2022 Public Art Committee

The Barrie Public Art Committee exists to provide expert community input on the City of Barrie’s public art policies and procedures, giving guidance and advice to City departments and organizations from the earliest stages of public art projects proposed for City-owned lands. Specifically, the committee reviews and develops public art policies, develops competition guidelines for public art commissions, reviews and recommends proposed donations of artwork to the City of Barrie, and provides advice to City staff on the management and promotion of the City of Barrie public art collection.

The Barrie Public Art Committee promotes awareness and understanding of the importance of high-quality public art and works to educate and engage Barrie residents and visitors alike. The committee is comprised of 2 City Councillors, local artists, art and design professionals, interested community members, and staff from the Economic and Creative Development Department.

Chairperson, Janet Lougheed has been a Barrie resident since 1987. She has volunteered over the years at Maycourt Club, YMCA, MacLaren Art Centre, Talk is Free Theatre, the United Way and more. Janet chaired the fundraising campaign for the new MacLaren Art Centre in 1997, subsequently, she was hired as a fundraising professional by the MacLaren and worked there for 8 years finishing in the position of Director of Development. Following that Janet was Director of Development of the Georgian Bay Land Trust for 10 years. Janet likes adventure and fun of all kinds, she is an avid skier, hiker, walker, and kayaker.

Andrea Araujo works as the Special Events Program Assistant at the Town of Aurora, and has been a resident of Barrie for the past 4 years. In 2017, Andrea graduated from the University of Guelph with a Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art and Art History where she specialized in oil painting and sculpture. She has studied abroad in Mexico and Venice, and brings extensive knowledge in contemporary art and the events industry. Andrea has volunteered in a number of capacities at locations like the Art Gallery of Guelph, the MacLaren Art Centre, the Newmarket Music Festival and more. She had the opportunity to work with a number of artists in her previous role as Gallery Assistant at the Aurora Cultural Centre, and currently sits as a member of the Aurora Public Art Working Group. In her spare time, Andrea enjoys reading, exploring antique shops, and going on hikes with her husband and dog Daisy.

Sharon Bagot has always had a passion for design and the arts. She graduated with a Graphic Design Degree at Sheridan College and utilized her innovative and creative design abilities as she pursued a career in Interior Design, graduating with Honours from the Sheffield School of Design in New York. Throughout a career of over 25 years, she has been a successful Designer, working for several local companies within Barrie; focusing on interior design and most recently, architectural design for a custom home builder. Always in pursuit to share her knowledge and passion for art, Sharon has previously taught Fabrics, Finishes, and Textiles courses at Georgian College in Barrie. Sharon is very active in the arts and has also published a children’s book, "Where did Bup go?" In her spare time, she enjoys paddle boarding on the waterfront, and spending time with her family.

Nadine Carr is a Ceramic Artist specializing in hand built, slip cast and press mold functional works and art pieces. A graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design, Nadine was awarded an additional year apprenticing in Florence Italy, further developing her artistic vision. Born in Owen Sound, Ontario, Nadine moved to Barrie in 1993 and owned a very successful restaurant for 16 years. Nadine is a past board member of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Barrie and has volunteered for many years at the MacLaren Art Centre.
Emily Emond, an OCAD University graduate, has led an Information Design & Visual Analytics practice at Deloitte Canada for over 7 years. Prior to working in business management consulting, Emily led an independent design consultancy, helping clients with a range of solutions such as branding/visual identity, marketing, publication, digital, and environmental design. With a keen eye for creative and critical thinking, Emily has volunteered for Deloitte’s Arts Committee for Workplace Strategy & Design, the Georgian Bay Land Trust Fundraising Committee, and annual Bayscapes Art Auction. Emily lives in Barrie with her husband and dog and enjoys hiking, interior design, photography, and spending time at their cottage.

