

University Settlement

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Over 100 Years of Service in the Community

Bios of the Board Candidates – June 2025

Danielle Pal, a long-time neighbour and member of University Settlement, has 7 plus years of experience in supporting executive teams in strengthening governance, risk oversight, and sustainable growth initiatives. Throughout her career, Danielle had the opportunity to support complex organizations in navigating material issues with transparency and accountability – skills that directly translate to the responsibilities of a board member in today’s not-for-profit landscape. Danielle holds a degree from University of Toronto, and accumulated experience in Volunteering and Fundraising for charity.

Shraddha Bhagwat, CPA, CMA is a Strategic Finance Executive with over 12 years of experience in financial reporting, acquisition integration, and driving growth strategies. With expertise in FP&A, budgeting, forecasting, and performance management, Shraddha has a proven ability to streamline operations, optimize financial systems, and deliver insights that support executive decision-making. She is also recognized for leading post-acquisition integrations and aligning financial strategies with organizational goals to drive sustainable growth.

Andrew Lam, current Board Advisor, has an extensive experience in supporting University Settlement’s Board of Directors: three consecutive terms as a director – seven years as Board Secretary. He led the efforts to revise the By-law, develop the strategic plan and policy framework, and policy reviews. Retired Canadian diplomat, M.Sc. and MBA. Andrew was a Board Director of various organizations, including the Counterpoint Community Orchestra and Toronto Choral Society. He worked as a Public Service manager, college and high school teacher, laboratory technician, and farm worker. Andrew was also nominated Trustee of the Ottawa Carleton District School Board, President of the Chinese Community Association of Ottawa, and Vice-President of the Ontario Public School Boards Association.