



Vancouver Farmers Markets  
1316 Grant St  
Vancouver, BC V5L 2X5  
www.eatlocal.org

## **Board Candidates + Voting Process: 2022 Your Local Farmers Market Society AGM**

### **Board Director Voting Process**

The Board of Directors has determined that the 2022 YLFMS AGM will take place virtually on Tuesday, June 21st from 6:00pm-8:00pm on the Zoom meeting platform. We will follow the same format as 2021 for voting and registration:

- **You must pre-register to attend the AGM Zoom meeting by June 14, 2022**
- **Election for Board Candidates will be held by Election Runner, an online voting platform, and will take place outside of the AGM Zoom meeting**

#### **How it works:**

1. **Pre-register** for AGM Zoom Meeting by June 14, 2022
2. **Receive Election Runner log-in instructions + unique voter key** on June 20, 2022\*
3. **Vote** - Only use vote key once (this is built into the Election Runner system) and select zero to six (0-6) candidates
  - **Voting Option One: Pre-Meeting Vote**
    - Read candidate bios (attached)
    - Voting window is open for 24 hours starting June 20 at 7:30pm
  - **Voting Option Two: In-Meeting Vote**
    - Hear from the candidates (2 minutes each)
    - Vote during in-meeting voting agenda item
    - Voting window closes June 21 at 7:30pm
4. **Election results will be announced during the Annual General Meeting**

#### **PLEASE NOTE:**

\*Only members who were in good standing 30 days prior to the AGM, as of 11:59pm May 23, 2022, are eligible to vote in the election. Only these members will receive a voter key.

\*\*It is not necessary to attend the Annual General Meeting in order to cast a vote in the election of directors but it is necessary to pre-register for the meeting to receive a unique voter key.



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## Board Candidates

This year, the Board of Directors has six (6) vacancies to fill. The Society is seeking candidates with the following:

Skills and Experience:

1. Finance / Accounting
2. Governance
3. Advocacy (Municipal and other)
4. Revenue Generation
5. Strategic Communications
6. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
7. Producer / Entrepreneur
8. Human Resources / Training
9. Legal

Characteristics:

- Commitment to advancing the VFM mission, vision and strategic plan
- Collaborative personality
- Familiarity with non-profit governance or ability to learn
- Familiarity with farmers markets in Vancouver's diverse neighbourhoods
- An understanding of our regional food system

The following 8 candidates have let their names stand for consideration and have included bios on the following pages:

Terry Burmas  
Elyse Crowston  
Ally Dick

Jeremy Dyson  
Trixie Ling  
Joanne MacKinnon

Jenny Marsh  
Patrick Smyth



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## Terry Burmas - seeking election

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I am currently a VFM vendor who, along with my wife, Mandi Burmas operates the Mandi's Mickles canning & pickling business. Since we have started participating in Farmers Markets, I have really enjoyed being a part of the community and getting to know the other vendors and clientele that support the different markets. I love what VFM stands for and I feel it is a great organization with strong values.

I was born and raised in Vancouver, BC. My professional background is in Finance and Accounting, primarily in the hotel industry. I spent over 20 years with Fairmont Hotels & Resorts and worked as Director of Finance for 15 years. In my work experience, I was heavily involved with Finance, Accounting, Sales & Marketing, Strategic Planning, Revenue Generation, Human Resources, Training and Legal.

I am easy to work with and enjoy collaborating with like-minded people on important initiatives. I feel I can make a positive contribution to this Board and help achieve its goals and objectives.

## Elyse Crowston - current Treasurer, elected 2019, seeking re-election

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It is my pleasure to stand for re-election as a Board Director for this important organization. I have served on the Board for three years and the last year as Treasurer. During my tenure we have successfully navigated a very difficult time for our organization, our vendor community ... and the whole region/world. I am proud to have helped the society stay in a positive financial position through responsible fiscal management and with the support of our incredible community. Looking forward, I am excited to contribute positively to our culture in progress towards our strategic plan.

In my profession as Vice President of Operations for Active Impact Investments, I work with entrepreneurs and investors to fight climate change through profitable investment. I am skilled in financial operations, fundraising/revenue generation, HR/recruiting with emphasis on diversity and inclusion, and communications. I am an experienced business leader, advisor and investor -- and have worked my entire career for values-aligned organizations that further environmental sustainability. I am a regular shopper at the Trout Lake farmer's market – I love the markets for how they bring together community, culture and support resilient livelihoods for farmers and the environment.



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## Ally Dick - current Board Chair, elected 2019, seeking re-election

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As current chair of the farmers market, I take pride in being able to support the wonderful network of vendors, staff, and volunteers who create such an amazing resource for the city of Vancouver. I see the board's role as being steward of something that is an essential part of so many livelihoods, and to ensure that there is a long term future that is stable, and can grow and evolve with the city.

If re-appointed, I am excited to be able to support the implementation of the VFM strategic plan, including ensuring we have a strong social license to operate and to build equitable markets and strengthen our diverse vendor and shopper communities, whilst maintaining the solid financial base we have established in the past 3 years.

