



COMMISSIONER BIOGRAPHIES

APRIL 2020

COMMISSIONERS

Veronika Bylicki



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.

Robyn Chan



Robyn Chan is a civic and community engagement specialist. She has spent her career working with not-for-profits on grassroots city building and sustainability initiatives, including 100In1Day Vancouver and Green Bloc Neighbourhoods. She is currently the Community Planning Assistant for Re*Plan, a committee of the False Creek South Neighbourhood Association. She is passionate about advocating for meaningful citizen involvement in planning processes.

Robyn completed her BSocSc in Political Science at the University of Ottawa, specializing in women's and youth participation in electoral politics. She was Co-Chair and Facilitator of the National Student Commonwealth Forum, an annual week-long forum for 90-100 students from across Canada. Born in Los Angeles, but raised on Prince Edward Island, she has lived in Vancouver for eight years.

Danielle Dhaliwal



Danielle is committed to the thoughtful development of vibrant neighbourhoods and quality projects that inspire people to live, work, socialize and connect with one another in the built and natural environments around them.

With a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Danielle has extensive development and project management experience ranging from beginning the development of a 90 acre master planned community for The Reach in Kamloops, to partnering with non-profit organizations to build affordable rental housing at Catalyst Community Developments Society in Vancouver.

She is now the Development Manager at Cape and is responsible for performing feasibility analyses and site due diligence on potential project sites and overseeing the design development, municipal approvals, and construction administration of mixed-use retail and multi-family residential buildings.

Omar Dominguez



Omar Dominguez leads business planning and operations of Happy City. He co-conceives groundbreaking 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.

Rob Grant



Rob was born in Saskatchewan, then moved as a teenager with his family to Montreal. He attended the University of Toronto where he focused on urban studies, and he was influenced by Jane Jacobs. He came to UBC to study architecture in 1975.

Rob practiced architecture in Vancouver for over 35 years designing buildings ranging from hi-rise to mid-rise residences including townhouses, duplexes and single-family dwellings. He also designed over ten courtyard houses in the new-urbanist village of Loreto Bay in Baja Mexico. Rob has produced winning entries for several local design competitions including the Vancouver Special Competition (1983), the Sea Change Competition (1999), the Arbutus Corridor Competition (2004) and Life Between Umbrellas Competition (2019).

Rob has been privileged to travel to many places especially in Asia and Europe, where he enjoyed getting to understand the particular qualities of rich place-based towns and cities, while giving him an appreciation of his hometown, Vancouver.

Albert Huang



Albert is a development manager with Terra Housing, specializing in the development of social purpose real estate projects. At Terra, he is responsible for managing the development and implementation of projects in consultation with Terra principals and staff.

Prior to joining Terra, Albert engaged in delivering market research and feasibility analysis for mixed-use and commercial projects in both the public and private sectors across Canada, the United States, and internationally. Albert is an Urban Geography and Economics graduate from the University of British Columbia, with a specialization in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and is completing a diploma in Urban Land Economics.

Albert is an active Urban Land Institute of B.C. member, serving as co-chair of the events programming committee and also volunteers with Canuck Place Children's Hospice. His work in B.C. has allowed him to combine his passion for his hometown of Vancouver with his interest in furthering opportunities for his community through the urban form.

Alyssa Koehn



Alyssa works at the intersection of urban planning, policy, development and design and enjoys negotiating the conversations between these different worlds. She is currently employed as an Intern Architect with Francl Architecture and has previously worked for San Francisco Planning on their Accessory Dwelling Unit program.

She received both her Master of Architecture and Master of Urban Planning at the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to this, she completed her BA in Political Science and Human Geography at UBC. During her graduate studies, she founded the Architecture Graduate Students Association, helped found and finance POOL (an award-winning student produced architectural journal), and was a finalist in numerous design competitions.

In her spare time, she collects too many library book fines, leads a troop of Brownies, and serves as District Commissioner in the Kits-Fairview District with Girl Guides of Canada.

Alix Krahn



Alix Krahn is a planner who is passionate about equitable, just, and inclusive neighbourhoods and cities. Alix integrates a background in engineering with recent work in engagement and planning, and is passionate about working with communities to create designs and plans that celebrate and honour the places they live.

