika Bylicki

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Veronika is an engagement innovator, community builder and sustainability strategist. She is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of CityHive, a social enterprise on a mission to transform the way that young people are engaged in civic processes, in particular planning and decision making. A lifelong Vancouverite, she is passionate about creating more sustainable, liveable cities and amplifying the meaningful engagement of citizens, particularly youth, in addressing urban challenges.

Veronika completed her BSc in Global Resource Systems at UBC, with a specialization in Urban Sustainability, Policy and Planning. Her experience includes working in Sustainability Education Facilitation with Metro Vancouver, Student Sustainability Engagement at UBC, and in Environmental Assessment with Environment and Climate Change Canada, and as a Director at Co-Design Engage, which leads participatory design processes in city planning. She was awarded as a Top 25 Under 25 Environmentalist in Canada in 2015, has delivered a TEDxYouth talk on Urban Sustainability and was a RADIUS Fellow. Veronika is an outdoor enthusiast, avid cyclist and can often be found on Vancouver's seawall.

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### Dave Crossley

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David Crossley has been a resident of the City of Vancouver for the past decade, having lived and worked in the metro Vancouver region his entire life. David holds a First Class Honours Degree in Geography, and a Certificate in Urban Studies from Simon Fraser University (SFU). Professionally, David has worked for the Planning Institute of British Columbia (the association of professional planners in BC and the Yukon) for over 13 years, currently as Executive Director. He previously worked as a constituency assistant for a Member of the Legislative Assembly.

David's prior volunteer experience includes: serving as a director of the Consumer's Association of Canada, serving on both the SFU Senate and Board of Governors, serving as an officer of the Simon Fraser Student Society, and as a director of the SFU Community Trust. David has also, as a resident, participated at various times in planning processes within his community.

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### Omar Dominguez

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Omar Dominguez leads business planning and operations of Happy City. He co-conceives ground-breaking research and interventions to improve community wellbeing, and directs Happy City's interdisciplinary team. With a background as a sustainable investor, Omar focuses on ways to ensure that new urban developments maximize public benefits and mitigate risks to society, investors and the environment. Omar also has a background in the creation and delivery of community development programs for vulnerable populations in Vancouver.

Omar completed a degree in International Business from the Technological Institute of Monterrey in Mexico City and an MA in Community Development and Social Planning from the University of British Columbia.

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## Daniella Fergusson

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Daniella Fergusson is Principal at MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement. With over 10 years' experience in community and stakeholder engagement, Daniella draws upon urban planning, design, and web development in her practice to help organizations become more participatory, transparent, and accountable through the strategic use of technology and organizational development. As a renter, immigrant, and millennial, Daniella's passion for urbanism is based in a desire to see more integrated, equitable, sustainable, and inclusive neighbourhoods.

Daniella received her Master of Urban Planning from University of British Columbia. She received a B.A. in Political Science at Furman University in South Carolina, where she traveled the world to learn about building democracy in a variety of geopolitical and social contexts. Daniella is currently a Director of the BC Chapter of International Association for Public Participation (IAP2), volunteers with the Planning Institute of BC's South Coast Chapter, and was a Board member of the Canadian Institute of Planners.

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## Mike Fujii

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Mike Fujii is a Master of Planning (MPlan) Graduate from the University of Calgary's Faculty of Environmental Design. In addition to completing his MPlan, Mike completed his Bachelor of Arts with a concentration in Geography and Urban Studies from the University of British Columbia. As part of his Master of Planning program, Mike completed a study abroad semester and gained valuable experience designing internationally with design taking place in Tokyo, Hong Kong, and Melbourne. Mike believes that quality of life reflects how cities and urban spaces are designed; the better the design, the better the quality of life.

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## Karenn Krangle

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Karenn is a life-long Vancouverite and a writer/editor specializing in planning and civic issues. Her interest in planning came from many years of covering city hall for The Vancouver Sun, where she worked from 1975 to 2010.

From 2011 through 2015 she produced a Vancouver edition of a Toronto-based e-mail newsletter called *Novae Res Urbis* ("News of the city"), which focuses on planning and development, as well as politics and other urban matters. She was first appointed to the Vancouver City Planning Commission in late 2010 and was chair in 2014. She also served on the board of Vancouver Community College for 6 years.

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## Jennifer Marshall

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Jennifer has been actively involved in the architectural culture of Vancouver since 1975 when she began her architectural career at Thompson Berwick & Pratt. She has been a registered architect and principal of her own firm since 1989. Her firm, Urban Arts Architecture, an award winning practice in Gastown, specializes in community based cultural, recreation, and education projects.

Jennifer has worked as an urban designer on several significant urban projects, most notably the Vancouver Central Waterfront (Marathon Lands) and has continued to be involved in the visioning of the city, including the Gastown Waterfront Vision, and most recently re-visioning form of development for RS-1 neighbourhoods to allow for alternate affordable models of tenure. She recently completed serving as Chair of the Vancouver Urban Design Panel and sits on the Board for the Gastown BIA and the Centre for Art Architecture and Design in West Vancouver.

