

Selection of Candidates for Interview for the Sankofa Square Board

Date: October 7, 2025

To: Civic Appointments Committee

From: City Clerk

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

This report deals with personal matters about identifiable individuals who are being considered for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board.

SUMMARY

The Civic Appointments Committee must select candidates to interview for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board. Following the interviews, the Civic Appointments Committee will recommend one candidate for appointment to City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Civic Appointments Committee select 4 of the candidates listed in Confidential Attachment 1 for interview at its next meeting for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board.
2. The Civic Appointments Committee direct that Confidential Attachments 1a, 1b, and 2 remain confidential in their entirety as they relate to personal matters about identifiable individuals being considered for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held February 6 and 7, 2024, City Council appointed four members of the public and two stakeholder representatives to the Sankofa Square Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on February 7, 2028, and until successors are appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2024.CA12.4>

At its meeting held November 8 and 9, 2023, City Council directed that the Civic Appointments Committee screen, interview and recommend candidates to City Council for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2023.MM12.3>

At its meeting held July 19, 20, 21 and 22, 2022, City Council appointed two stakeholder representatives to the Sankofa Square Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending on July 19, 2026, and until successors are appointed:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2022.MM47.54>

COMMENTS

Composition of the Sankofa Square Board

The board consists of 15 members composed of:

- the Council member for Ward 13, Toronto Centre
- 5 public members
- 2 members of the Downtown Yonge BIA nominated by the BIA
- 1 member nominated by Metropolitan Toronto University
- 1 member nominated by a local resident's association
- 1 member nominated by the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall
- 1 employee of the Toronto Parking Authority (ex-officio, no voting rights)
- 1 employee of the Toronto Police Service (ex-officio, no voting rights)
- 2 City of Toronto staff (ex-officio, no voting rights)

Public members must satisfy certain eligibility requirements

To be eligible for appointment to the board, public members must meet the eligibility requirements in the Public Appointment Policy including:

- Must be a resident of the city of Toronto;
- Must be at least 18 years old;
- Cannot be a spouse, partner, child or parent of a Member of Toronto City Council;
- Cannot be a City employee or an employee of a City agency or corporation.

Public members should meet certain qualifications

Public and stakeholder group members should collectively demonstrate a range of qualifications including:

- good communication, decision-making, and interpersonal skills
- ability to work with people with diverse interests
- sound finance and administrative skills
- knowledge of economic and community development
- interest in the complexities and challenges of city-building in Toronto

We have consulted with Sankofa Square staff

In preparation for this process, Public Appointments staff consulted with the board chair and Executive Director of Sankofa Square on the required skills and experience needed for a board during the staff screening process.

There is currently one position under consideration

There is currently one position under consideration due to the resignation of Brandon Arkinson on December 13, 2024.

Term of Office

The term of office for public members is four years. The public member will be appointed for a term of office ending November 15, 2029 and until a successor is appointed.

Outreach was conducted for this vacancy

The opportunity to apply to the Sankofa Square Board was shared externally through professional organizations, LinkedIn and the PA e-subscribers list. The opportunity was also shared with internal City partners including the Confronting Anti-Black Racism Unit, the Indigenous Affairs Office, and People and Equity to promote broadly through their networks.

Next steps - Interviews

Once the Civic Appointments Committee has selected candidates for interviews, the City Clerk's Office will contact the candidates to schedule them for 15-minute interviews. Four interviews plus deliberations will take approximately 1.5 hours to complete.

CONTACT

Vicki Long, Acting Manager, Public Appointments, City Clerk's Office,
Vicki.Long@toronto.ca, 416-338-2126

SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1a – List of Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment to the Sankofa Square Board

Confidential Attachment 1b - List of Ineligible Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information, and Applications for Appointment to the Sankofa Square Board

Confidential Attachment 2 - Confidential Voluntary Diversity Information for Public Members of the Sankofa Square Board