Alix works at MODUS Planning, Design, and Engagement. Their recent work focuses on holistic municipal and neighbourhood planning and urban design, sustainability in the built environment, inclusive urban design, and creating accessible and useful analysis and visualizations.

Karenn Krangle



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.

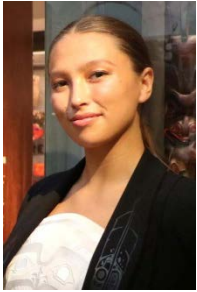
Marnie Tamaki



Marnie moved to Vancouver from Regina, Saskatchewan, to study at the School of Architecture, University of British Columbia. She has been a practicing Architect in Vancouver for 25 years on a wide range of commercial, community and multi-family buildings. Her international work and interests have led to New York, Sri Lanka, and Papua New Guinea and include community development with women's groups as well as building design and delivery.

As a member of the Huairou Commission : Women, Homes and Community, an international coalition network and an advisory body to UN-Habitat, Marnie is dedicated to advancing democratic, sustainable urban development, ensuring that grassroots communities have decision-making roles in all levels of government particularly on planning and urban design issues. Marnie is currently a Project Manager with WSP Canada, a multi-disciplinary design and engineering company committed to Future Ready project delivery. With our global future being predominantly urban, Vancouver has a great responsibility to plan well now.

Sierra Tasi Baker



Sierra is the lead cultural and design consultant at Sky Spirit Consulting. Sierra is a descendant of Squamish, Musqueam, Kwakwaka'wakw, Tlingit, Haida and Hungarian Chieftains and Matriarchs. Her Kwak'wala name is Gesuqwaluck and was given to her by her late Grandmother and Grand 4 Copper Chieftain, Țłakwagilā'ogwa in the Pot Lach system in Alert Bay and North Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Sierra completed her Bachelor's of Environmental Design at the School of Architecture & Landscape Architecture (SALA) at the University of British Columbia. Graduating with an award in Design Leadership and receiving a Youth Leadership Award for her work in the community from the City of North Vancouver. Sierra then flew to London, England and graduated with her Masters of Science in Sustainable Urbanism at the Bartlett School of City Planning at University College London which is one of the top ten universities in the world for the built environment. Sierra was invited to meet the Queen of England in 2017 for her academic excellence at Canada House in London, England.

Sierra has worked extensively with museums, universities, municipalities, and businesses to further reconciliation and develop meaningful consultation through design. Her research and body of work has focused on developing indigenous design methodologies, respectful indigenous consultation, sustainable community planning, and urban policy.

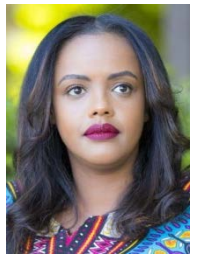
Yijin Wen



Yijin has over 30 years of professional experience, and over 17 years in senior leadership roles in planning, design and construction for major public and private building projects. He is a Registered Architect in British Columbia, Project Management Professional and LEED Accredited Professional.

Previously, Yijin was a Manager of Strategic Planning for the Lower Mainland Facilities Management and a Senior Project Leader for the Fraser Health Authority, Facilities Planning division. Yijin has also been a project architect for many years. Yijin holds a PhD from the School of Architecture at The Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH), a Master of Architecture from the Graduate School of Architecture and Planning Columbia University and a Bachelor of Architecture from The Nanjing Institute of Technology.

Amina Yasin



Amina Yasin is Co-Chair of the Canadian Institute of Planners Social Equity Committee.

Amina lives in New Westminster and works as an Urban Planner, within development and policy planning with her lens focused on accessibility and equity in planning. She also volunteers as a member of the Hogan's Alley Society and sat on the Brow of the Hill Residents Association Board of Directors in New Westminster.

Amina has given several keynote and panel presentations on responsive and inclusive community planning, public health and wellness including at Congress 2019 – a conference on the humanities and social sciences, the B.C. Active Transportation Summit, the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) Designing Cities 2019-Toronto conference, and ModeShift: Human-Scale Cities conference among others.