Susan Green has been a Barrie resident since 1973. She has volunteered over the years at a number of organizations. She worked with newcomers to Canada as Immigrant Services Director at the YMCA of Simcoe Muskoka for over 20 years. Susan has supported the Maclaren Art Centre since its start as well as many cultural groups in the city of Barrie. She loves to travel and enjoys walks around our beautiful bay.

Jenn Guerin works as an instructor for the Down Syndrome Association of Simcoe County. Jenn has always had a passion for the arts, particularly what the arts can do for a community. She Graduated with her BFA and from there continued to work in Barrie as a practicing artist, an art instructor for the MacLaren Art Centre and in a variety of art collectives that created site-specific public art installations. She was a co-founder of Art in House where she won awards for her contribution to the Barrie arts community. As co-founder she had the opportunity to work with a number of emerging artists, facilitate community workshops and curate exhibitions. Currently, Jenn is focusing on her art practice, where she uses photography for the catalyst of mixed media work, printmaking and video art.

At the end of 2019 Craig Handy returned to Barrie, having largely grown up in the area. He arrived just in time to settle in for covid, having somewhat reluctantly bid adieu to London (UK). He convinced his wife, a rather well-traveled journalist, Barrie was the right place to settle down as a family. He also returned to join my father at THA, Ted Handy and Associates. An architectural practice he’s worked for off and on through years of extended education and working abroad.

Craig studied architecture in Toronto, then worked in London for a couple of years. Following that he moved to Vancouver where he completed a masters in theology with an arts focus. He then returned to Toronto to practice as an architect. A few years later he met his wife and followed her to postings in Athens and London. Craig is looking forward to plugging into the arts community in Barrie.

Sarah Jensen is the Secretary Treasurer of the Downtown Barrie BIA. She worked with the Public Art, Streetscapes & Public Spaces Committees on the Barrie Market District Task Force, planning for the future home of the Barrie Farmers Market.

Practicing in a few different mediums herself over the years, Sarah has always loved the arts. She's particularly interested in public art and the ways it can transform spaces and create community and connection.
Robert Thomson was elected to his first-term on City Council, representing Ward 5 in 2018. Robert has been a proud Barrie resident for the past 17 years. He lives in Ward 5 with his wife and two sons. Robert has worked in the construction business for most of his life. Since 1997, he has been the Project Manager of a family-owned construction company. On top of the Public Art Committee, he also sits on the City Building Committee, Accessibility Advisory Committee and is a member of the Police Services Board. In his spare time, he volunteers at the Barrie Women’s Shelter and enjoys the odd round of golf. Robert prides himself on being a good listener and is always interested in hearing new ideas to help make Barrie an even better place to live.

Barry Ward is a member of Barrie City Council since the year 2000. Barry also serves as the city’s deputy mayor and sits on various city committees, including the Finance and Corporate Services Committee. He has served on the boards of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and the Barrie Municipal Non-Profit Housing Corporation, the MacLaren Art Centre, the Gryphon Theatre and Downtown Barrie, among others. He is a member of the Kempenfelt Rotary Club and a past president of that club. A resident of Barrie since 1984, Barry is a former city editor for The Barrie Examiner and bookstore owner. He is currently an editor for publications across Canada. He and Marg live in Barrie and have two sons in university. They enjoy reading, skiing, exploring both new and familiar places and spending time at the cottage.

Laura Kelly has worked in the arts sector for over two decades. Most recently, she was Director of Development for the MacLaren Art Centre. Laura is the former Director of Development for the Orillia Centre for Arts + Culture, where she oversaw all fundraising activities and related initiatives for the organization. Prior to this role, she worked in fundraising for the Canadian Opera Company. She has worked with Boards and has been a member of a number of committees with various organizations, including the Canadian Opera Company, Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Sweetwater Music Festival, and the MacLaren Art Centre. She holds a Honours BFA from York University, specializing in music, and is fluent in French. Laura has deep roots in Barrie and is very committed to the success of this city.