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## Robert Matas

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Robert began a career in journalism with *The Winnipeg Tribune* in 1972, writing about city hall meetings and municipal affairs for the daily newspaper. As a *Globe and Mail* writer from 1980 to 2012, he covered, among other matters, trends in urban planning and development, public engagement and municipal politics in the Toronto region and in Metro Vancouver. He has written extensively about developments in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside and across the former Ex polands along False Creek.

From his years as an urban affairs reporter, he is familiar with the concerns of neighbourhood activists, the threats to heritage landmarks and the demands of sustainability. He has a particular interest in how cities evolve, urban planning, municipal finances and the politics of development. He has lived in Vancouver since 1988.

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## Anthony Perl

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Anthony Perl is the Director of Urban Studies at Simon Fraser University. He has acted as government advisor in Australia, Belgium, Canada, France and the US on transportation and environmental research. Before joining SFU, Anthony worked at the University of Calgary, the City University of New York, and Universite Lumiere in Lyon, France. He received his undergraduate honors degree in Government from Harvard University followed by an MA and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Toronto.

Professor Perl's research crosses disciplinary and national boundaries to explore policy decisions made about transportation, cities, and the environment. He has advised governments in Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, and the United States on transportation and environmental research and policy development. He has co-edited and co-authored four books including *The Integrity Gap: Canada's Environmental Policy and Institutions*. He lives in Vancouver.

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## Nola-Kate Seymoar

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Nola-Kate is the retired president and CEO of the International Centre for Sustainable Cities (1999-2010). Under her leadership, ICSC won international recognition in urban planning and design, solid waste management, urban greening, energy efficiency and food security, and Canada's top award for long-standing commitment to international cooperation.

She has worked at all three levels of government, including serving as director general in Environment Canada and executive director of a royal commission of inquiry. In the non-governmental sector, she headed two large international conference events and was deputy to the president of the International Centre for Sustainable Development. She has contributed to many international summits and events as a speaker, delegate, and organizer. She served on advisory committees for the World Urban Forum and the World Peace Forum in 2006 in Vancouver and headed a team of writers that produced *From Ideas to Action: 70 Actionable Ideas for the World Urban Forum III*.

She has three interdisciplinary degrees: a Ph.D. in social psychology, a master's in community development and a bachelor of arts in recreation administration. She has taught at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Her writing and research centers on communities and empowerment. Nola-Kate received the UN Association's Global Citizen Award in 1995, the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in 2002 and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012.

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## Leslie Shieh

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Leslie Shieh is the co-founder of Take Root, a research-driven development company in Vancouver. Her recent projects include revitalizing a public market and developing a building for makers. Leslie has worked as a consultant in community economic development, working alongside communities and local organizations in Canada, United States, China, and Taiwan.

She holds a BS in Urban Studies from Cornell University and an MCP (Planning) from the University of California, Berkeley. She completed a PhD in Urban Planning from University of British Columbia where her research examined community building and governance under the context of China's rapid urbanization.

Her work in Vancouver combines her extensive experiences working in different urban contexts and her interest in furthering social and environmental goals through real estate.

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## Jacint Simon

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Jacint grew up behind the iron curtain in Hungary. During a successful U.S. collegiate swimming career, he earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing and a minor in Real Estate. After several entrepreneurial years in a volatile real estate market as an analyst, later as an industrial broker and developer, he moved to Vancouver in 2010 with his Canadian wife.

While awaiting permanent residence, he had the luxury of a year-long sabbatical which he used to re-evaluate his purpose and path forward. He earned his Masters degree from SFU's Urban Studies program by 2015 and re-entered the real estate industry, first in real property appraisal and quickly transitioned to development. Jacint continues to work within the real estate industry with a big picture focus towards building resilient, healthy and culturally rich cities for current and future residents.

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## Vacant

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## Liaisons

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### Adriane Carr (Councillor)

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Councillor Adriane Carr was re-elected in 2014 for her second term on Vancouver City Council.

Born in Vancouver, Councillor Carr earned a master's degree in urban geography under David Ley and Walter Hardwick from UBC in 1980, writing her thesis on the role of citizen groups in building community spirit and shaping development in the neighbourhood of Kitsilano.

Councillor Carr taught for 12 years at Vancouver's Langara College, serving on the Langara Faculty Association Board and, for several years, as chair of the department of interdisciplinary studies. In 1989, she left teaching to join the executive team at Western Canada Wilderness Committee, a group founded by her husband, helping it grow into one of Canada's largest membership-based conservation groups.

Councillor Carr is a well-known leader in Green politics. In 1983 she co-founded the BC Green Party, North America's first Green Party, and in 1984 co-founded the Green Party of Vancouver. From 2000–2006, she led the BC Green Party and became the first Green leader in Canada to be included in televised leaders' debates. Under her leadership the party garnered over 12% of the vote – one of the highest levels of voter support of any Green Party in the world. In 2006, after co-chairing the successful campaign to elect Elizabeth May as leader of the Green Party of Canada, she was appointed as May's deputy leader, serving from 2006 to January 2014, and ran for federal office in Vancouver Centre in 2008 and 2011. She currently chairs the Vancouver elected Greens caucus.

