

Appointment of Public Member and Stakeholder Representative to the Sankofa Square Board

Date: November 12, 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 will conduct interviews and recommend one public member as well as one stakeholder representative to City Council for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Civic Appointments Committee recommend one public member and one stakeholder representative to City Council for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending December 19, 2029, and until successors are appointed.
2. City Council direct that Confidential Attachments 1a, 1b and 2 to 5 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 on October 17, 2025, the Civic Appointments Committee selected five candidates to interview for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board:

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.CA30.2>

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>

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)

There is currently one public member and one stakeholder representative under consideration

The public member position under consideration is due to the resignation of Brandon Arkinson on December 13, 2024. The stakeholder representative position under consideration is the local residents' association position, which was held by Ian Gemmell until his resignation on May 7, 2025.

Different appointments process for stakeholder nominees

The appointment of stakeholder representatives to the Sankofa Square Board is governed by the Public Appointments Policy. Nominating organizations recommend candidates for appointment to the Civic Appointments Committee. The Civic Appointments Committee receives the nomination letters and City Council considers the appointments.

Local residents' associations in Ward 13 were canvassed for their interest in the local residents' association position on the board. The St. Lawrence Neighbourhood Association was the only residents' association to communicate interest and provided a letter nominating a representative for consideration for the board.

Term of Office

The term of office for public members and stakeholders is four years. The public member and stakeholder will be appointed for a term of office ending December 19, 2029 and until successors are appointed.

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

Public members receive no remuneration

No remuneration is paid to board members.

Consultation with Sankofa Square Staff

In preparation for the recruitment process, Public Appointments staff consulted with the General Manager of Sankofa Square. It was suggested that a candidate with a strong understanding of city and community building as well as leadership and board governance would be an asset to the Square.

Public release of name of recommended candidates

The names and biographies of the recommended candidates will be publicly reported once the Civic Appointments Committee forwards its recommendation to City Council.

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 Eligible Candidates, Qualifications, Confidential Diversity Information Summary, and Applications for Appointment as Public Member to the Sankofa Square Board

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

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

Confidential Attachment 3 – Skills matrix for Candidates for Appointment the Sankofa Square Board

Confidential Attachment 4 – Interview Schedule for November 21, 2025

Confidential Attachment 5 - St. Lawrence Market Neighbourhood Association - Letter of Nomination for the Local Residents' Association position