



Board of Directors

a little more about us



PRESIDENT

Sarah Cashmore

SARAH'S JOURNEY IN HUMANITARIAN WORK BEGAN WHEN HER FAMILY LIVED IN ECUADOR FOR SIX MONTHS, ASSISTING IN A CAMPAIGN FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS FOR CHILDREN AND STUDYING SPANISH IN GUATEMALA. AS PRESIDENT OF SOMBRILLA, SARAH ENSURES THAT THE BOARD FOLLOWS ITS BYLAWS AND CONSTITUTION, COORDINATES MEETINGS, PREPARES AGENDAS, CHAIRS MEETINGS, AND OVERSEES COMMITTEE WORK.

SARAH'S PASSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND CONTRIBUTING TO EQUALITY LED HER TO SOMBRILLA. SHE BELIEVES IN WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP AND SOLIDARITY WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, EMPHASIZING A BOTTOM-UP APPROACH WHERE PROJECTS ARE INITIATED BY THE COMMUNITY IN NEED.



Hobbies

- Enjoys the outdoors, especially the ocean, beach, camping, and backpacking.
- Active in Seedy Sunday Edmonton, promoting seed exchange and gardening.
- Enjoys photography and spending time with her family



"You are the last one to eat, to serve, but you give the opportunities to others to eat, and that is what makes it worth it."




VICE PRESIDENT

Delmy Garcia-Hoyt

DELMY GARCIA HOYT IS A SEASONED SOCIAL WORKER WITH 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE, SPECIALIZING IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. ORIGINALLY FROM EL SALVADOR, DELMY HAS WORKED WITH VARIOUS AGENCIES, INCLUDING SOLIDARITY AND BOYLE STREET COMMUNITY IN CANADA. SHE IS DEEPLY COMMITTED TO HER WORK, DRIVEN BY A SENSE OF GRATITUDE FOR THE SAFETY AND OPPORTUNITIES CANADA HAS PROVIDED HER.

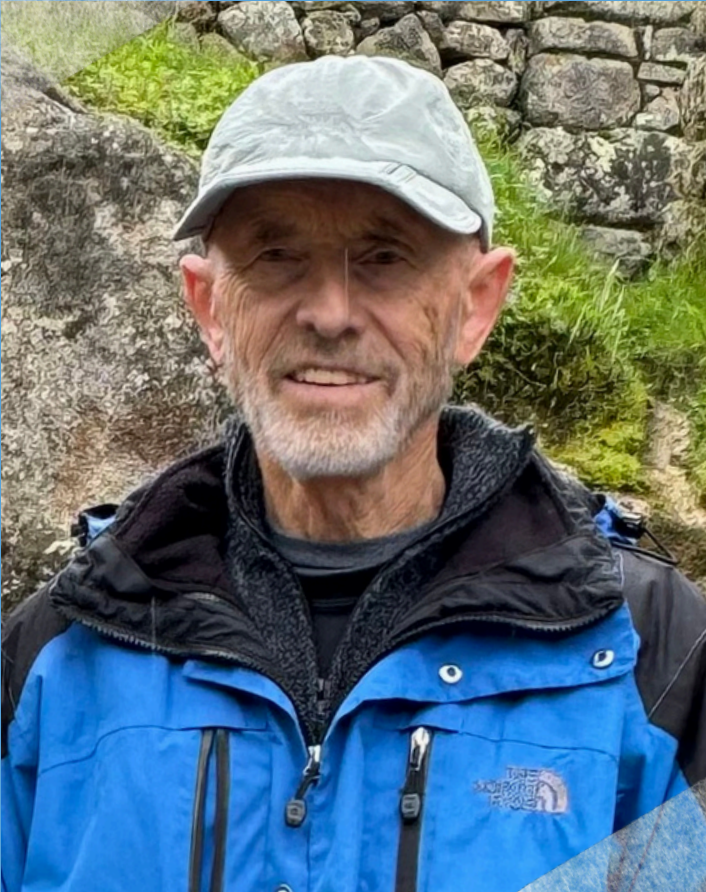
AS THE VICE PRESIDENT OF SOMBRILLA, DELMY PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT, CONDUCTING MEETINGS, AND LIAISING WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS. DELMY'S WORK IS INSPIRED BY HER PARENTS' ACTIVISM, AND SHE STRIVES TO CONTINUE THEIR LEGACY WITH THE SAME INTEGRITY AND PASSION.



