



The Vancouver International Writers Festival Society (the “VWF”) Motion to Elect New Directors

MOVED that the following be elected as Directors of the VWF, to serve a three-year term:

1. PAT CUMMING (she/her)

Prior to retiring in 2021, Pat Cumming had a 40-year career working in school, government, academic and public libraries. In her last position as Head of Customer and Community Experience at West Vancouver Memorial Library, she had the opportunity to build community partnerships with Indigenous and newcomer groups, as well as climate organizations to deliver unique, educational programming to library patrons.

As a Director of the B.C. Library Association Board, she participated in strategic planning and conference organization. Along with her book club, she brought the Read for the Cure cancer fundraiser to Vancouver in 2013 and was instrumental in planning and coordinating the event for 10 years. Her passion for reading and literature began at an early age. She has been an avid supporter of the Vancouver International Writers’ Festival for many years, maintaining a membership and attending as many events as possible. She belongs to two book clubs that have both been together for more than 25 years.

Pat has served on the Board of Directors of the VWF since 2023.

2. BENITA LOUGHLIN (she/her)

Benita Loughlin is a Chartered Professional Accountant with a fellowship designation (FCPA) and was a tax partner at KPMG in Vancouver until she retired on September 30, 2022. She was a cross-border tax specialist with a focus on Canadian and US tax and estate planning for individuals. She spent 36 amazing years at KPMG.

Benita is an avid reader and has been a member of the Binding Book Club since it was founded in 1989. She has kept a list of all the books read over the years. Supporting local books stores is important to her. Benita is the Treasurer on the Board of Coast Mental Health. She volunteers with the Chartered Professional Accountants of B.C. and with two golf leagues in Vancouver.

From 2014 to 2020 she was on the executive of the Estate Planning Council of Vancouver and also a KPMG Canada Board Director.

Benita has served on the Board of Directors of the VWF since 2023.

3. STEVE TORNES (he/him)

Steve Tornes currently works as the North Shore Mobility Options Coordinator at the District of North Vancouver. He has a Master of Urban Studies degree from Simon Fraser University and Creative Writing Certificate from The Writer’s Studio at SFU.

Previously, Steve worked at SFU’s Vancity Office of Community Engagement and hosted the podcast series, *The Trip Diary*.

Steve has served on the Board of Directors of the VWF since 2023.

4. **SONIA WONG** (she/her)

As the president and founder of Hotfusion Communications Inc., Sonia Wong has more than two decades of experience working with enterprise software and cloud companies. She has deep expertise in strategic planning, integrated marketing, and event marketing and management for some of the world's most successful technology companies.

Through leading marketing strategy and messaging for clients such as Google Cloud, SAP, Atlassian, and Microsoft, she is continuously learning about new technologies that are changing our world. She believes human creativity is the foundation of innovation and that connecting people to books and ideas has the power to shape our world. As a lifelong reader, Sonia is particularly passionate about building opportunities to extend the transformative power of books to children and underserved communities.

Sonia has served on the Board of Directors of the VWF since 2023.

5. **LUCILLE PACEY** (she/her)

Lucille Pacey is the former President & CEO of Arts Umbrella, Canada's visual and performing arts institute for young people ages 2 to 19. Lucille's extensive experience in the education and technology sectors covers more than 30 years. As Vice-President of the Open Learning Agency, she had direct operating responsibility for the Open University, Open College, Open School and the Knowledge Network (the public educational television service in British Columbia).

Prior to joining Arts Umbrella, she consulted with the education sector and most notably was on contract with the Reed Midem Organization based in Paris, where she helped launch an international market for educational services and products. Lucille holds a Master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Alberta. She has participated in numerous initiatives related to policy development for the social uses of technology (public education and distance education) and has sat on many Not-for-Profit boards and associations related to the Arts, technology research, new applications and new approaches to life-long learning. In 2019, Lucille was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) by Kwantlen Polytechnic University for her contributions to education and the arts.

Lucille has served on the Board of Directors of the VWF since 2025.

6. **ANDREW FORSHNER** (he/him)

Dedicated to advancing societal change through community-led action, Andrew Forshner has been a senior leader and fundraiser in the Canadian charitable sector for over 15 years, with past roles at Vancouver Writers Fest and Variety – the Children's Charity. Andrew is Associate Director, Innovation at Praxis Spinal Cord Institute where his team runs the world's only spinal cord injury focused MedTech Accelerator.

Andrew is a passionate advocate for effective governance and fiscal diversification for non-profit organizations to ensure operational resiliency and their prolonged benefit to society. He has served as past President of the Vancouver Curling Club, helping lead their expansion to a multi-facility entity, past Vice-Chair of Rumble Productions and Treasurer of the Granville Island Theatre District Society. He holds an MBA from the SFU Beedie School of Business and a BA in Political Science & History from the University of British Columbia.

Andrew has served on the Board of Directors of the VWF since 2025.

7. ELENA PRINS (she/her)

Elena Prins is a finance professional with more than 10 years of experience supporting ultra-high net worth families and entrepreneurial ventures. She currently works in a fractional capacity, providing strategic financial oversight across investments, and operations within family office environments.

Elena began her career in public practice before transitioning into family offices, where she advanced to Director of Finance. Her experience spans a wide range of asset classes and structures, including private companies, real estate, and philanthropic entities. She is known for her ability to synthesize complex financial information, coordinate external advisors, and support effective decision-making.

A Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) and Family Enterprise Advisor (FEA), Elena brings a pragmatic, stewardship-focused perspective to governance.

Elena lives in Vancouver with her family and enjoys baking, cooking, reading and exploring the city with her husband and son.

8. MALINDA KELLETT (she/her)

Malinda Kellett is an experienced leader and business advisor, with more than 20 years' experience in governance, strategic planning, risk analysis, and general corporate law. Malinda is currently the VP Legal of Artemis Gold Inc., a gold mining company operating the Blackwater Mine in central B.C., where she provides strategic legal advice to all aspects of the business including construction and procurement, employment, Indigenous relations, permitting, and environment and communities.

Malinda holds a Master of Business Administration from Queens University, a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of Western Ontario and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree from the University of Western Ontario, majoring in English Literature and World Religions.

9. SHELLY ROSENBLUM (she/her)

Shelly Rosenblum is a curator, writer, and scholar based in Vancouver. She holds a PhD in English from Brown University and has taught at Brown, Wesleyan, and the University of British Columbia. She served as Curator of Academic Programs at the Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery at UBC for sixteen years, where she developed interdisciplinary initiatives that brought artists into dialogue with scholars, scientists, and public audiences. Her work has consistently focused on how artistic and intellectual practices intersect across disciplines, and on the role of cultural institutions as sites of public inquiry. She has led major research initiatives and public programs, and has collaborated widely across the humanities, sciences, and arts.

Shelly is currently working independently, developing new projects that engage questions of culture, knowledge, and civic life.