

Appointment of Public Members and Stakeholder Representatives to the Sankofa Square Board of Management

Date: July 8, 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 will conduct interviews and recommend two public members and one Chair for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board of Management. The Chair can be selected from one of the current public members appointed to the board or from one of the public member candidates being recommended for appointment. This report also provides the Civic Appointments Committee with the names of the stakeholder representatives nominated for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board of Management by the Downtown Yonge BIA.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The City Clerk recommends that:

1. The Civic Appointments Committee recommend two public members to City Council for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board of Management, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending July 31, 2030 and until successors are appointed.
2. The Civic Appointments Committee recommend to City Council the appointment of a Chair to the Sankofa Square Board of Management, at pleasure of Council, for a term of Appointment of Public Members and Stakeholder Reps to the Sankofa Square Board of Management

office coincident with the term of appointment of the recommended candidate, and until a successor is appointed.

3. The Civic Appointments Committee recommend City Council appoint Carrie Ashfield and Chris Hodgson as the members nominated by the Downtown Yonge BIA for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board of Management, at pleasure of Council, for a term of office ending November 14, 2026 and until successors are appointed.

4. City Council direct that Confidential Attachments 1a, 1b and 2 to 4 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 June 30, 2026, the Civic Appointments Committee selected seven candidates for interview to be considered for appointment to the Sankofa Square Board of Management: <https://secure.toronto.ca/council/agenda-item.do?item=2026.CA37.1>

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 of Management 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 of Management, 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 of Management: <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 of Management, 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 public member positions and the role of Chair under consideration

There are currently two public member positions and the role of Chair under consideration due to the resignation of Gideon Arthurs (former Chair) effective May 15, 2026 and Brandon Arkinson effective December 13, 2024. The Chair can be selected from one of the current public members appointed to the board or from one of the public member candidates being recommended for appointment.

There two stakeholder positions being nominated

The Downtown Yonge BIA submitted a letter to nominate Carrie Ashfield and Chris Hodgson for appointment to the board.

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.

Term of office for public members

The term of office for public members is four years. The public members will be appointed for a term of office ending July 31, 2030 and until successors are appointed.

Term of office for stakeholder representatives

The stakeholder representatives nominated by the Downtown Yonge BIA will be appointed for a term of office ending November 14, 2026 and until successors are appointed to coincide with their term of appointment on the BIA.

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

Public members are volunteers

No remuneration is paid to Sankofa Square Board of Management members.

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.

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

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SIGNATURE

John D. Elvidge
City Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 – Downtown Yonge BIA Letter of Nomination

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

Confidential Attachment 3 - Sankofa Square Board of Management Skills Matrix

Confidential Attachment 4 – Interview Schedule for July 17, 2026