

The Little Give Judges

Mark Gifford

Director, Grants & Community Initiatives

Vancouver Foundation

As Director, Grants & Community Initiatives at Vancouver Foundation since 2004, Mark provides staff leadership for a range of grantmaking and community leadership portfolios, including those of the Environment and Children, Youth and Family Committees. Previous to this work, he spent six years as a Program Officer at The Philadelphia Foundation.

Mark has spent most of his professional and academic career participating in a range of community-based social justice efforts in Canada, United States and Mexico. To this work he brought invaluable experience as a button-factory worker, cabinet maker, driver of many goods and many trucks, server of food, wrecker of homes, lifter of things, exchanger of needles, raker of leaves, adjunct faculty, forklift operator, speaker salesman, metal grinder, census manager, brick layer, curator, house painter, paperboy, deckhand, and barnsweeper. And some other stuff. An attender of many, many schools, he completed his undergrad at Simon Fraser University in beautiful Burnaby, B.C. and, a bit later, his graduate degree at Temple University in North Philadelphia.

He is the proud father of a wee lad, and husband to a better half. They all live in East Vancouver, in a small red house with a blue door.

Kerry Jang

City Councillor

City of Vancouver

Dr. Kerry Jang was elected to Vancouver City Council in 2008 having previously served in a number of volunteer capacities.

His volunteer work has focused on meeting the needs of individual neighbourhoods on issues such as homelessness, mental illness, the drug trade and their prevention. Kerry was involved in ThinkCity, a citizens group devoted to promoting citizen engagement in civic affairs; served as past President and Director of Collingwood Neighbourhood House; and was former Co-Chair of the "Yes for Wards" campaign.

Currently, Kerry works with the recently established Mental Health Commission of Canada, where he was appointed to the Mental Health and the Law Advisory Committee whose national policy work will directly impact policing, corrections, housing standards and management for areas like the Downtown Eastside and across the city.

Kerry is a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia where he teaches and conducts research on the causes of mental illness. He attended Simon Fraser University and the University of Western Ontario from which he earned a PhD in psychology. In addition, he sits on the editorial boards of a number of international scientific journals and provides peer reviews on public health and scientific research proposals. To date, he has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific publications.

In recognition of his work, he was named the 2006 Academic of the Year by the Confederation of Faculty Associations of British Columbia; honoured with a Community Achievement Award from the Province of British Columbia in 2007; and received the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the Faculty of Medicine at UBC for community service.

Kerry is a proud third-generation Canadian. His grandparents emigrated from China to Canada and settled in Vancouver in the early 1900s. Kerry and his wife Vicki have two young children. They live in the Renfrew-Collingwood neighbourhood, six blocks from his childhood home. Family time includes piano practice, martial arts, and sailing radio-controlled model boats on the choppy waters of Trout Lake.

His current local and regional appointments:

- Director, Greater Vancouver Regional District Board (Metro Vancouver)
- Union of British Columbia Municipalities Executive
- Hastings Institute Inc. Board
- Parking Corporation of Vancouver
- City of Vancouver Public Housing Corporation

Paula Martin

*Senior Vice President, Member Engagement
Vancity*

*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes. -
Marcel Proust*

Vancity is an organization that is idea-driven and Paula Martin is energized by learning each day. She says a perk of her job is working with a smart team of professionals who share her curiosity. As Vancity's Senior Vice President, Member Engagement, Paula's portfolio encompasses Marketing, Online Banking and Engagement, Public Affairs and Corporate Communications, and Innovation. She and her team are responsible for reaching, engaging and growing the membership and enabling members to connect with Vancity, each other and their communities.

Paula's team involves all areas of Vancity in building innovative, competitive and timely business solutions that enhance the member experience and she is proud of Vancity's ability to effect positive change.

Previously Paula served as the VP of Public Affairs and Corporate Communications, providing communications counsel to the Vancity Group's executive leadership team and Board of Directors to ensure Vancity's well-earned reputation as a community-based financial cooperative is secure.

Prior to joining Vancity, Paula was Director of Public Affairs for the University of British Columbia, where she oversaw internal and external communications, issues management, media relations, and community relations. Paula has more than 25 years of experience in communications and journalism—for CBC Radio national current affairs and the Winnipeg Free Press. She studied journalism for four years at Ottawa's Carleton University School of

Journalism and is professionally accredited through the International Association of Business Communicators.

Paula is from Ottawa, has an abiding affection for her family's Gaelic roots in Cape Breton, and lives in Vancouver near the Oakridge Community Branch. She presently sits on the board of Smart Growth BC, and has served on the boards of many community organizations, including the Vancity Community Foundation, Canadian Business for Social Responsibility, Leadership Vancouver, and Volunteer Vancouver. As a frequent Vancity VISA user, she accumulates enough reward points to make an extra monthly payment each year on her mortgage—her favourite Vancity product.

Keith Sashaw

President

Vancouver Regional Construction Association

Keith Sashaw was appointed the President of the Vancouver Regional Construction Association on March 26th, 2001. In that position, he is the senior staff person of the largest construction association in B.C., representing participants in the non-wood frame construction industry. Prior to coming to VRCA, Mr. Sashaw was the Executive Vice-President of the Electrical Contractors Association of B.C., the provincial trade association representing the electrical contracting industry. Mr. Sashaw was in that position from 1999 to 2001.

Mr. Sashaw was the Executive Vice-President of the Canadian Home Builders' Association of B.C. from 1985 to 1999, and was responsible for the operations of the industry association representing the residential construction industry at the provincial level.

Mr. Sashaw has been active in a number of other areas, including serving as Secretary to the VanASEP Training Society, an innovative partnership focused on working with the aboriginal community to train workers for the construction industry. In addition, he serves on a number of advisory committees for BCIT and other organizations and is the co-chair of the Construction Cluster for the Building Opportunities with Business organization, and is a Trustee to the BCCA Group Benefit Plan.