

2023 Board of Directors Nominees and Bios

<p>Renata Mills – Incumbent</p>	<p>Current Position - Vice President Joined the Downtown Kelowna Association Board of Directors in 2015</p> <p>Renata is the Executive Director of Festivals Kelowna, producer of community focused festivals and events primarily held in downtown Kelowna, including Parks Alive!, Celebrate Canada Day – Kelowna, the Buskers Program, Arts on the Avenue, and New York New Years. Having worked downtown since 1998 she fully understands the importance and benefits of a vibrant, welcoming downtown, of which festivals and cultural activities play an important part.</p> <p>Ms. Mills brings over 28 years organizing committee and Board experience in local activities from her involvement with many major civic events including the 2005 Kelowna Centennial Celebrations, 2008 BC Summer Games, 2010 Olympic Torch Relay Community Celebration, 2018 Breakout West and Kelowna Fringe organizing committees, 2019 55+ Games, and the 2020 Memorial Cup. A current member of the DKA Executive Committee, she has also sat on the City of Kelowna’s Arts & Cultural Advisory Committee, and United Way Investment Committee and Impact Teams.</p>
<p>Caroline Bye – Incumbent</p>	<p>Current Position - Secretary Joined the Downtown Kelowna Association Board of Directors in 2019</p> <p>Having worked in the downtown core for over 13 years, Caroline has seen significant changes in the area. Living just outside the DKA boundary, she embraces the downtown lifestyle for both work and play.</p> <p>As Member Services Manager at the Kelowna Yacht Club, Caroline has experience in member services, membership sales, and events. Caroline currently sits on the Membership and Governance committees at the Club as well as ad hoc committees throughout the year representing the Operational Team and/or the membership of the Club.</p> <p>As a current Director of DKA, Caroline has assisted with the updates to the DKA Bylaws to bring them more inline with the Societies Act requirements and the introduction of electronic voting.</p>

	<p>Caroline would be honoured to be re-elected to the Board of DKA to assist in the development of our downtown as a safe and desirable place to conduct business, live, work, and play.</p>
<p>Shane Austin – Incumbent</p>	<p>Current Position - Director Joined the Downtown Kelowna Association Board of Directors in 2016</p> <p>Shane Austin is an entrepreneur and design professional with a passion for community building. Shane brings a long track record of success in design, technology and team leadership, practicing visual design, marketing and communications over his 15 year career in agency, corporate, government and educational settings where he designed user interface systems for millions of users and has taught user-centred design to university students and professionals alike.</p>
<p>Travis Pye – Incumbent</p>	<p>Current Position - Director Joined the Downtown Kelowna Association Board of Directors in 2021</p> <p>I am currently the General Manager & Executive Chef for Lakehouse Homestore. As a trained Red Seal Chef my transition into a more sustainable career in retail sales has been very rewarding.</p> <p>My career as a chef started at a young age right here in Kelowna. I grew up in Kelowna and am fortunate to have made my way back home after years of pursuing & honing my craft as a chef. After graduating from Rutland Senior Secondary in 2008 I took on the role of Kitchen Manager for Red Robin Restaurants. I was then promoted to Regional Kitchen Manager where I lead the expansion of the company to Kamloops and then Vernon. I was then recruited to the Joey Restaurant Group as a Chef and opened locations in Vancouver, Edmonton, California, Toronto, and finally Ottawa where I lived for 2 years and introduced the brand to a new market. After 2 years in Waskesiu, Saskatchewan the Kelowna lifestyle along with all my friends and family made the decision to come back easy. It was then I joined Ben & Sue Boschman at Lakehouse Homestore.</p> <p>In conclusion, I see myself as a great fit for a seat on the board of diectors for the DKA as I eat, sleep, and breathe the downtown area, literally. I live in a condo on St. Paul St., both of my work locations are downtown. I frequently support downtown restaurants and businesses, and enjoy all other activities offered in the area. Downtown Kelowna is my home and backyard.</p>