Amina's work interests and research commitments have actively embraced her unique professional and lived-experiences to advocate for an increased emphasis on responsive community planning that focuses on the intersections between urban and active transportation planning, racial inequities, accessibility, mental and neurocognitive health, and social cohesion inspired by her passion for responsive, just and equitable cities.

Liaisons

Pete Fry (Councillor)



Councillor Pete Fry is a community advocate and self-employed in strategic and creative communications. He has worked with hundreds of local small businesses, arts and non-profits, and volunteered his skills to support AIDS-relief, food security, animal welfare, and cultural groups. He is a frequent public speaker on issues of land use, housing, heritage, and community.

Councillor Fry was a community representative on the City of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside Local Area Plan, a founding member for the Coalition of Vancouver Neighbourhoods, former chair of the Strathcona Residents Association, a coordinator with OurPlace, and a board member of Exchange: Inner City. In 2015, Councillor Fry was certified by the National Design Charrette Institute — an internationally recognized collaborative facilitation technique he feels can better empower citizens in the planning and decision-making process.

Councillor Fry has lived in Vancouver since immigrating to Canada as a child, and currently lives in Strathcona with his wife and assorted animals.

Janet Fraser (Vancouver School Board Liaison)



A long-time Marpole resident, Janet knows the value of community connectedness. A mother of three children – two in Vancouver's public schools and one attending post-secondary in BC – she takes a keen interest in building strong communities. For 10 years she volunteered on Parent Advisory Council executives at her kids' schools and continues to be active in her local community. Janet was first elected to the Vancouver School Board (VSB) in 2014 and currently serves as Chair of the Board.

Born and educated in the UK, Janet has called Vancouver home for 25 years. With BSc and PhD degrees in chemistry from the University of Bristol, she has worked as a scientist, project manager, at-home parent and program administrator.

In her role as the VCPC trustee liaison, Janet aims to learn more about the many aspects of planning in Vancouver and share that knowledge with school board trustees and District staff. In turn, she brings VSB's perspective, on behalf of students, families and staff, to the VCPC. She appreciates the experience and expertise of the commissioners as they work to advise Council and is very pleased to be part of the VCPC.

John Irwin (Vancouver Park Board Liaison)



COPE Commissioner John Irwin joins the Park Board for his first term. John holds a PhD (UBC) specializing in sustainable urban development. He is a lecturer at SFU and UBC. He also worked as a policy analyst for the Tenant's Rights Action Coalition (now the Tenant Resource and Advisory Centre) and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, BC office. He worked in fair trade retail from 1996 to 2003 (Bridgehead and Ten Thousand Villages).

As coordinator of the Southeast False Creek Working Group, Commissioner Irwin has advanced social and ecological justice in the developing Southeast False Creek Village. From 1997 to 1999, he sat on the City of Vancouver's advisory group for the sustainable neighbourhood planning process in Southeast False Creek, and he was on the City of Vancouver's Stewardship Group for Southeast False Creek from 2000 to 2008. He served on the boards of community-based organizations: the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation (SPEC); the Friends of False Creek (now the False Creek Watershed Society); and the West End Residents Association. John was chair of the Henry Hudson Out-of-School Society from 2011 to 2016, and is an advocate for affordable child care.

As a father of three school aged children, John is keenly aware of the importance of Vancouver's parks and recreation facilities for the social and ecological sustainability of our city.

Chris Robertson (Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability)

Assistant Director, City-Wide & Regional Planning

STAFF

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Yuri Artibise



Yuri holds a Master of Public Administration degree and has over 20 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 serves on the Board of Directors of Rooftops Canada, the international development program of co-operative and social housing organizations in Canada, as well as the Board of First Avenue Athletes Housing cooperative. Previously, he was an elected director of the Co-operative Housing Federation of British Columbia and served on the board of the Community Land Trust Foundation of BC and COHO Management Services. He also volunteers as an associate editor of Spacing Vancouver.

Commission Clerk

Kathy Bengston, City Clerk's Department

Committee Clerk, City Clerk's Department

About the Planning 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, community engagement, 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 reports to Council, generally on an annual basis.

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