

Parks Visioning Panel Biographies

Jane Farrow, Executive Director, Centre for City Ecology and Jane's Walk

Jane is the Executive Director of Jane's Walk, a series of free neighbourhood walks held around the world each May that honour the ideas and legacy of urbanist Jane Jacobs. Jane's Walks promotes walkable neighbourhoods, urban literacy and cities planned for and by people. Ms. Farrow's work advances the goals of creating vibrant and enjoyable walking environments where streets and public spaces are safely shared by all. Jane is also a writer and broadcaster and has hosted such CBC radio programs as *And Sometimes Y*, *Wanted Words*, *Q*, *Workology*, *Home* and *The Omnivore*. She has edited two volumes of *Wanted Words*, and co-written the *Canadian Book of Lists*, published by Knopf (2005).

Luigi Ferrara, Director, School of Design and the Institute without Boundaries, George Brown College

Luigi's previous accomplishments include his time with the International Council of the Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) where he served as an Executive Board Member from 1997-2003, and then as President in 2003-05, after which he assumed the role of an ICSID Senator. A Registered Architect with seal, Luigi is a member of the Ontario Association of Architects and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. Between 1999 and 2002, he was the President and CEO of DX Net Inc., and Executive Director of ICSID '97: Humane Village Congress. He is the Founding Director of the Architectural Literacy Forum (ALF) and an Honorary Member of the Association of Chartered Industrial Designers of Ontario (ACIDO). In addition to his roles as architect, designer, entrepreneur, educator and lecturer, Luigi has curated exhibitions and authored books and catalogues.

Adele Freeman, Director, Watershed Management, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

Adele Freeman has been involved in watershed planning in urban and urbanizing watersheds for 20 years. Her career began at TRCA as a conservation area planner. She has worked in several positions of increasing responsibility at TRCA, including Don Watershed Specialist and as Manager of all watershed planning. Her projects have included several award winning watershed plans and report cards as well as the first phase of restoration of the Don Valley Brickworks, the flood control and river restoration components of the West Don Lands and the environmental assessment for the new Mouth of the Don, a major element of the proposed Port Lands revitalization project. Current projects include TRCA's updates to existing watershed plans, in response to provincial legislation, watershed and waterfront revitalization, and the establishment and implementation of an Eco-Industrial park, in partnership with the Greater Toronto Airports Authority.

Claire Hopkinson, Executive Director, Toronto Arts Council, Toronto Arts Foundation

In the four years since assuming her role as Executive Director, Claire has focused on increasing public and political understanding of the impact Toronto's artists and organizations have on the city. The recent launch of the Neighbourhood Arts Network under Claire's direction has highlighted the potential for revitalizing neighbourhoods and creating capacity through the arts. Claire has also created the annual Mayor's Arts Awards Lunch highlighting the contributions made by artists, arts workers, arts supporters and philanthropists to city-building initiatives. Prior to her appointment at TAC, Claire was the Founding Chair of Opera.ca, Vice Chair of Opera America, and co-founder and President of Creative Trust. In May of 2001, Ms. Hopkinson won the national M. Joan Chalmers Award for Arts Administration in recognition of her contribution to Tapestry New Opera Works and the arts in Canada. In 2006 she was recognized by Theatre Ontario with the Sandra Tulloch Award for Innovation in the Arts.

Uzma Shakir, Atkinson Economic Justice Fellow, Atkinson Charitable Foundation

Uzma Shakir is a community-based researcher, advocate, activist. She is the past Executive Director of Council of Agencies Serving South Asians (CASSA) and the South Asian Legal Clinic of Ontario (SALCO). She has worked as a teacher, journalist and researcher. Her work focuses on issues of race, erosion of civil liberties & critical multiculturalism. Her experience includes advocating; organizing and facilitating; writing; and speaking on diverse issues facing racialized communities. She has worked on issues of racialization of poverty; violence against immigrant and racialized women; youth engagement; parenting; civic engagement; hate crimes; racial profiling; access to professions and trades; precarious and contingent work; legal education; building innovative & unique coalitions with diverse ethno-racial communities; and production/documentation of alternative practice and knowledge. She is an Adjunct Professor, Department of Geography and Programme in Planning, University of Toronto, a recipient of the Jane Jacob's Award, Past President, Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants (OCASI), a steering committee member of the Colour of Poverty Campaign and an Editorial Board Member, Non-Profit Quarterly, Boston, Mass.