Hobbies

- Enjoys crafts, particularly learning calligraphy
- Finds relaxation in walking with nature
- Enjoys spending time with her niece
- Loves plants and gardening



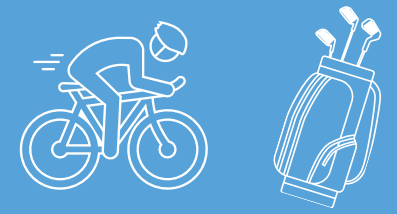


TREASURER

Gordon Baergen

CURRENTLY THE TREASURER AT SOMBRILLA, GORDON HAS A BACKGROUND SPANNING SEVERAL BOARDS, INCLUDING SERVING AS VICE CHAIR OF THE MENNONITE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY AND A CHAIRPERSON OF THE CANADIAN PEACEMAKERS INTERNATIONAL BOARD. WITH 35 YEARS OF OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE, GORDON BRINGS A CRITICAL AND ANALYTICAL MIND TO HIS ROLE. AS THE CURRENT TREASURER AT SOMBRILLA, HE MANAGES ALL FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF THE ORGANIZATION, INCLUDING DONATIONS, BILL PAYMENTS, AND FINANCIAL REPORTING TO THE BOARD.

GORDON PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN TRANSFERRING THE COMPUTER ASSISTED LEARNING PROGRAM FROM CPI TO SOMBRILLA, ALIGNING WITH HIS STRONG BELIEF IN SOMBRILLA'S MISSION AND VISION FOR SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES IN LATIN AMERICA.



"You make a living by what we get, but you make a life by what you give."






SECRETARY

Patsy Ho

PATSY HAS DEDICATED MUCH OF HER TIME TO VOLUNTEER WORK OVERSEAS, PRIMARILY FOCUSING ON TEACHING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. SHE SPENT TIME IN NIGERIA, THAILAND, AND CHINA, TAUGHT ENGLISH IN CHINA, JOINED A WORK BRIGADE IN CUBA, AND WENT ON STUDY TOURS IN GUATEMALA AND BRAZIL.

IN HER ROLE AS SECRETARY, PATSY RECORDS MINUTES OF ALL MEETINGS AND ENSURES THOROUGH DOCUMENTATION OF CONVERSATIONS. SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN PASSIONATE ABOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE AND HAS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, WHICH EVENTUALLY LED HER TO JOIN SOMBRILLA. PATSY APPRECIATES SOMBRILLA'S APPROACH OF WORKING COLLABORATIVELY WITH PARTNER GROUPS, ALLOWING THEM TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR NEEDS.



Hobbies

- Traveling
- Singing in choirs

Fun Fact!

- Member of French choir Les Chantami
- Went to Québec to perform last summer



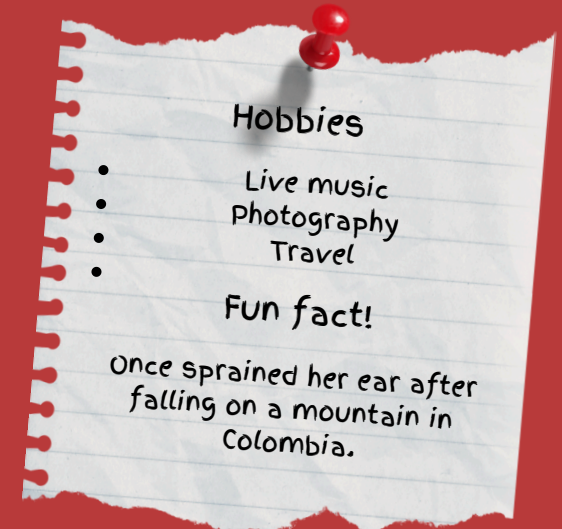


GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Charlene Ball

CHARLENE HAS OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND YOUTH EXCHANGES. SHE HAS SERVED ON OVER SEVEN BOARDS AND NUMEROUS COMMITTEES. CURRENTLY, AS A BOARD MEMBER AND CHAIR OF GOVERNANCE AND POLICY COMMITTEE, CHARLENE CONTRIBUTES TO DECISION-MAKING, CONVENES COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AND OVERSEES STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESSES.

INSPIRED BY SOMBRILLA'S COMMUNITY-DRIVEN WORK IN LATIN AMERICA, CHARLENE HAS KNOWN SOME OF THE BOARD MEMBERS FOR MANY YEARS. RECENTLY RETIRED, SHE NOW HAS THE TIME TO GET MORE INVOLVED WITH SOMBRILLA'S MISSION AND VISION, WHICH AIMS TO ADDRESS BARRIERS THAT HINDER FULL PARTICIPATION OF MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES AND CREATE LASTING CHANGE.