<p>Jillian Povarchook</p>	<p>I have over a decade of non-profit experience, have worked as a curator at the Museum of Vancouver, where I also sat on the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the Exhibition Review Committee. My experience at the MOV taught me the importance of welcoming and listening to diverse voices in the interest of building kind and resilient communities.</p> <p>I moved back to Kelowna in July 2022 to begin working at the family business – Olive & Elle – which I have been involved with since its inception in 2008. I believe strongly that downtowns are critical to the economic and social wellbeing of cities and I look forward to making a positive impact in Downtown Kelowna.</p>
<p>Thomas Eaves</p>	<p>Thomas Eaves is a lawyer at Pushor Mitchell LLP and is part of their litigation department. Thomas is passionate about downtown Kelowna and its development as the hub for business, culture, and design in the Okanagan. His passion stems from desire to create a more livable, vibrant, and sustainable Kelowna where the focus is on the city core.</p> <p>Thomas and his family live in the downtown area and can often be found visiting local restaurants, enjoying the many festivals throughout the year, experiencing Kelowna City Park, and attending diverse arts and sporting events.</p>
<p>Jeannette LeBlanc</p>	<p>Jeanette LeBlanc is a manager with the HiFi Attic, an independent specialty audio retailer. Jeanette moved to Kelowna in September 2021 having worked in the Okanagan wine industry for 17 years. She served on the Board for the Penticton Public Library (2019-2021) and the Penticton Art Gallery (2011-2013). Jeannette is a skilled management professional and has extensive business experience to offer an active Board of Directors.</p>
<p>JoAnne Adamson</p>	<p>As Project Director at UBC Properties Trust in Kelowna, I am applying for a position on the DKA Board of Directors.</p> <p>Kelowna's vibrant downtown continues to evolve bringing global attention to one of the fastest-developing cities in BC. UBC's downtown campus will stimulate a new phase of Kelowna.</p> <p>Over the past 20 years, I have experienced Kelowna's growth firsthand working at Mission Group, Ntityix Development Corp, City of Kelowna, and Lorval Developments. I strive to build community, vibrancy, and relationships in all my endeavours and will add value to the board, as we support the heartbeat of Kelowna.</p>

<p>Jason Wills</p>	<p>I have always been passionate about people. Whether it be friends, sports, or business, I learned early in life that it is extremely important to surround myself around great individuals. Leadership for me is always evolving. I have worked downtown for over 20 years and have a passion for its continued growth. As my career evolves, I feel the responsibility to pass this valuable knowledge and give back to my community.</p> <p>I am grateful for the opportunity and look forward to being part of the Downtown Kelowna Association Board of Directors</p>
<p>Nathan Matis</p>	<p>I am a long-time Kelowna resident and I started my career with the Canadian Armed Forces where I served my country as an Armoured Soldier. I then immersed myself in the real estate industry at 25 years old. All of my previous work experiences taught me to be resourceful, reliable and very diligent, and I used these skills to co-found the Canada Flex Realty Group (Flex Realty) at the age of 28. Today, I have grown Canada Flex Realty Group to be a leading residential brokerage with more than 50 agents and staff members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated in 2016 for Kelowna's Civic Fred Macklin Memorial Award 'Man of the Year' and the Capital News Award 'Volunteer of the Year'. • -Awarded Kelowna Capital News' 2017 'Volunteer of the Year'. • -Nominated in 2018 for the 'Realtor Care' award, which recognizes Real Estate Agents committed to volunteering their time and raising funds for the causes, and charities close to their hearts. • -Awarded the 2019 'Community Oriented' Realtor® Award for his contributions in the community.
<p>Crystal Dougan</p>	<p>I am the owner/executive chef of the Little Hobo Soup & Sandwich Shop. I moved to this wonderful valley with my three children in 2002. I secured employment with a local business, ARC Programs, serving high risk homeless youth and their families in this community. I always dreamed of opening a mom and pop shop and purchased the Little Hobo in 2011, where my hubby and I have been serving up comfort food to locals and tourists for the last twelve years. I am a devoted parent and grandparent, and thrive to make a difference.</p>