

Meet The Volunteer Board Of Your BIA:

Julie Buckareff

What business do you represent?

I am a jewelry designer for a small, by appointment bespoke jewelry shop with my husband. In addition we own a property that we manage with commercial tenants at 76 Richmond Street East through the company Buckareff Properties.

Why/how did you come to be in business in this area of the city?

We moved to Toronto in 2005 to start a family and jewelry business and settled in Old Town Toronto. We liked its unique character and proximity to the jewelry district. Purchasing this property allowed us flexibility and the opportunity to upkeep an original brick and beam building. The spaces attract tech companies and professionals looking for a unique offices. We constantly modernize the building while still keeping the 1907 original charm.



What inspired you to join the board of the Business Improvement Area?

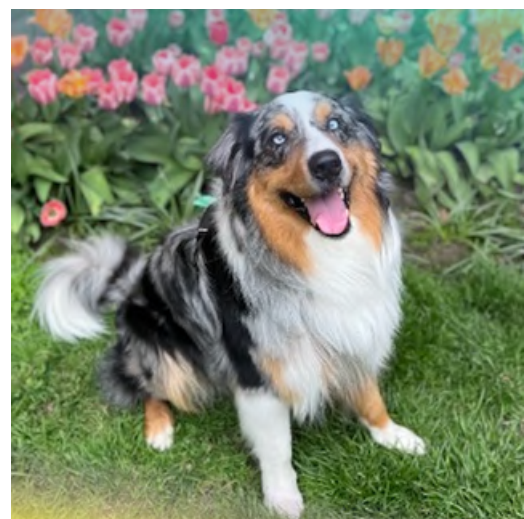
When the BIA planned its expansion in 2007, my property was within the proposed area. I received a letter in the mail inviting me to check out the BIA. I voted for the motion to accept the expansion, got involved as a Board Member and never looked back.

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Being on the Board allows me to work with like minded individuals who also care about shaping the neighbourhood. I got heavily involved with the revitalization of Berczy Park & St. James Park and I also care about the overall beautification of the neighbourhood.

What skills, experience or knowledge do you try to contribute to the BIA board?

My skill set is primarily from the view of a designer and an entrepreneur. Sometimes agenda items are business focused and other times a designer can give a different perspective. I am design focused and look at things through this lense. I am also a mother living in the St Lawrence Market Neighbourhood raising 3 children, this brings a unique perspective. In 2012, I stepped up as Treasurer. Already overseeing my own books for multiple businesses allowed me to lend my experience and advice in new ways. I'm just an entrepreneur wanting to make our environment and neighbourhood better for myself, my tenants and those living and working in the neighbourhood.





What would you say to a business/property owner to encourage them to participate with the BIA?

I have always encouraged other new businesses to connect with our local BIA. I tell them it's a great way to connect with others and get to know our local councillors better and in a different way. It's always good to get involved in something, why not your own business neighbourhood. Making a difference translates into dollars and you make a few friends along the way.

What is one thing you are proud of about the BIA?

I am really proud of all the work our BIA and my own personal involvement has had with the Parks. We've accomplished 2 transformations and have 2 more to go! I'm also really excited for the art activation we have in the summer of 2026. The Great Beaver Quest is an amazing opportunity to see the phenomenal artistic talent and diversity Toronto has to offer and it all started right here in 1793.



What local businesses do you frequent?

I like to support all the farmers and butchers at the St. Lawrence Market. You know the vendors by name and it creates a nice small community feel in this massive ever-expanding city. You can always find me shopping at Oddles of Strudel on Saturdays and I get all my fish from Seafront. I also love some of the amazing restaurants in this area. I was sad to see Biff's Bistro go but love to dine at Eloise and Woods. The Hothouse has a great patio for a family night out and Cora's has an amazing breakfast. The list goes on, so many great restaurants in this area.



Oddles of Strudel

 @oodlesofstrudelsca



Woods Restaurant

 @woodstoronto

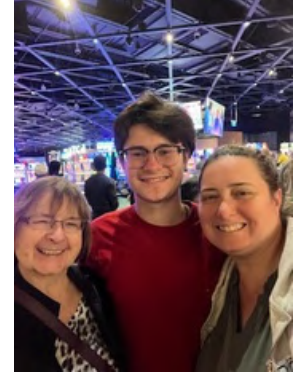


Eloise

 @eloisetoronto

Why do you feel having a BIA in the area is important?

A BIA is important to a neighbourhood. It gives business owners a collective voice and the opportunity to drive customers to their area in a different way than the marketing a single business has the ability to do. It's also nice to get your head out of your own clouds and network with others in the area sharing the same customers for different reasons. The staff of a BIA also brings great resources to getting things done in the neighborhood that you otherwise wouldn't be able to do. It's a win win.



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- Julie Buckareff

What is a Business Improvement Area?

A Business Improvement Area (BIA) is made up of commercial and industrial property owners and their non-residential tenants who join together under a volunteer Board of Management (BIA Board) to carry out improvements and promote economic development within their designated area.

How do I volunteer/get involved?

While general BIA membership is based on your commercial address within the boundaries of your BIA, BIA board members are elected for 4 year terms. All potential board members are encouraged to participate in as many BIA programs as possible before running for a position on the board. To learn more, please email info@stlawrencemarketbia.ca.