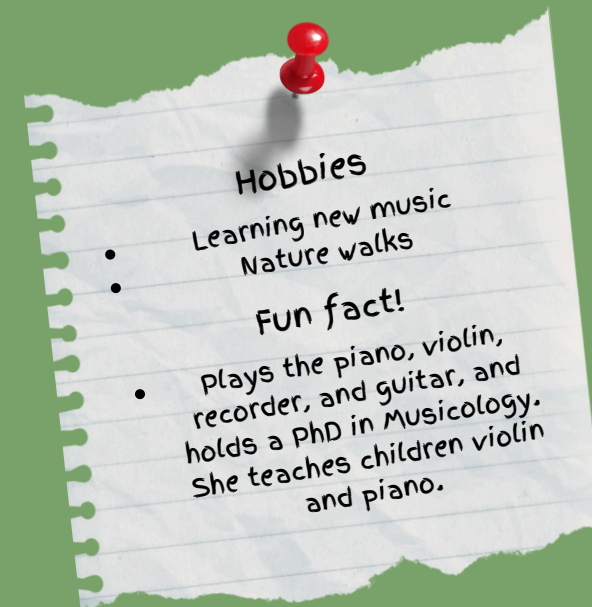


PROJECT COMMITTEE MEMBER

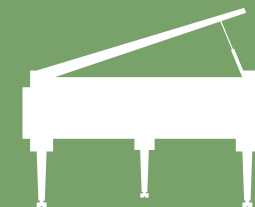
Suzanne Gross

SUZANNE GROSS HAS DEDICATED MUCH OF HER LIFE TO INTERCULTURAL WORK, BEGINNING WITH TWENTY YEARS IN IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT SERVICES. SHE THEN EMBARKED ON TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES IN HONDURAS, NICARAGUA, AND EL SALVADOR, SHAPING HER PASSION FOR BRIDGING CULTURES. INSPIRED BY HER EXPERIENCES, SHE JOINED SOMBRILLA, CONTRIBUTING TO PROJECTS THAT EMPOWER COMMUNITIES.

SUZANNE'S ROLE AS PROJECT DIRECTOR FOR THE COMPUTER ASSISTED LEARNING PROGRAM (CAL) INVOLVES COLLABORATING WITH COUNTERPARTS IN LATIN AMERICA, AMPLIFYING VOICES, AND FOSTERING RESILIENCE THROUGH EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING. HER DEEP CONNECTION TO HONDURAS AND COMMITMENT TO ANTI-RACISM INITIATIVES REFLECT HER ONGOING DEDICATION TO BUILDING A MORE INCLUSIVE WORLD.



"My dream is that we can experience the miracle of standing shoulder to shoulder on earth as it is in heaven" - Joseph Chokpeleh.





GENERAL MEMBER

Rick Berube

BORN AND RAISED IN THE SMALL FRENCH CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF BEAUMONT, RICK WAS INSTILLED WITH A DEEP BELIEF IN A LIFE OF SERVICE FROM A YOUNG AGE. HAVING OBTAINED A MASTER'S IN SOCIAL WORK FROM MCGILL UNIVERSITY, HE DEDICATED HIS CAREER TO SERVING MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES, AND MANAGING SOCIAL SERVICES AT THE CITY OF EDMONTON AND AT CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES. WITH HIS FAMILY, HE ALSO VOLUNTEERED TO WORK IN A REFUGEE CAMP IN THAILAND FOR A FEW YEARS, LEARNING VALUABLE LESSONS FROM THESE FAMILIES COMING FROM VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA.

RICK HAS BEEN INVOLVED WITH SOMBRILLA FROM ITS EARLY YEARS, INITIALLY AS ITS PRESIDENT, AND LATER IN SEVERAL CAPACITIES ON ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. HE ALSO SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF CANADIAN PEACEMAKERS INTERNATIONAL DURING THE LAST 12 YEARS. IN HIS RETIREMENT, RICK CONTINUES TO VOLUNTEER ON THE BOARD OF SOMBRILLA, HOPING TO SEE IT THROUGH ITS TRANSITIONS TO BECOMING MORE OF A 'POLICY' BOARD, AND A LITTLE LESS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN PROGRAM OPERATIONAL MATTERS.

Hobbies
 Enjoys traveling extensively with his wife, Lily

Fun fact!