Originally from Edinburgh, Scotland, I am a chartered accountant with extensive experience working across a wide range of industries. I spent ten years with Ernst and Young, in London, UK and Vancouver, and have spent the last 5 years at Lululemon, where I am currently a director in the finance department, providing guidance on finance and accounting matters.

## Jeremy Dyson - appointed 2022, seeking election

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I have been appointed to an interim board position because of my experience working with municipal staff and government, my work on food security programming, and belief of the importance that farmers markets have in urban settings.

As a graduate of environmental geography from UBC I believe I also possess a good understanding of the value of local food systems in a globalized era. As a parent I actively discuss with my children the importance of knowing where our food comes from and the complexities this can present in traditional retail settings. Within the past few years I've been privileged to work with different communities on various storytelling projects. These opportunities have helped me to become a better active listener – a skill I would bring to this appointment as I learn and grow with the society.

I hope that you will vote for me for a board position so that I can volunteer my time and efforts to support this worthy organization.



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## Trixie Ling - seeking election

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I am interested in joining the VFM Board of Directors to work towards a just, equitable and decolonized food system that builds a strong community and nourishes everyone. I am passionate about creating more equitable, inclusive and accessible spaces and opportunities for diverse vendors and shoppers to come to the farmers markets. I am a strong advocate and supporter for BIPOC farmers, producers and small business entrepreneurs at the markets.

I started my own non-profit social enterprise, Flavours of Hope, to celebrate newcomer refugee women through cooking, storytelling, and entrepreneurship. Through our Dream Cuisines food business program, we support newcomer women to build and launch their food businesses with access to educational workshops, mentorship, peer knowledge sharing, commissary kitchen space and farmers markets. Over the past few years, we have developed strong connections and reciprocal relationships with VFM staff and vendors.

I want to create systemic change and collective impact through collaborative and anti-racist policies and practices in the farmers market and community. I believe that I can contribute to VFM's mission, vision and strategic planning to build equitable systems and inclusive markets that value and care for the relationships between people, food, and land.

## Joanne MacKinnon - elected 2019, seeking re-election

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Currently completing her first term on the Board of Directors, Joanne is serving on the Vendor Advisory Committee, revenue generating, JEDI and the culture change project. She is seeking a 2nd term to continue this work and her contribution to the VFM. She brings with her 17 years of work in food security and the local food movement, her work at Little Mountain Neighbourhood House. She stewards the Riley Park Community Garden and collaborates with many partners to improve food security, ecological sustainability and community development. Her recent advocacy work includes creating the building collective food resilience toolkit and working on the province-wide awareness campaign with a Vantage Point food security co-hort. She works with the VFM on the Donation Station and the Coupon Program. Joanne wants to bring this perspective and experience to advance the mission of the VFM and to advocate for the farmers and vendors in our local food system.



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## Jenny Marsh - current Secretary, elected 2019, seeking re-election

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Jenny Marsh has been a non-profit professional since 2008, working as a major gifts fundraiser in the Faculties of Medicine and Science at UBC prior to joining the Vancouver Public Library Foundation as its Executive Director in 2013. She is passionate about connecting people to causes they care about and contributing to a thriving social-impact sector.

Jenny leads a team of five fundraising professionals to raise funds for VPL collections, programs, services and spaces through major and community giving programs. Having served as Secretary for and reporting to the VPL Foundation Board of Directors since 2013, Jenny has a deep familiarity with non-profit governance.

She has served on the board of the Vancouver Farmers Market Society since 2019, currently chairing the Revenue Generation Committee and serving as Board Secretary. Jenny loves to help out at markets when needed, and considers herself very lucky to live near the Riley Park location where she can shop all year round! She loves collaborating and brainstorming with social impact sector colleagues across many sectors and has a particular passion for organizations with a strong local focus and an unwavering commitment to equity and inclusion.

## Patrick Smyth - seeking election

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Patrick Smyth is a founder of Whistler Harvest Corp., and concurrently the head of business development at Super Fresh Foods Inc. (Canada) and All Your Foods Corp. (USA), successful meal production and delivery companies which use a customized proprietary software to manage their logistics by tracking meals from ordering, ingredient acquisition, meal preparation, delivery, and payment across a broad platform of meal delivery assets.

He was previously the Founder/CFO of Megalodon Energy USA Corp. and Megalodon Energy North Corp. where he was part of the team that raised over \$20MM in equity financing for acquisition and operations of assets based in Wyoming and Alberta. Prior to that, he was a cofounder of a successful lifestyle brand in the cannabis industry called Ross' Gold where he defined all the brand messaging, ethos, values, copywriting, design, logos, packaging, graphics and signage. With his team, they created hype and launched successful product lines with multiple partnerships domestically and internationally. Produced multiple television and media events, managed team of marketing experts and increased value of brand through to sale to a third party.

Mr. Smyth was the founder of an electronic transaction processor and provider of online payment solutions working closely with major banks and industry partners.