



2026 - 27 Board Candidate Bios



MELISSA BARKMAN

I am a longtime Edmonton Folk Music Festival devotee, having attended since 2013 and volunteered with the Security team supporting the Music and Merch tent for three unforgettable summers. Last summer I had the pleasure of joining the Hotel and Hospitality crew. Folk Fest is more than four days on the hill for me—it is a cornerstone of my summers and a deeply valued point of connection, joy, and community.

Professionally, I bring over a decade of experience in operations, project and change management, and organizational leadership, along with more than five years of non-profit board experience. My background spans digital strategy, hospitality operations, nonprofit governance, and organizational consulting, where I specialize in translating complex work into clear, repeatable systems.

My work focuses on bringing people, process, and purpose into alignment. I am particularly strong at capturing system flows, documenting standard operating procedures, and supporting teams through periods of growth or transition. I love helping organizations strengthen how work gets done so that mission, culture, and volunteer energy can flourish.

It would be an honour to support the continued success of the Edmonton Folk Music Festival by serving on the Board. I am excited to contribute my operational lens, systems thinking, and collaborative leadership to an organization that means so much to me and to this city.



ARLO GRUNDBERG

I'm Arlo Grundberg, and I've been part of the Edmonton Folk Music Festival since 2012. Like many people, my involvement started simply: attending a place I loved, spending summer days on the hill, discovering new artists, and enjoying an event that is truly world-class.

Since COVID, I've been able to give back to the EFMF community as a Stage Control volunteer and, more recently, as an EFMFS member, Assistant Coordinator (Stage), and member of the Member Services Committee. Now, I'm seeking to deepen my commitment to Folk Fest by running for the Board.

Professionally, I bring experience in arts management, events, and nonprofit leadership. I currently serve as the Executive Director of the Augustana Students' Association, where I support board governance, policy and bylaw development, and broader organizational administration, including budgeting and strategic planning. My previous roles include General Manager of the Bailey Theatre, a performing arts venue in Camrose, and managing large-scale events for the University of Alberta Students' Union, where I focused on event operations, promotions, and volunteer and staff coordination. Additionally, I bring board experience, having served on multiple nonprofit and municipal boards, including the Camrose Arts Council.

I'm eager to contribute collaborative leadership to the EFMFS Board—supporting the long-term sustainability and continued evolution of the festival while stewarding the values and community that have made it so meaningful to so many.



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JESSE HUNT

Hello, my name is Jesse Hunt, and I would love to be considered as a board member for the EFMF Society. I have a passion for all things folk fest and enjoy making the festival accessible for all demographics. I am a long-time folk festival volunteer, currently as assistant coordinator with the Festival Liaison team. This will be my 4th year in this capacity, and I have previously been with Bar Security for 8 years. I am an avid music lover and truly believe music is a way to people's souls. My favourite part of the Folk Festival is meeting new people and enjoying new music with them. I have board experience in my volunteer role as director with the Ritchie Community League, where I bring new events and music to the Ritchie community.

I like to follow an active lifestyle, which includes playing hockey and Slowpitch as well as skiing and hiking. I spend lots of evenings going for strolls with my best friend, Roxy (my dog) and usually discover new music on our walks.

I enjoy giving back to my community and would enjoy giving back more to my passion (music) and, in turn, the folk festival.

Thank you for your consideration.



MARILYN MACGILLIVRAY

Hi everyone!

I'm Marilyn MacGillivray, and I am running for re-election to the Edmonton Folk Music Festival Board of Directors

I currently serve as treasurer for the festival and have served as both secretary and treasurer to the board.

I am extremely interested in continuing the work we have begun in terms of updating our policies and processes. I am passionate about recruiting and more importantly, retaining our volunteers, as they deserve to have the best experience. My other focus is to make sure that our festival is successful and remains so into the future.

I have been a volunteer at this festival for over 30 years on both the Party Crew (yay Party) and Back Stage Safety Crew.

I love this festival and it is an important part of my life, and I have met, made and sustained many close friendships with other volunteers.

I bring to the table a strong background in research, oversight of budgets in excess of \$400 million dollars and the ability to examine an issue from many standpoints. I'm very approachable and if I don't have an answer to a question you may have, I will do my best to get one for you.

