

BOARD MEMBER

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

The Friends of the Vancouver Public Library is a charitable organization supporting, enhancing and advocating for the work of the Vancouver Public Library. We convene and connect with people, promote literacy, and create meaningful volunteer experiences, while building a community of library champions. With the support of its many and diverse members, the Friends operates book'mark, The Library Store and organizes annual book sales that have raised over \$1 million for library programs across the city.

The Friends are currently seeking four (4) motivated individuals with a passion for community, learning, and giving back to serve on their Board of Directors. We are seeking new Board members who have a background and/or expertise in one or more areas of:

- **not for profit and/or community organizing and development** experience to strengthen engagement and partner with other strategically aligned organization and increase outreach to build a larger community;
- **graphics design and communications** to help the organization strengthen its external communications and production of marketing or communications materials;
- **records management, document control, archives, business administration, and board secretarial experience** to help the organization manage its internal records in accordance with industry best practices and fill the Board Secretary role (becoming vacant);
- **volunteer experience with the Friends organization** and is interested in governance, shape policies and decisions of FVPL.

Each Director will serve a term of two (2) years up to a maximum of three (3) terms and a total of six (6) years. This engaging and rewarding volunteer position is a great opportunity for people who are interested in governance, fundraising, advocacy and awareness of libraries, and project leadership.

Learn more about our Strategic Plan [here](#).

Perks:

- Gain and consolidate leadership and governance skills.
- Flexible time/location volunteer opportunity.
- Working with and meeting a great group of people.
- Being part of a mission-driven organization.

DELIVERABLES/DUTIES:

Board Member Responsibilities:

- Attend bi-monthly board meetings. Meetings are held at 6pm on the third Wednesday of every other month via Zoom video conferencing;
- Serve on one of our three committees which meet monthly or bi-monthly: Governance, Finance, and Executive and / or one of our ad hoc committees Community Engagement and Outreach and Revenue Opportunities;

- Liaise with other Friends board members, General Manager, and leaders of volunteer initiatives to coordinate and promote volunteering with Friends; and
- Attend occasional events (e.g. Volunteer Appreciation brunch in February, Book Sale, and AGM in May).

QUALIFICATIONS:

Desired Attributes: The Friends of the VPL Board is focused on the big picture with an eye to the future. We value and encourage diverse perspectives, as we know that being able to explore a situation from multiple perspectives enables us to make better decisions. Qualities and attributes that we look for in all Board Members:

- A passion for volunteering and the not-for-profit sector
- An interest in good not-for-profit governance
- Open-minded and willing to explore conflicting ideas
- Willing to take responsibility
- Expertise in one or more areas such as public relations, communications, social media, marketing, policy development, and strategy.

We have a strong organizational commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion and, as such, strongly encourage applications from candidates that can provide an underrepresented minority perspective including, but not limited to: race, disability, class, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, sexual identity, family status, income, place of birth or religious affiliation.

Training Provided: New board members are provided with an orientation to their role and responsibilities as a Friends of the VPL Board Member, as well as the mission and work of the organization. You will be provided with a written board handbook (in digital format) and will have the opportunity to review it with an experienced board member. In addition, you will be introduced to your fellow board members, the staff team, and will be paired with an experienced board member who will act as your mentor for the first 6-12 months.

Commitment: Approximately 5-10 hours per month for two years.

- Board members are elected to two-year terms at the AGM. Board service requires a commitment of 5 hours per month, including a bi-monthly meetings at 6pm on the third Wednesday every other month.
- In addition, board members are expected to serve on a committee or task force. This requires approximately 5 hours per month, depending on the committee.
- Bi-monthly Board meetings take place in-person at the Vancouver Public Library in downtown Vancouver. The meetings held at the VPL are accessible by public transit and to those with physical disabilities. There is parking available in the building and on the street.

Evaluation: Self and by the Board, annually.

VOLUNTEER SKILLS:

- Public Relations
- Communications

- Social Media
- Marketing
- Policy Development
- Governance
- Strategic Planning
- Records Management
- Archiving
- Document Control
- Business Administration
- Board Secretarial Experience
- Leadership
- Accounting
- Finance
- Legal

ROLE IS SUITABLE FOR:

- Student
- Adult
- Senior
- English as a second language (ESL)
- People with physical disabilities

HOW TO APPLY:

Please submit your resume and a cover letter or other form of introduction explaining your interest in the role. Your cover letter should address the following:

- Why do you want to support Friends? Why this charity above others?
- What do you bring to the table to further support the mission and work of Friends? Can you share your top 2-3 major strengths?
- Describe any relevant experience for the role

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any accommodation in this application and potential interview process.

CONTACT PERSON:

Paula Gurgel, General Manager
Stewart Fast, Board Recruitment Committee

CONTACT E-MAIL:

friends@friendsofthevpl.ca

Applications are due by February 13, 2026