

Stephen Wreakes



Hello, my name is Stephen Wreakes. I would like to be considered for a three year board position with the Edmonton Folk Music Festival. My association with the festival goes back almost three decades. I was a paying customer for fourteen years and have been a volunteer, including serving as assistant coordinator and coordinator for the past fifteen years. I'm sincerely hoping for that thirtieth consecutive year in 2020! All of my volunteer years have been spent with the Photography Crew. While this has allowed me to get up close and take photos of many talented musicians there has been another great benefit. Being a festival photographer has enabled me to make friends on other crews and to see exactly what goes on 'behind the scenes'. I have seen what other crews do and how hard they work (and work together) to make the festival happen year after year.

My experience with non profit boards include the Edmonton Down Syndrome Society and also the usual school organizations when our daughters were growing up. I am currently in my third year on the board of The Friends of the University Hospital and have been Vice Chair for the last year. My general view is that a board exists to do what is best for the organization and staff. If elected I will do my best to ensure the continued success of the Edmonton Folk Music Festival. Thanks for reading this.

Steve

Lacey Untereiner



Throughout my 25+ year career working in the non-profit and charity sector I have worn many hats from Program Coordinator to Executive Director. Currently, I own a Public Relations and Communications consulting company which often provides me the opportunity to combine my greatest passions; festivals, volunteering and helping to raise awareness to much needed public services and charities. As a Folk Fest Volunteer since 1998, I have served on many crews including Security, Site, Beer Gardens, Lantern and Cleaning. Serving as the President of my Condo association for the past 10 years as well as a director on several other boards, coupled with my experience as a *career volunteer*, has allowed me the unique perspective to advocate for both sides of an issue. As a Board Member for the Edmonton Folk Music Society I would like to lend my experience and expertise to assist in championing our beloved festival into the next several years. In light of the crisis we are facing with Covid 19, I believe we will encounter many challenges moving forward and want to contribute my skills and talents to our collective efforts in meeting those challenges and changes. I am seeking a three year term.

Larry Bejcar



My name is Larry Bejcar and I'm presenting myself for consideration for the board of the Edmonton Folk Fest Society.

Like all of you, I've been a patron, volunteer and Society Member for a number of years. And like all of you, the festival represents an important part of my life; it's fair to say that it's the foundation of my community.

A couple of years back I had the luxury of sitting back and watching the opening of the gates to the festival, from high on the hill. To see the relative peace transform into a humming community was obvious, but within that I found myself picking out all the different volunteer crews, and all around them were the patrons all coming together into this quirky little city that had been built.

My revelation was that no single 'thing' properly defined what was taking place. The whole is beyond the sum of the parts.

In the same way, I believe the board is part of the bigger picture; staff, patrons, volunteers that all make this festival a world we celebrate each year.

My own experience is that I have helped create a volunteer group and been a volunteer for many. I have 'learned on the job' many times, in a number of industries. In each of those instances, by listening, seeking understanding, and staying true to the first principles of the organization, I've found success.

I offer these skills to the board, with your permission, to support this community.

Claire Tunney



I'm a life-long Edmontonian, music lover and self-professed policy nerd. As a longtime supporter of EFMF I hope to contribute to its continued success by lending my skills and experience in policy development and information management (IM) to the work of the Board.

For the past eight years, I've worked as a policy professional with the Alberta Public Service. In my current capacity as a Senior IM Policy Analyst with Service Alberta, I contribute to the development and implementation of IM policy that supports the delivery of vital programs and services across government. At its core, IM policy is about optimizing the management of an organization's information in support of its strategic and operational goals.

Music—and folk music in particular—is a big part of my life outside of work. My grandfather Paddy Tunney, was a *sean nós* (or traditional) singer from Co. Donegal, affectionately known as the *Man of Songs*. Growing up, I learned this song tradition from my father and his siblings; today, it connects multiple generations of our family living in several different countries. One of my favourite EFMF memories is of being at the festival with my parents in 2018 for a performance by Iarla Ó Lionáird, just before they moved back to Ireland. On this side of the pond, I also sing with the Belle Canto Women's Choir.

I have a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alberta where I served on the executive of both my undergraduate faculty association and graduate student association. In addition to supporting the Festival as a member of the Special Projects Crew, I have volunteered with a variety of local organizations including: Apathy is Boring; the Old Strathcona Youth Society; and the Edmonton chapter of the Institute of Public Administration of Canada.

Gerrit Bjalek



This is the end of my second term. As a board member, I've worked with the image committee helping represent the image of the festival to the public, the audit committee and the finance committee helping to ensure the financial viability of the society and the festival, and on the executive committee helping to steer the board itself. These past several years, while on the executive team, I worked as the recording secretary for a year, and I have served as the Vice Chair for a year, the treasurer for 2 years, and the chair for the past year. I feel that I can step into almost any role that the board asks of me, and I can help new and seasoned members succeed in their rolls. That's what I've tried to do for the society.

This is what you've done for me. Over this time, I have learned so much from the people that I work with on the Board and in the office, both about the workings of the society and about myself. Experiences with finance, decision making, leadership, team building and community planning have truly helped me grow as a person. I've gained insight, skills and self confidence that I will carry with me for the rest of my life, and I have my time as a board member to thank for that.

It is my belief that our festival is one of the things that truly puts our city on the map. Success with our CFL football team gets us attention from across Canada. Good performance from our NHL hockey team gets our city's name out across North America. But our amazing 4 day festival puts us proudly on the world stage. I'm very proud of that recognition, I'm proud of my part in it, and if you'll have me, I'll be proud to continue to serve as a board member and work toward continuing this great tradition.

Cam McCormick



Hi everyone!

I have been a volunteer with the EFMF since 1993 and coordinator since 1994. I have served on this Board previously as a member, Treasurer, Vice Chair and Chair - let's face it, I am a severe extrovert, so the chances are good we have interacted over the last 30ish years. My three year term as a member of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts expired this past January, and I have seen the other side of the table when it comes to nonprofits and governance in my professional development; in uncertain times, that's an asset for any organization.

My passion for this festival, and the arts in Alberta, runs deep. Lately, the OK GO lyrics keep coming up for me: "...because nothing every doesn't change, but nothing changes much...". When I look at the current situation, massive disruption to our daily and economic lives, a creative economies-hostile government, and a hard physical distancing reality, it, indeed, makes for interesting times. The thing that doesn't change much though is that I believe our organization will do as it has always done: govern itself with grace, through consensus in developing smart, creative policy to guide the EFMF through uncertainty of the times.

I want to offer my experience, leadership and passion to an organization that has given me so very much over the years and am asking, humbly, for your consideration and vote to help govern our beloved festival.

Cheers,

Cam