

Selection of Candidates for Interview for the Sankofa Square Board of Management

Date: June 18, 2026

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 of Management.

SUMMARY

The Civic Appointments Committee must select candidates to interview for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board of Management. Following the interviews, the Civic Appointments Committee will recommend two candidates, including a Chair, for appointment to City Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Civic Appointments Committee select six of the candidates listed in Confidential Attachment 1a for interview at its next meeting for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board of Management.
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 of Management.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting held November 21, 2025, the Civic Appointments Committee referred the Appointment of a Public Member and Stakeholder Representative to the Sankofa Square Board back to the City Clerk to conduct further outreach.

<https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2025.CA31.1>

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)

There are currently two positions under consideration, including the role of Chair

There are currently two positions under consideration, including the role of Chair, due to the resignation of Gideon Arthurs effective May 15, 2026 and Brandon Arkinson effective 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 July 30, 2030 and until successors are appointed.

Public members should meet certain qualifications

In addition to the general eligibility requirements set out in the Public Appointments Policy, public members and stakeholder representatives 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 Executive Director of Sankofa Square. It was suggested that candidates with financial expertise, community development and a strong understanding of the complexities of city building for the Sankofa Square Board of Management would be an asset.

Outreach was conducted for this vacancy

The opportunity to apply to the Sankofa Square Board was shared externally through professional organizations including the CFA Society Toronto, LinkedIn, and Institute of Corporate Directors, and with the Public Appointments 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. Six interviews plus deliberations will take approximately 2 hours to complete.

CONTACT

Robyn Summers, Manager, Public Appointments, City Clerk's Office,
robyn.summers@toronto.ca, 416-338-1811

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 Current Public Members of the Sankofa Square Board