- Participates in studies with the SALT Society to deepen his spiritual and ecological understanding





PROJECT COMMITTEE MEMBER

Lenora Yarkie

LENORA'S BACKGROUND IN PLANT AND SOIL SCIENCE LED HER TO DIVERSE WORK, INCLUDING SOCIOLOGY, ENGAGING IN WOMEN AND FAMILY-FOCUSED ORGANIZATIONS TO DEVELOP AND DELIVER COURSES FOR PERSONAL AND ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT. HER COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS TOOK HER TO GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, PALESTINE, AND ISRAEL, WHERE SHE ACCOMPANIED COMMUNITIES IN TIMES OF THREAT AND VIOLENCE, REPORTING BACK TO SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS.

AS A FORMER TREASURER AND NOW CURRENT MEMBER OF THE PROJECT COMMITTEE, SHE ENSURES PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AND BUDGET ALIGNMENT. JOINING SOMBRILLA ALIGNS WITH HER VALUES OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND COLLABORATIVE CHANGE-MAKING, EMPOWERING HER TO WORK WITH LIKE-MINDED INDIVIDUALS TOWARD IMPACTFUL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES.



Hobbies

- Listening to classical and jazz music
- Attending concerts
- Nature walks
- Reading
- Participating in community events like the fringe and folk fest (used to be a volunteer)





GENERAL MEMBER

Malvika Kathpal

MALVIKA KATHPAL IS A PASSIONATE ADVOCATE FOR LATIN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, FLUENT IN SPANISH AND FOUNDER OF THE LATIN AMERICAN EMPLOYEE REPRESENTED GROUP AT HER ORGANIZATION. SHE REPRESENTED CANADA AND INDIA AT THE UN'S HISPANIC LEADERSHIP SUMMIT. ORIGINALLY FROM INDIA, MALVIKA MOVED TO CANADA FIVE YEARS AGO.

MALVIKA WAS DRAWN TO SOMBRILLA BECAUSE OF ITS BROAD REACH ACROSS LATIN AMERICA, ALIGNING WITH HER DESIRE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AS MANY COUNTRIES AS POSSIBLE. AS A GENERAL MEMBER OF SOMBRILLA, MALVIKA SITS ON THE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND FUND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND THE PROJECT COMMITTEE, ACTIVELY CONTRIBUTING TO VARIOUS INITIATIVES.



Hobbies

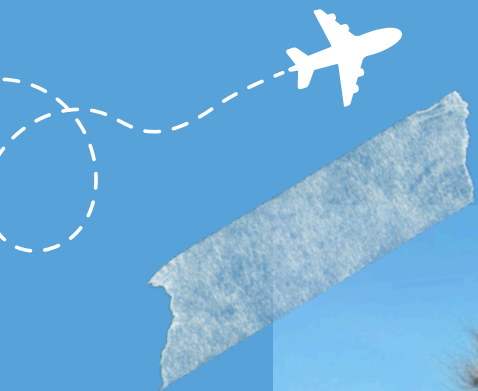
- Loves to dance

Fun fact!

- Lived in each Canadian province for one year, starting from the west Coast and currently residing in Toronto



"Be the change you wish to see in the world." - Gandhi



GENERAL MEMBER

Wally Friesen

WALLY, PREVIOUSLY A RESIDENT OF ONTARIO WITH A MASTER'S DEGREE FROM UBC, BROUGHT A WEALTH OF BOARD EXPERIENCE TO CANADIAN PEACEMAKERS INTERNATIONAL (CPI), SERVING AS SECRETARY SINCE 2021. WITH A CAREER AS A SCIENTIST, HIS ANALYTICAL SKILLS AND WRITING PROFICIENCY HAVE BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN HIS ROLE.

INSPIRED BY CPI'S MISSION TO ASSIST THOSE LESS FORTUNATE, WALLY CONTINUES TO EXPAND THE REACH AND IMPACT OF HIS SUPPORT IN TRANSITIONING TO SOMBRILLA. AS A GENERAL MEMBER, WALLY REMAINS DEDICATED TO PHILANTHROPY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, LEVERAGING HIS EXPERTISE AND PASSION TO CONTRIBUTE MEANINGFULLY TO SOMBRILLA'S INITIATIVES.



Hobbies

- Enjoys biking, playing soccer, and traveling

Fun fact!

- Traveled to Europe in the Fall
- Volunteer at the Mennonite Thrift Shop, coordinating furniture pickups

"You can never have too many excuses and you can't start making them early enough."



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Sarah Cashmore
President



Delmy Garcia-Hoyt
Vice President



Charlene Ball
Governance & Policy Chair



Gordon Baergen
Treasurer



Patsy Ho
Secretary



Lenora Yarkie
Project Committee



Rick Berube
General Member



Wally Friesen
General Member



Malvika Kathpal
General Member



Suzanne Gross
Project Committee Member



INTERESTED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

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