

Board

Candidate Summary Information (as of May 15, 2025)

Category	Number of Positions	Length of Term	Candidate(s)
Demonstrated knowledge of cultural industries	1	2 years	Tyson Liske
Demonstrated knowledge of heritage	1	2 year	Erin Folk
Métis ancestry and a demonstrated knowledge of Métis culture	1	2 year	Jenni Lessard
Membership at Large	1	2 years	Christine Ruys

CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

Tyson Liske

Tyson is very interested in joining the Board for SaskCulture. As an emerging, independent film producer, Tyson is interested in the sharing of culture and believe wholeheartedly in the benefit of multiculturalism. As a father of three, he is committed to cultural and art-focused organizations. They are an interracial family, and he understands the need to share and support culture broadly within our community. Tyson has much experience with governance boards and can bring that experience to help SaskCulture's board. He is a multi-passionate generalist with focus on relationships, collaboration and creativity.

Tyson lives in Regina with his family and have called Regina home for 40 years. He has a Bachelor of Education and currently works as the Business Development Manager for Colliers Project Leaders in Saskatchewan. His role brings him to all corners of the province and he would be very excited to bring his varied experiences to assist SaskCulture.

Tyson was named CBC Saskatchewan's Top 40 under 40 a few years ago and was very honoured to receive the award.

Whether live music, film producing, or being involved with many non-profit groups, Tyson believes he could be a valuable resource for the membership's consideration.

HERITAGE

Erin Folk

Erin has been a lifelong Saskatchewan resident, retired from a career in federal policing and onto a second career as a business owner/contract service provider in the human resource industry; she investigates policy breaches. Erin lives in rural Saskatchewan, north of Regina, with her husband and daughter. She has three additional children and a granddaughter. She owns a horse stable and is very involved with local farm/ranch culture and rural vitalization. Erin was a board member with Heritage Saskatchewan from 2017 to 2025, having moved out of the past president's chair. She remains a member of Heritage Saskatchewan.

Erin was fortunate to learn policy governance through her time on the Heritage Saskatchewan Board of Directors. As a person who works with policy daily, she has an ingrained understanding of its importance and function.

During her time with Heritage Saskatchewan, she was also fortunate to attend the National Trust Conference twice, which was an exceptionally interesting and fulfilling experience. Erin believes strongly in the culture and heritage of this province, and all of the wonderful facets of it, as well as the importance of carrying culture and heritage into the future of the province.

Erin is thankful for this opportunity and looks forward to the work!

MÉTIS

Jenni Lessard

Since 2005, Jenni has been sharing her Métis culture through food, first at her restaurant, New Ground Cafe' in Birch Hills, SK, then her catering business, Chef Jenni Cuisine in Saskatoon, then as Executive Chef at Wanuskewin Heritage Park. Now, with her company, Inspired By Nature Culinary Consulting, Jenni create menus, recipes and immersive culinary experiences for businesses, schools and other

organizations. She has served as a councillor for the town of Birch Hills, was part of the Slow Food Saskatoon steering and fundraising committee for a decade, and was Vice President of Métis Local 126 from June 2020 to June 2022.

Jenni was Chef in Residence at the National Arts Centre in Ottawa, September to November 2022, and was installed as a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society of Canada in November 2023 for her work in Indigenous culinary. She has also been the Interim Executive Director of the Indigenous Culinary of Associated Nations since November 2022.

Before her culinary career, and at points during that, Jenni worked as a free lance writer and community reporter. Her only formal education, other than certifications necessary for her work, is a high school diploma. The rest of her experience has been gained in a hands-on manner, through mentors, and trial and error. She was raised in Northern Saskatchewan and understands some of the specific challenges and opportunities in the culture sector there. She has spent all but five years of her life in Saskatchewan. She lives in the Qu'Appelle Valley in Lumsden with her husband, Ajay, and has two adult children, Alexander and Jasper.

Jennis has currently served one year on the SaskCulture Board.

MEMBER AT LARGE

Christine Ruys

Christine is always amazed by the collaboration of Saskatchewan people. There are so many people who have a heartstring cause and many of these groups somehow intersect with others - which promotes this amazing synergy that you don't find in other places. Having been born and raised in Saskatoon by Dutch immigrant parents, Christine understands how important these connections can be. She saw her father, Henk Ruys, with a vision of a first indoor soccer centre in Saskatoon, make it a reality by collaborating with only Saskatchewan supporters.

Christine has been an avid volunteer for so many causes over her lifetime. Starting with Folkfest and volunteering within the Holland Pavilion and then on the Folkfest Board spending over 40 years in total. She has volunteered with Persephone Theatre for over 15 years and organized hundreds of events within Saskatoon, including many years as volunteer captain for the Wintershine Soup Cook Off and Fireworks Festival.

She currently sits on the Discover Saskatoon (previously Saskatoon Tourism) Board and the Saskatoon Sports and Special Events Committee. She is also Vice-Chair of the Saskatoon Zoo Society for the last eight years wanting to give back those amazing memories of the zoo to other children. Christine has volunteered as board administration for the Restorative Action Program (RAP) 2013-2022, Cochair of the Rotary Badge Star Shield Dinner 2019-2023, and Development Appeals Board (City of Saskatoon) 2010-2015.

Christine has retired from the University of Saskatchewan after 28 years in many administrative capacities. She won the Saskatchewan Volunteer Medal in 2020 and the Queen Elizabeth Volunteer Medal in 2023.

Christine has served on the SaskCulture Board since 2023 and was Vice Chair for the 2024-25 year. Christine is very knowledgeable of Board Governance, Finance and Strategic Planning.