



# 2021 PROPOSED SLATE OF DIRECTORS

The Nominations Committee is responsible for selecting and presenting a proposed slate of directors to fill positions that will become available on the Board of Directors. This proposed slate is presented for election by the membership of North York Women's Resource Centre (NYWC). The Board of Directors approved the proposed slate on October 24, 2021. It is presenting this slate to the NYWC membership during the Annual General Meeting on December 14, 2021 for ratification by those present. The new Board will take office immediately after the AGM.

The Directors make up the Board that governs NYWC with a mandate to pursue the purpose, mission and goals of the organization.

The following individuals are nominated for election to the Board for a first term

**SUSANA MEZA**

**SANA NAJAFI**

**ANNA SYED**

The following directors are nominated for re-election for a second term

**MARIA BAZILEVSKAYA**

**JENIFER RUSH**



# Board Nominee Bio's

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## Maria Bazilevskaya

was elected to the Board in September 2018 and has served in the role of Secretary for two years. She is running for a second term. Maria can be called a newcomer to Canada since she hasn't been living here long, but she is not new to the non-profit sector, and she brings international experience of being a member of the board and volunteer at various institutions. For example, she helped fight xenophobia in the European Union by running programs in Estonia, promoted equal opportunities for youth in St. Petersburg, Russia, and helped spread educational messages throughout the world by translating TED talks. She has a degree in Social and Political Geography, which explains her well-travelled history and desire to make the world a better place. In her opinion, the best way to change the world is by empowering women, and that has become her passion in the last few years. Having had to deal with many challenges herself, she benefitted from the very programs NYWC is offering its clients. As an alumna of the Women's Empowerment Series and Reclaiming Yourself after Abuse, Maria has a unique perspective that allows her to relate to the women in the community, and she is making sure that both her daughter and her son adopt feminist principles as they grow up.

## Susana Meza

was appointed to the board in August 2021. They are an emerging multidisciplinary artist and facilitator from Maracaibo, Venezuela. Susana holds an Audiovisual Journalism diploma from La Universidad del Zulia. They are an Active Listener for Workman Arts' members and a Newcomer Artist Ambassador for MABELLEarts. Currently, they are also a fellow of Yale University's Lived Experience Transformational Leadership Academy. Susana aims to democratize art and equity is their driving force.

## Sana Najafi

was appointed to the board in August 2021. She is a Juris Doctor candidate at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. She completed her Honours Bachelor of Arts at the University of Toronto Scarborough, where she specialized in International Development Studies and double minored in Political Science and Anthropology. She currently focuses on access to justice issues and works with organizations, including the Ontario Justice Education Network, Artists' Legal Advice Services and Downtown Legal Services. She worked as a Peer Support Worker at NYWC in the past, and appreciates the Centre's values of feminism, equity, and community empowerment. In her spare time, you can find Sana hanging out with her two cats or playing sports!

## Jenifer Rush

was elected to the Board in September 2018. She has served in the role of Treasurer and Vice-chair. She is running for a second term. Jenifer has over 30 years' experience in the Investment industry. Currently Jenifer is the Head, Manager Research, Canada for Manulife Financial. Jenifer has an MBA from Queen's University. She also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation and the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst (CAIA) designation.

Jenifer has always been active in her community and is honoured to sit on the North York Women's Centre Board. Jenifer has actively participated in local affairs in her community and in her industry. Jenifer has been active with the Bedford Wanless Ratepayers Association, multiple school committees over time, is the current chair of the Professional Development Committee for the Toronto CFA Society and is a supporter of Women in Capital markets.

## Anna Syed

has worked for the province, non-profit sector, and academia in various capacities. Anna has graduate degrees from McGill and McMaster in Business, Education, and Labour Relations. Anna is passionate about women empowering women, diversity, belongingness and governance to name a few. Anna has a love for the outdoors, and a sense of curiosity about her local community, but also in travelling and exploring both urban and rural areas of Canada and beyond.