Councillor Carr has two adult children and lives in Vancouver's West End with her husband Paul George. She has co-chaired the Canadian Women Voters' Congress non-partisan Women's Campaign School since 2009.

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### Andrea Reimer (Councillor)

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Former Green Party school trustee, recent Deputy Mayor, current Vision Vancouver City Councillor and Metro Vancouver Director, rookie flamenco dancer, long time soccer fanatic. Fierce mom. Camera shy and occasionally sleep-deprived.

From leading on the internationally recognized Greenest City Action Plan, to spearheading the City's first ever community plan for the Downtown Eastside and championing nationally significant efforts on reconciliation with aboriginal peoples, open government, public engagement and public spaces, and the innovation economy, Andrea is propelled by passion for the possibilities of community - and realistic about the work it takes to make it happen.

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## Catherine Evans (Vancouver Park Board Liaison)

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Commissioner Catherine Evans of Vision Vancouver joins the Park Board for a first term. Commissioner Evans believes that public spaces are increasingly important to the quality of urban life, and that the Park Board – responsible for the majority of Vancouver’s public spaces – has a special responsibility to enhance the livability of our city.

She is an active member of her community. Commissioner Evans was appointed to the Vancouver Public Library’s Board of Directors in 2009 and served as chair for three years. She was also chair of Point Grey Secondary School Parent Advisory Council and a founding member of the BC Society for Public Education.

A policy advisor, lawyer, and senior public service manager for 15 years, Commissioner Evans contributed to significant advances in elder law, adult guardianship, human rights, employment equity, and pay equity. For nearly the past 10 years, she co-owned Ethos Strategy Group, a planning, research, and public relations firm.

Commissioner Evans has a BA from Dalhousie University, a M.Div. from the University of Toronto, and a LLB from York University.

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## Janet Fraser (Vancouver School Board Liaison)

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Janet has lived in Marpole for 16 years and has three teenage children – two in Vancouver’s public schools and one attending post-secondary in BC. She volunteered on Parent Advisory Council executives at her kids’ schools for ten years and continues to be active in the local community. She was elected in 2014 as a Vancouver School Board trustee, re-elected in 2017 and is currently serving as Chair of the Board. Janet was born and educated in the UK, with BSc and PhD degrees in chemistry from the University of Bristol, and since moving to Vancouver, she has worked as a scientist, project manager, at-home parent, and program administrator.

The VSB’s vision is *"We inspire student success by providing an innovative, caring and responsive learning environment"*, and how our VSB schools and their school communities interact with their neighbourhoods is an essential aspect of student learning. In her role as the VCPC trustee liaison Janet’s aim is to learn more about planning in Vancouver, to relay this knowledge to the VSB and trustees, and to bring the VSB’s perspective, on behalf of students, families, and staff, to the VCPC.

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## Chris Robertson (Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability)

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Acting Assistant Director, City-Wide & Regional Planning

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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### Yuri Artibise

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Yuri holds a Master of Public Administration degree and has over 15 years of public policy research, analysis, advocacy, and digital communications experience. He has spent a large part of his career focusing on various aspects of housing, urban planning, and community engagement in both Canada and the United States.

Yuri is also principal of Yurbanism, a strategic communications and urban engagement consulting practice. His previous roles include Community Builder at Strong Towns, Project Manager for Re-Imagine Downtown Vancouver and Director of Community Engagement at PlaceSpeak.

Earlier in his career, Yuri worked in policy coordination positions with various Government of Canada departments in Ottawa, including the Privy Council Office and Treasury Board Secretariat. He also spent time as a policy advisor with the Assembly of First Nations, where he worked on the housing discussions leading up to the 2005 First Minister's Meeting on Aboriginal Issues in Kelowna, and as a senior research analyst at Arizona State University's Morrison Institute for Public Policy in Phoenix.

Yuri volunteers as an associate editor of Spacing Vancouver, and is an elected director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of British Columbia and the Community Land Trust Foundation of BC.

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## About the Commission

The Vancouver City Planning Commission is an advisory body of volunteers appointed by Council with a broad mandate to consider and advise Council on matters relating to the future of Vancouver.

The Commission is the City's oldest citizens' body. Established in 1926, its first task was to develop the first plan for the Vancouver. The resulting Bartholomew Plan, completed in 1929, created the basic layout for the city that we have today. The Commission's mandate has changed over the years, with the creation of the Planning Department in the 1950s and new regulatory boards to direct development in the city.

In its current advisory capacity, the Commission has addressed many significant urban issues and opportunities in areas including housing, governance, public consultation, transportation, land use and public realm. Its activities have included original research, conferences, public consultations, competitions, study groups and speaker presentations.

The mandate and terms of reference for the Commission are outlined in By-law No. 5064. The by-law states that the Commission's work is to assist Council by considering and submitting reports on matters relating to planning and development of the City. Specific duties referred to are the following:

- to represent ideas and opinions about the future of the City of Vancouver, and
- to consider and report to Council on any proposal likely to have a significant effect on the future of the City.

The Commission submits work plans and reports to Council, generally on an annual basis.