

President Nominee

Darren Rowles Bio:

I'm originally from Wales in the UK but have lived in NS for 6 years and am a permanent resident here. I'm married and have two sons 13 and 10.

I don't have any formal qualification in ceramics (although I'd love to do and MFA in ceramics in the future) but I have completed multiple external studies in ceramics at NSCAD and use my scientific knowledge to create my own glazes.

I a scientist at heart with an undergrad in Biomedical Science and Toxicology and a Master in Business (MBA) specializing in marketing, innovation and strategy, with over 15 years in leadership/corporate roles so am very business savvy, understand financials and can motivate people and teams to aim for the same goal.

I am relatively new to ceramics (and a new guild member ~18 months or so) having only taken it up as stress reliever during and following on from the pandemic after working 80-100 hr weeks in my full time job leading a nanotechnology company fighting covid and cancer.

I am now only working there 3 days a week and spend my 'spare time' teaching beginner classes at North Preston Community Centre and looking after their studio as a tech - I took over from Leandra (guild event co-ordinator) last summer, and I also currently volunteer head coach of my sons soccer team at UDFC.

I have my own studio at home at Lake Banook in Dartmouth (@cymraegceramics) where I make custom glazes and commissioned pieces for freinds, family and my own interests and also offer kiln rentals/custom glaze production to a local potters and ex-students who take my classes and are keen to continue at they own pace at home and need items fired.

Reasons for why I would be a good fit for the role:

Strong Leadership Acumen: I have over 20 years experience in leadership roles and managing boards and executives in both profit and non-profit volunteer organizations.

I provide clear visionary guidance in setting strategic objectives and can inspire staff/ members towards collective goals. I am adept at raising money for organizations, raising in excess of over \$10M in the past 6 years here in NS from government funding sources, high network individuals and the public markets.

Effective Communicator: I have excellent communication and interpersonal skills that will serve me well as a spokesperson for the guild. I have already started to build a network of both NSPG members and non-members within NS these past few years, through my interaction with via my pottery business services, teaching at North Preston Community Centre and attending various markets. I find clear, concise communication will help foster understanding and unity within the guild and its community.

Passion for Craftsmanship: I have a deep scientific knowledge and passion for ceramics. This combined with a growing education and understanding of the nuances of the NS arts and craft communities enables me to advocate effectively for the guild and its members, alongside identifying opportunities for growth and collaboration within the industry in NS, the Maritimes and beyond.

Collaborative Mindset: My ability to work collaboratively with diverse groups of people will help foster a supportive and inclusive environment within the guild. I am quick to build relationships and networks with key stakeholders and external partners that will be leveraged to strengthen the guilds network and impact for ceramic education across NS.

Organizational and Strategic Planning Skills: I have used these skills for the past 20 years to build businesses from nothing to multimillion revenue generating organizations that have impact in the world from diagnosing diseases and fighting cancer. Such skills also come in handy when creating training schedules and playing statistics for multiple sports teams I've captained and/or coached over the years. I have the ability to see the bigger picture and also map out the detailed steps that are needed to get there alongside identifying the required people and budgets to achieve success, growth and sustainability for the long term.